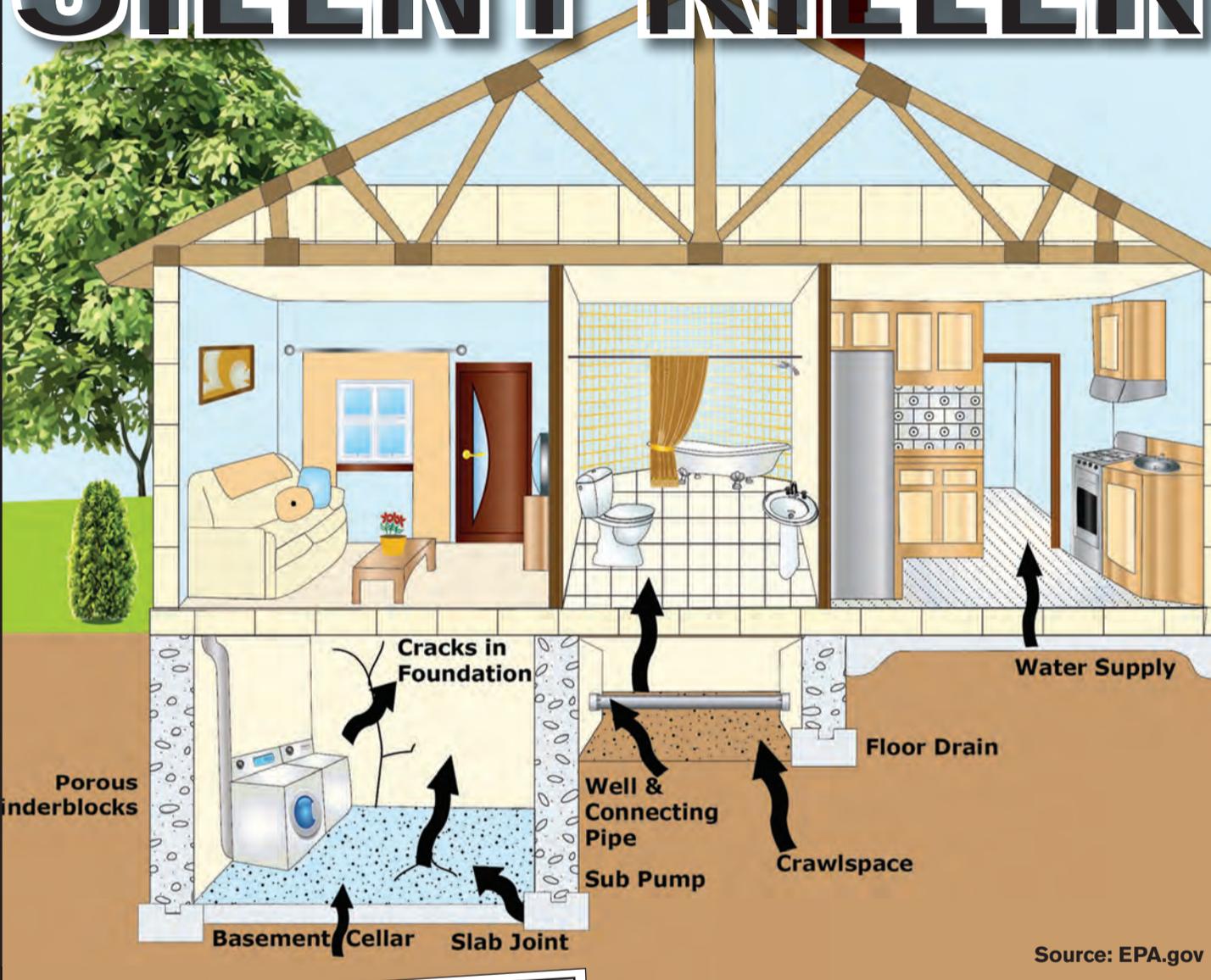


THE INVISIBLE SILENT KILLER



Source: EPA.gov

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston, Cranston and Warwick share a common, silent killer.

Approximately 10-30 percent of homes in these three communities have radon levels equal or exceeding the suggested federal Environmental Protection Agency action level.

The entire Ocean State's average radon rates hover around the national average.

"According to the Lung Association's State of Lung Cancer Report, an estimated 21.4 percent Rhode Island radon test results equal or exceed the EPA Action level of 4 pCi/L," according to the American Lung Association.

However, older homes found throughout Rhode Island and the rest of New England, are particularly susceptible to dangerous radon emissions.

"Radon is much more likely here and in the New England area," said Daniel Fitzgerald, the American Lung Association's Senior Manager of Advocacy in Rhode Island. "In Rhode Island, on average, one in four homes contain radon above (safe levels).

Nationally, it's about one in 15 homes."

On average, 26 percent of homes in Johnston, 17 percent in Cranston, and 13 percent in Warwick, test over what the EPA considers safe radon limits, according to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

January was National Radon Action Month, "an annual observance that focuses on increasing the public's awareness of the health risk from radon, which is the second leading cause

CONTACT THEM
Contact Radon Mitigation Services (RMS) at 401-640-1534 for testing and fixing the problem.

ON THE WEB
Learn more about radon testing and mitigation at www.Lung.org/Radon.



FAREWELL FACE-COVERINGS?

A pair of masks were tossed to the ground outside Ferri Middle School last week, the same day Gov. Dan McKee announced a shift in statewide masking policy. The Johnston School Committee will vote Feb. 17 on whether to make masks mandatory in Johnston schools after March 4. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

No more masks in school?

By RORY SCHULER

The Johnston School Committee was set to vote tonight, Thursday, Feb. 17, on a revised mask policy for staff and students.

A special meeting of the committee was announced Tuesday, calling for an updated mask policy effective March 4, following Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee's lifting of the statewide school mask mandate.

"I believe the committee will decide between mandatory masks in school or

MASKS - PAGE 12

Fire Marshal determines Club Bebeto blaze 'arson'

By RORY SCHULER

The Rhode Island State Fire Marshal's Office has determined the blaze at Club Bebeto in Johnston was intentionally set, and they've launched an arson investigation.

"The fire was intentionally set; it was started outside," Deputy State Fire Marshall James Given said Monday. "The fire got into the wall cavities."

Johnston Fire Chief Peter J. Lamb said that the fire resulted in "two minor injuries to firefighters and one civilian was treated."

All of Johnston's fire apparatus responded to the fire at 31 Greenville Ave.

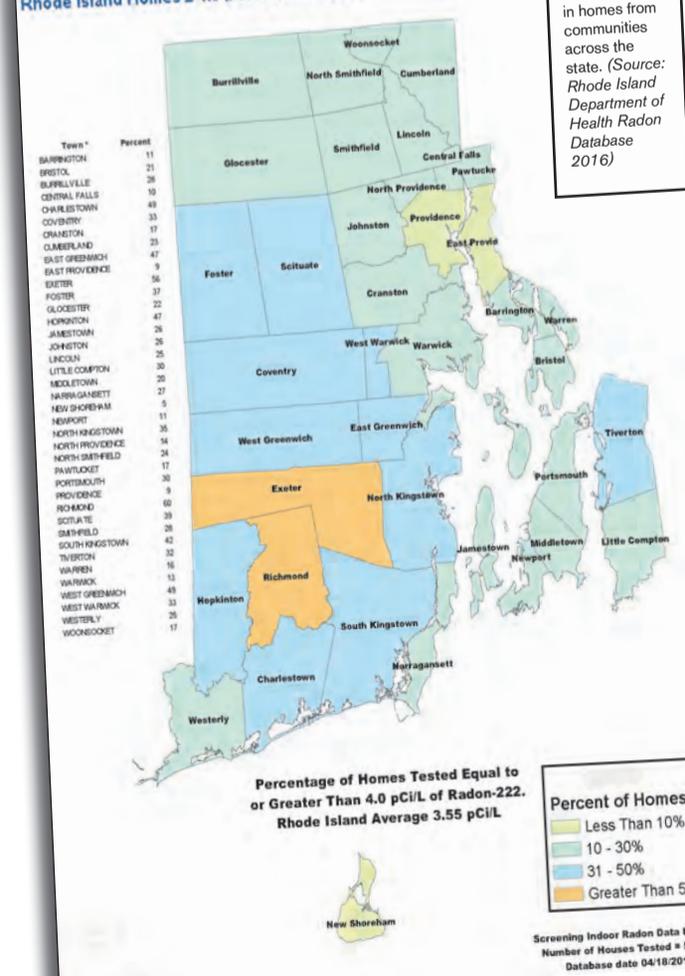
Lamb said the "fire was very difficult to fight because of the building's construction."

It was an older building with lots

CLUB - PAGE 12

Rhode Island Numbers

Rhode Island Homes ≥ 4.0 pCi/L Radon 2016



THE MAP:
This RIDOH map shows the radon rates in homes from communities across the state. (Source: Rhode Island Department of Health Radon Database 2016)

RADON - PAGE 6

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SADD STUDENTS: These are the 15 members of SADD (Students Against Dangerous Decisions) at Johnston High School who waged a campaign to combat drinking and driving, especially since the annual Winter Ball that was being held last Friday night at the Omni Hotel in Providence. (Photo courtesy Greg Russo)

SADD students learn scary drunken driving lesson

By PETE FONTAINE

There was a SADD scene on display last week in the Johnston High School parking lot.

It was living proof, as Greg Russo — who chairs the Science Department at JHS and serves as Faculty Advisor for SADD (Students against Dangerous Decisions) — on what happens when people choose to drink and drive.

The vehicle was so damaged and destroyed that people were unable to identify the make, model or year. However, the mangled wreck offered a huge warning for students — as well as adults — to hand the car or truck keys to a sober person or arrange for someone to drive them home.

"We want to thank our Student Resource Officer Lou Cotoia of the Johnston Police Department for helping our SADD officers arrange to have a car that had been involved in a drunk driving accident at the main entrance of the school," Russo explained. "This was done the week of the Winter Ball."

Thus, SADD students who participated in the event and are pictured while standing aside the car are: Allan Pineda, Jenna Poland, Makayla Scuncio, Rachel Ixcotoyac, Chelsea Maranhão, Kyle Iannuccillo, Lauren Hill, Emily Klein, Nikki Aucone, Charlie Curci, Jaylin Molinda, Hailey Brown, Michaelina Irons, Gianna Ricci and Sarah Vasquez.



DANGEROUS DECISION: This is the wreck that resulted from a drunken driving accident and was on display last week in the Johnston High School parking lot as a reminder of what happens when people drink and drive. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

The sparkle of a snowy Winter Ball

By Alessandra Pesare
Special to the Sun Rise

Johnston Senior High School held their first indoor dance since the pandemic started.

Their winter ball took place the night of Feb. 11 at the Omni hotel in Providence.

It's safe to say that these kids had a blast; from the lights flashing all night on the dance floor to the beautiful winter decor all around the venue.

The fun-filled night ended with the announcement of the winter ball court. Anthony Gawlik, Charlie Curci, Ryan Schino, and Joe Bloom made

up the kings court. While Janet Clements, Glorianna Crichlow, Charlene Holhmaier, and Sophia Ribezzo made up the queens court.

The king, Allan Pineda, and the queen, Shannon Pistacco, shared a heart-warming slow dance opening up the dance floor again to all the students. This truly was a night to remember for the teens at Johnston High School.

Editor's Note: Alessandra Pesare serves as JHS Sophomore Class President. Members of the JHS Student Council periodically submit articles for publication in the Johnston Sun Rise.

STICKER SHOCK

Students target Super Bowl fans' bellies with dire message

By RORY SCHULER

The mission: cut down on underage alcohol consumption at the Super Bowl.

The operatives: members of Johnston's Above the Influence (ATI) Club at Ferri Middle School.

The battlefield: snack food aisles deep inside the heart of Johnston's Market Basket.

"The super bowl usually involves a lot of alcohol," said Johnston student Isabella Jean. "We are trying to stop underage drinking."

Sticker Shock "aims to educate and remind our community of the implications of providing alcohol to underage youth," according to campaign organizers.

Sticker Shock reminds shoppers of Rhode Island's social host law for alcohol, which ensures penalties for adults who allow children to access and ingest alcohol before their 21st birthday, no matter who's playing in the Super Bowl.

The Southern Providence Regional Prevention Coalition (SPRPC) is coordinated by Tri-County Community Action Agency (www.spcprevention.org) and has been funded by a Partnership for Success (PFS) Grant, which aims to prevent underage drinking in youth ages 12-20 in targeted high need communities in Southern Providence County.

"I am part of ATI to help remind my peers to make good choices," said student Courtney Turner, who helped slap stickers onto chip bags and dip lids.

The campaign has been implemented across the region, which includes Cranston, Johnston, North Providence, Scituate and Smithfield. Cranston, Johnston and North Providence are PFS Funded communities.

The Sticker Shock campaign has been organized by SPRPC Regional Director Patricia Sweet, Partnership for Success Project Coordinator Jennifer O'Neil, Johnston Prevention Coordinator Kaitlyn Maggiore and North Providence Prevention Coordinator Andrea Paiva.

The agencies are funded by the State of Rhode Island's Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals through SAMSHA's Partnership for Success grant.

Prior to Super Bowl Sunday, O'Neil, PFS Project Coordinator of the Tri County SPC Prevention Coalition, established a partnership with



STICKER SHOCKERS: From left to right, Courtney Turner, Isla Troxell, Maddie Gomes, Shayla Delvecchio, Isabella Jean, and Anthony Hopp – members of the Above the Influence (ATI) Club at Ferri Middle School – assisted with sticker distribution on chip bags and dip containers at Market Basket in Johnston. (Photos courtesy Jennifer O'Neil)

Dave's Marketplace, Market Basket and Shore's Market to distribute 2,000 stickers on chip bags and dip containers.

"For those underage drinkers out there — stop by and look at the stickers," said student Anthony Hopp. "Think about the risks and effects."

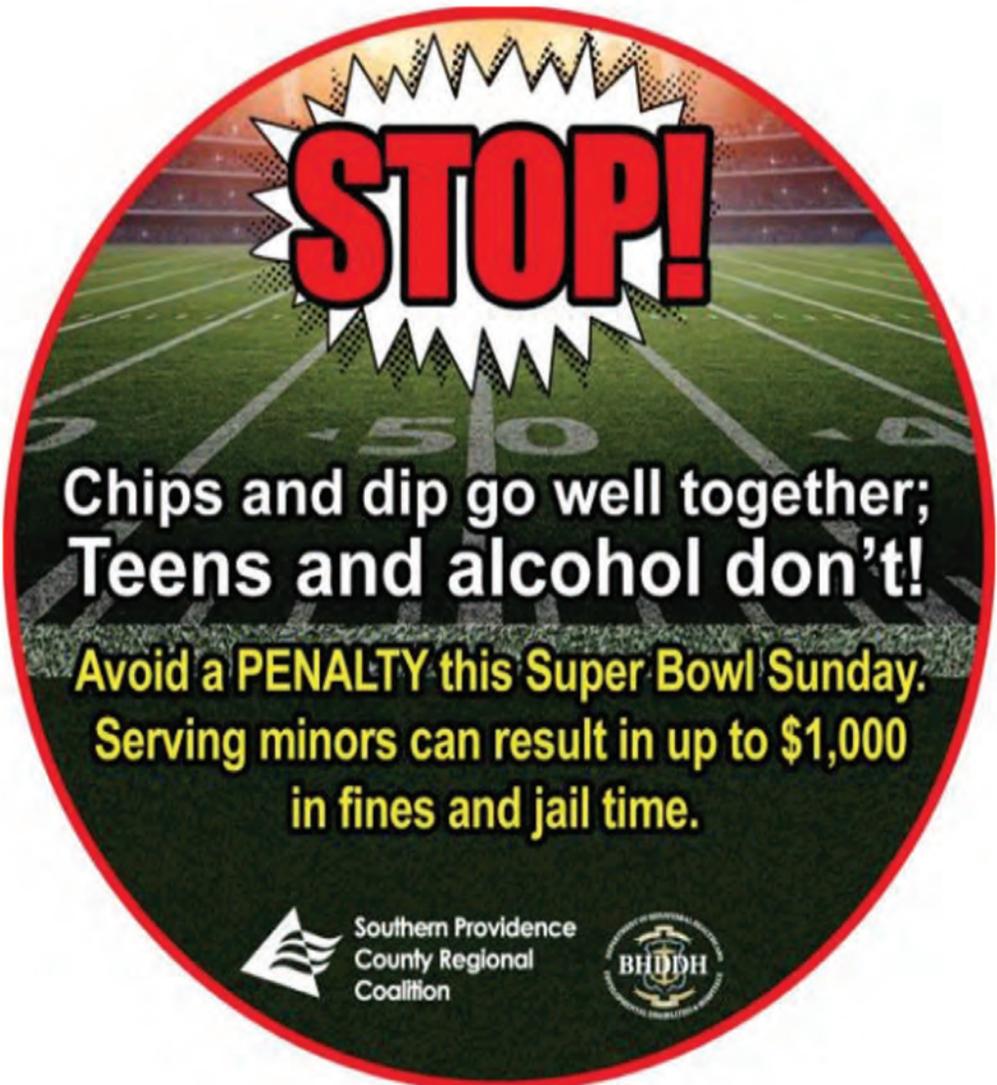
Maggiore and Paiva, along with youth volunteers, assisted with the distribution of stickers throughout the stores.

The organizations distributed a press release warning young potential drinkers of the science behind their stickers.

"Science has proven that the brain continues to develop throughout adolescence and does not fully mature until the early to mid-20s depending on the person," they warn. "The prefrontal cortex houses the decision-making portion of the brain, which is negatively impacted when large amounts of alcohol are consumed. For adolescents, the prefrontal cortex is still developing, which naturally causes lapses in judgment. When combined with alcohol, the short-term impact can be deadly. This is one reason behind the legal driving age becoming 21."

THE STICKER:

The Tri County SPC Prevention Coalition established a partnership with Dave's Marketplace, Market Basket and Shore's Market to distribute 2,000 stickers on chip bags and dip containers.



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Watch Your MOUTH

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

THE DEAL ON SEALANTS

Aside from daily oral hygiene practiced at home, another option for tooth protection is a dental sealant. This thin, protective coating is applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth, stopping cavity formation and preventing the early stages of decay. Sealants keep bits of food, bacteria, and acids from settling on the teeth by creating a barrier that protects the teeth's surface. Sealants have been shown to reduce decay in molars up to 80 percent, which is especially advantageous for children, although adults benefit as well. Early application to molars, especially when they first erupt, can keep teeth cavity-free and help avoid costly future dental treatments. Dental health professionals can determine if sealants will benefit their patients. One of our basic philosophies at DENTAL ARTS GROUP is that our patients must recognize the need to take charge of their dental health and do what is necessary to prevent, arrest, or control their own dental conditions. We'll work together as a team with you to achieve the long-term benefits that quality dentistry affords. From sound advice about sealants to routine well visits to major dental reconstructions, we've got your dental needs covered. Treating both children and adults, our office is located at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. You can reach us at 401-521-3661. P.S. In some cases, filling cavities can cost four times as much as dental sealants.

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SUPER SPECIAL SUPPORTERS: Among those town officials who made up the "Mock Orchestra" for last Friday's "Community Concert/Calendar Raffle Kick-off" are, from left: Lou Cotoia, David Iannuccelli, Frank Lombardo, Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo, state Rep. Deb Fellela (holding grandson, 9-month-old Elvis Fellela), Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena, Linda Folcarelli, Robert LaFazia and Robert Civetti. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

Buy a calendar to help send the JHS music department to Williamsburg

By PETE FONTAINE

Let it be known that the unique and classic "Community Concert" was indeed sweet music to the undergrads who participate in Johnston High School's national award-winning music program.

Elected officials, headed by Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena, as well as representatives of nonprofit groups like the Johnston Lions Club, JPD and JFD, really beat the drums last Friday afternoon to kick-off the Johnston High School Music Department's 2nd Annual Calendar raffle.

While the Mayor enjoyed playing the huge concert bass drum inside the well-stocked JHS Music Room, he was flanked by JPD Resource Officer Lou Cotoia and JFD Deputy Chief David Iannuccelli on Xylophone and State Sen. Frank Lombardo, Superintendent Bernard DiLullo Jr. and State Rep. Deb Fellela on another set of kettle drums.

Likewise, Town Councilwoman Linda Folcarelli, School Committee Chairman Robert LaFazia, Councilman Bob Civetti took turns playing another set of kettle drums.

In the middle of the group was Ron Lamoureux, chair of JHS' national award-winning music department, who was thrilled and thanked each and every official for taking time from their busy schedules to kick-off the unique and important fundraising drive.

The event, as noted, was to promote the Calendar Raffle, which will feature day-to-day drawings in March for prizes valued at a total of \$4,000 that help fund the music students' trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, where they will participate in the Music in the Park competition inside famed Busch Gardens.

The calendar sale, as Lamoureux pointed out, is titled "March Mania" and offers prizes like \$100 cash from Polisena; a \$100 gift certificate to Home Depot from the Johnston School Committee; a \$100 gift card to Stef Harris' Strings Bar & Grille from Council President Robert Russo; \$100 gift cards to Dave's Marketplace and Stop & Shop and \$50 cash and two gift certificates to restaurants from Sen. Lombardo; \$50 cash from Civetti and another \$50 from his brother David Civetti, who owns Dependable Cleaning; \$100 in cash from the JPD and JFD Unions.

Community groups like the Johnston Lions Club also provided a number of gift cards to restaurants in and around town.

"The kids are piling up the sales," Lamoureux offered. "We are in our big push for the trip to Williamsburg and we'll travel April 7 and return on Monday, (April) 11. We are really hoping to represent the town and school well at the Music in the Park Festival."

In a previous trip, the JHS band and chorus scored high and staked claim to national honors.

"We've done very well in the past and after some serious obstacles (COVID-19) the last couple of years, we are looking forward to the opportunity to compete at a high level," Lamoureux said. "We have \$4,000 worth of prizes that will help fund this trip and are hoping people will purchase a calendar that the kids are selling for only \$10 each."

Once the group finished the promotional photo, DiLullo issued a heart-warming "thank you" to everyone for his/her help saying: "The Johnston school community and Music Association are grateful for all the generous donors who have given to the Calendar Raffle. Our community has been very supportive of our young musicians and singers through the years by attending concerts, participating in fundraisers and generous support of our students. I thank all those who took time out of their day today to support the Calendar Raffle kick-off."

The superintendent concluded saying: "Our student musicians work hard and take their art seriously. I'm proud of all they have accomplished and thank our music teachers for their hard work and dedication to our students. The arts are integral component of our school community and I know the Johnston School Committee is committed to supporting the arts in our schools."

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

A super display of humanity

There's something about the Super Bowl that just brings people together.

Even non-football fans get into the festivities, and could be seen out in droves this past weekend lining the aisles of supermarkets and at the deli stand getting supplies for the big event. Even if football isn't your thing, there's something cool about the mutual recognition of the game as a common way for friends, family and strangers to gather and talk and feel a sense of togetherness over.

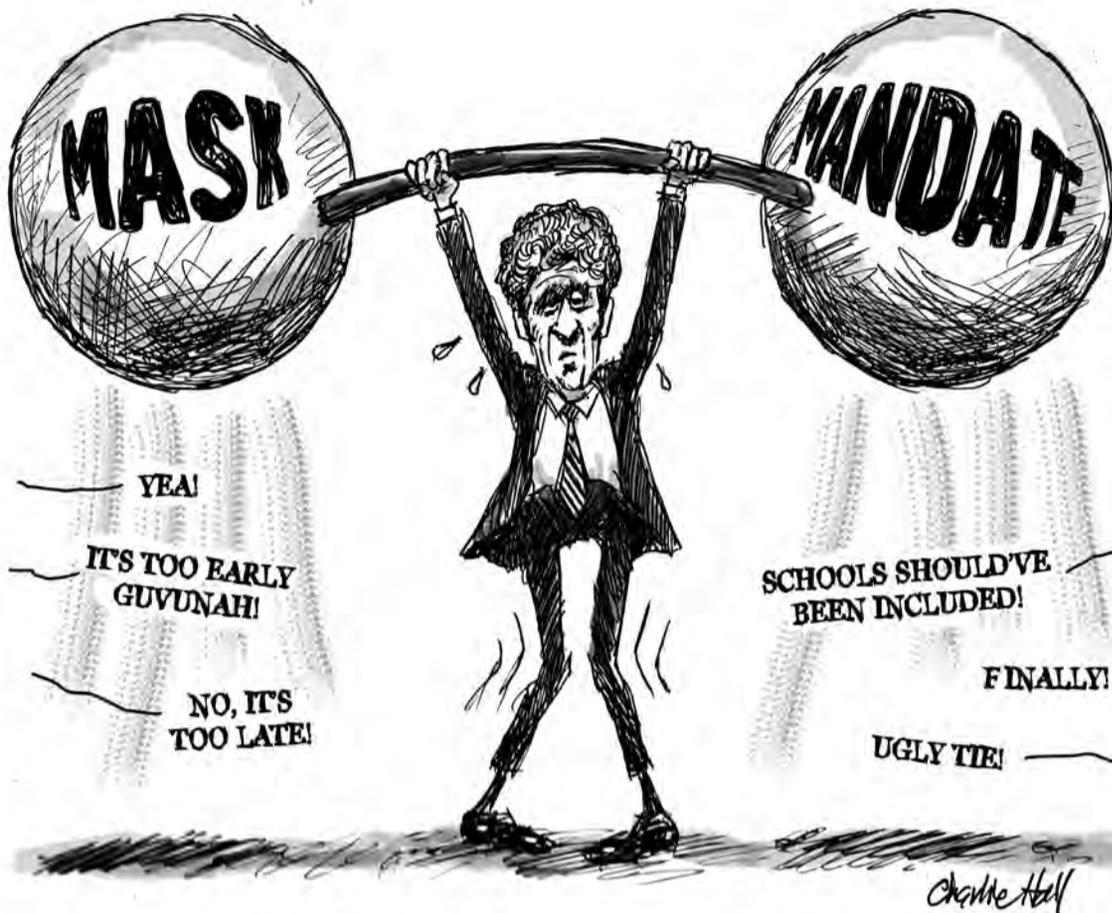
Ironically enough, it was Los Angeles - a place not exactly widely known for its affability - that played host to the game, which itself was hard-fought but mostly free of any kind of bad blood or displays of poor sportsmanship. In the end it was Matt Stafford, a player who perhaps most embodies the themes of perseverance and hard work, who raised the Lombardi Trophy overhead. After so many years of fighting uphill on hapless Lions teams, there was something utterly wholesome about watching him celebrate with family amidst a stream of royal blue and yellow confetti.

We would argue that the world, perhaps now more than ever, needs the Super Bowl, and all events like it. Anything to take our minds off the collective sources of drama and despair that inundate our televisions and newspapers daily is a reprieve, and a much appreciated one.

In the world of football, problems are simple and consistent. You need to move a ball so many feet from one spot to another, overcoming massive biological obstacles in the space between through creative means of trickery or brazen displays of strength. There is a finite amount of time that the drama lasts, and we always know that resolution is coming in some form, whether we like the outcome or not.

Although we can't say the same thing for the drama we're currently experiencing in life each day, we can at least find solace in these types of activities that bring us together and provide us a way to channel all the negative emotions we experience in a healthy and harmless way. We can find camaraderie with others whom we may not otherwise agree on much of anything with. We can let go, at least for a few hours, and just be fans of a silly game that we have no impact upon or ability to influence.

It's unfortunate that such an event only happens once a year, though perhaps that is part of the magic. Perhaps it is up to us all to find ways to channel this apparent desire to gather and put aside our differences in other ways. It just may let us all remember that at the end of the day, we're all just people trying to move that metaphorical ball from one end of the field to the other.



GUEST OPINION

Pondering the potential invasion of Ukraine

By JOHN MIGLIACCIO

Several thoughts emerge on a possible pending invasion of Ukraine by Russia's Vladimir Putin from discussions with Dr. Sergei Khrushchev, who was a friend who lived in Garden City, Cranston, while a senior fellow at Brown University's "Watson Institute, for Foreign Policy Development."

I was a history major some years ago at Colgate University with a focus on Russia. I had the good fortune to buy a home in Edgewood section of Cranston, in 1967 and together with my wife raised three wonderful children and began my practice of law in the Ocean State.

By chance, Khrushchev — Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev's son — also moved to Cranston buying a home in Garden City when he was offered a position at Brown's Watson Institute for Foreign Policy Development.

Janet Hartman, a friend who was in the real estate profession, had handled the sale to Khrushchev of a home in the Garden City section of Cranston. I met her one morning at the bagel deli in Pawtuxet when she asked if I would like to meet Khrushchev? My response was an immediate... "YES!" I couldn't wait to meet him due to my interest in history especially Russian U.S. History.

Never in my wildest imagination did I expect to become close to Khrushchev, travel many times to Ukraine and Russia to represent him there to meet with many of his friends and colleagues there including representing him at the 75th anniversary of the famous once secretive Paton Institute in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Over many years and many vodkas, our discussions often turned to Russia, the U.S. and world politics. I had a front row seat to extraordinary references and incites to matters he had lived through in Russia, and I had lived through in the U.S. Incredible times I shall never forget.

In the late summer of 1999, I was with Khrushchev when a radio announcer interrupted music pro-

gramming and stated that Russia's ailing President Boris Yeltsin had retired and appointed a man named Vladimir Putin as Acting President of the Russian Federation.

I had not heard the name "Putin." I looked over at Khrushchev and asked: "Who's Putin?" Khrushchev was silent for a moment then looked over at me. In his heavily Russian accented voice he said, "Not good news for the USA. Get ready for long and dangerous times ahead." There was silence as we both listened to the news report that began to give some sketchy bits of information about Putin. Khrushchev abruptly snapped the radio off and began to talk in a rapid almost stream of conscious and serious way that I had learned since meeting him meant, "don't interrupt... listen well."

He then rattled off what Putin would do as the new Russian leader.

"Putin understands power and how to use it, he's KGB all the way, he will extend his leadership indefinitely, he will reverse most all political reforms, he will surround the Kremlin with his closest and strongest allies and he will make them and himself very wealthy. He will begin the long process of reconstructing the former Soviet Union country by country with subterfuge and money or, if necessary with raw military power, he will politicize Russia's enormous oil and gas reserves to make Europe beholden to Russia for survival. He is a reckless and driven man who will definitely, once in full political control, try to create stress in the U.S. political system in every way possible to keep America of balance. He will play to the Russian people who want strong leaders who can return Russia to its leadership position. He will expand the Russian military extensively, especially the missile program and the Russian Navy, establishing bases that reach worldwide. He will enhance very close ties to China and begin to support autocrats worldwide with money, oil and weapons especially in the Middle East and Latin America. He

will seek out alliances formal and informal in South America, ever closer to the U.S., much like my father did with Castro in Cuba."

Khrushchev stopped talking, looked at me and said, "I like you John and I love America, but sadly your political system is not setup to confront the likes of Vladimir Putin. If he manages to become fully entrenched, and I think that will happen, the U.S. and the West will be hard pressed to cope with his expansion agenda as the West is so leaderless...he will seek to control you and bury you...all of you"

Khrushchev stopped talking, turned the radio back on, closed his eyes and put his head back, almost in a trance, listening to the classical music he so liked. We did not speak again till reaching the UN where the cabal of delegates, event speakers and reporters pressed Khrushchev with an avalanche of questions about Putin. Whatever the subject of the day was at the UN it became secondary to "Who is Vladimir Putin?"

I loved being close to Sergei Khrushchev. His many numerous books provide extraordinary access to Russia and Russian thinking in a world context. Sadly, Khrushchev is no longer with us as he committed suicide June 18, 2020, at his home in Cranston, Rhode Island, just two weeks before his 85th birthday. Rhode Island Medical examiner's office listed "gunshot wound to the head" as cause of death.

Editor's Note: John E. Migliaccio, JD is a Rhode Island attorney and author, graduate of Colgate University and Boston University School of Law. He was a career prosecutor and international traveler representing a number of clients in Russia and Ukraine. He was instrumental with former Dean Harry Knickle and others in forming an International Technology Incubator at the College of Engineering, University of Rhode Island that reviewed technology from Ukraine and Russian Institutes for commercialization. He can be reached on his cell phone at 401-255-1902 (text messages preferred) or email johnmig2020@gmail.com.



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WELL RADON:

This example of a radon in water mitigation machine is installed on wells with radon in the water to exhaust the radon outside to meet to EPA's exhausting standards. (Photo courtesy RMS: Radon Mitigation Services)



Radon

(Continued from page 1)

cause of lung cancer," according to the American Lung Association.

Throughout last month and the rest of this year, the association will be "encouraging radon testing for everyone, including homeowners, renters, real estate agents, building managers and school administrators."

"Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas emitted from the ground that is odorless, tasteless and colorless," according to the American Lung Association. "It can enter a home through cracks in walls, basement floors, foundations and other openings. Radon can be present at high levels inside homes, schools and other buildings."

Home inspectors typically measure radon gas in picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of air, and the EPA recommends taking action to reduce radon if the result is 4 pCi/L or greater.

"Radon in homes is more common than you think," said Dr. Albert Rizzo, chief medical officer for the American Lung Association. "In fact, at least 1 in 15 homes in the U.S. have elevated levels of radon and this is something that shouldn't be taken lightly. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. The good news is that it is easy to test for radon. Do-it-yourself test kits are simple to use and inexpensive."

Some local contractors also specialize in home radon tests, and the

remediation process for high radon results can consist of fairly simple fixes.

"Because radon is a tasteless, odorless, colorless gas, it's one of those things that's easy to not know," Fitzgerald said.

The American Lung Association estimates radon-related lung cancers are responsible for 21,000 deaths annually in the United States.

"Smoking and radon exposure can separately increase the risk of lung cancer," according to the association. "If you smoke, exposure to both tobacco and radon enhances the risk of lung cancer even further."

Radon is emitted from the soil. Old homes with stone foundations or cracks are particularly susceptible to higher radon saturation rates.

"Both the EPA and the American Lung Association recommend that mitigation be considered if levels are greater than 2 pCi/L," according to the American Lung Association. "After high levels are detected, a radon mitigation system should be installed by a radon professional. Radon testing should always be done when you buy a home and after building a new home."

RIDOH also tracks data connected to radon rates in the Ocean State, and the agency agrees that approximately one in four Rhode Island homes contain worrying radon levels.

"This is significantly higher than the national average of one in fifteen homes," according to RIDOH. "In Exeter and

Richmond, more than 50% of tested homes exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's action level."

Paul Brunetti, owner of Brunetti Home Inspections, encourages all of his customers to schedule a "Radon in Air Test" (and in water if a private well is present).

"This is recommended whether you already own a home or you're preparing to buy one," Brunetti says on his website. "Radon gas naturally forms underground, but if the gas escapes, which is very common, it can penetrate the structure of a home ... Because radon is odorless and invisible, it's important to hire a qualified professional to properly test the home."

Fitzgerald notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has a lot of people thinking hard about the involuntary act of breathing.

"In the middle of COVID pandemic, people are talking more about lung health in general," he said. "Lung disease in all of its forms impacts quite a few of us here in Rhode Island."

If your home or business registers high radon levels, contractors like Exeter-based Radon Mitigation Services (RMS) can help abate the radioactive gas.

According to RMS, the average price of radon mitigation varies from \$900-2,000 "depending on the work to be performed and levels of the radon."

"It's important to have your house tested because without testing it you won't know if you have it or not," said RMS owner Nate Coughlin. "You can't smell it taste or see it."

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW
Thursday February 24th, 2022;
6:30 P.M.
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

PLEASE NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNORS EXECUTIVE ORDER 22-01 PUBLIC MEETINGS MUST BE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY. IF THE ORDER IS EXTENDED BEYOND FEBRUARY 15TH, THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM:

VIA COMPUTER: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83244890870?pwd=OTVKN1pTQTFKNEJqUSs4cDg1Nk5wUT09>

VIA TELEPHONE: One tap mobile : US: +13126266799,,83244890870#,,,152574# or +16465588656,,83244890870#,,,152574# Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)

Meeting ID: 832 4489 0870
Passcode: 152574

PLEASE CHECK WITH THE ZONING OFFICE TO DETERMINE IF THE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY. CALL THE ZONING OFFICE AT (401) 231-4000.

NOTE: Please check out the "ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS for meetings held via Zoom" on the Town's web page under Meetings &

Events. <https://www.townofjohnstonri.com/>

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

Remand from Superior Court
File 2019-6- David lascone/DFI , Owner/Applicant; Joy Street; AP 4 Lot 102, R-15 Zone, 13,108 Sq. ft. Table of Dimensional Variance; Section 340 Article III. Proposed Single Family Dwelling.

New Business

File 2022-3 – Petition of Johnston Winsor I, LLC/Ernie & Donna Ricci Jr., Applicant for Winsor Avenue, AP 60 Lot 4, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted Solar Array and associated improvements.

File 2022-4 – Petition of Johnston Winsor II, LLC/Allan Hill, Applicant/ Owner for 86 Winsor Avenue, AP 60 Lot 2, 20, 86, zoned R-40 & R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted Solar Array and associated improvements.

File 2022-5 – Petition of Johnston Winsor III, LLC/The Steere Family Trust, Applicant/Owner for 112 Winsor Avenue, AP 59 Lot 15, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted So-

lar Array and associated improvements.

File 2022-6 – Petition of Johnston Harilla I, LLC/28 Harilla Johnston Realty, LLC, Applicant/Owner for 28 Harilla Lane & Off Greenville Avenue, AP 51 Lot 11 & 9, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted Solar Array and associated improvements.

File 2022-7 – Petition of Johnston Elmgrove/Domenic & Michelle Lancelotta, Applicant/Owner for 25 Elmgrove Avenue, AP 51 Lot 4, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted Solar Array and associated improvements.

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 Zoning 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 Building Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

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

NOTE: New items that have not been called for a hearing by 10:30 p.m. may be rescheduled for a subsequent or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.

2/10, 2/17, 2/24/22

Sun Rise Scoops

By Meri R. Kennedy

Bowling for Animals updated

Bowling for Animals to benefit Defenders of Animals on March 6, between 2 to 4 p.m. at the Town Hall Lanes at 1463 Atwood Ave. in Johnston.

\$20 per person, includes two hours of bowling, one pizza and pitcher of soda or lemonade for each lane. Please call 401-461-1922 for reservations or send \$20 via the internet at defendersofanimals.org.

Wedding Showcase

Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston will be hosting the 2022 Wedding Showcase on Saturday, March 5, from noon to 4 p.m.

Network with your fellow professionals in the wedding and event industries and meet with future couples who are interested in learning more about your unique services!

For more information regarding exhibitor opportunities, please contact Hillary Williamson at 401-785-4333, or via this email: hillary@rhodesonthepawtuxet.com.

Update from the Mohr Library

Mohr Library is open for in-person visits while also offering curbside pick-up. Services include reference help in person, by e-mail, or by phone; recommendation lists and one-on-one help to explore interests in reading, viewing and listening; printing from home or from mobile devices; use of computers, fax machine, printers, copier and scanner; quiet reading rooms, and a free notary public, evenings and Saturdays by appointment.

The library is open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., address: 1 Memorial Ave., Johnston (e-mail: info@mohrlibrary.org, phone: 401-231-4980).

The library offers a craft table with several different projects for families to do together, scavenger hunts and I Spy challenges with small prizes, and take-home craft and activity kits. In addition to in-person help with finding books to read, families and teachers are encouraged to e-mail Ms Meri at meri@mohrlibrary.org, with requests for books about topics or interest, reading levels, school assignments, or other reading needs.

Consider donating blood

The Rhode Island Blood Center is in need of blood. Individuals wishing to donate must book an appointment at the donation center; walk-ins are only accepted if safe distancing allows at the person's time of arrival.

Nearby areas to donate include The Shops at Greenwood, which is located at 615 Greenwich Ave., in Warwick.

Sign up by visiting www.ribc.org.

Walk and Talk at Rocky Point

Come join the "Rocky Point Pacers" for a walk around Rocky Point every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9 a.m., weather permitting. They meet at the gate on Rocky Point Avenue. Get some sunshine and burn off some holiday pounds.

Prepare RI High School Internships Program

Calling all RI public high school juniors: The 2022 PrepareRI High school Internship Program is accepting applications to participate in on-site/in-person, PAID summer experiential learning internships with local employers across the state.

Chief Joseph Robert Devine



Chief Joseph Robert Devine, 88, of Merrimack, NH and Edgewater, FL passed away surrounded by family on February 7, 2022.

Born February 25, 1933, Joe was the son of Joseph S. Devine and Gladys (Evans) Devine. He grew up in Providence, Rhode Island. Joe received a Bachelor's Degree from Bryant University. Joe proudly served in the US Army during the Korean War. Starting his police career in the Army as a Military Police Officer on Governor's Island in New York. After the death of his father, Joe was discharged from the Army and began his law enforcement career at the Johnston Police Department.

Excelling through the ranks, Joe retired as the Deputy Chief in Johnston after 17 years of service. He continued his calling in public safety as a Chief in St. Johnsbury, VT; Claremont, NH and later settled in Merrimack, NH where he proudly served the Town of Merrimack for 22 years as their Chief of Police, retiring in 2002.

Joe's exemplary service to public safety was often recognized as being an innovator of community policing. One of Joe's favorite pastimes was out on the golf course. He started as a caddy as a young boy and grew to love this hobby. He recalled his hole in one story many times and would clutter his shed with endless "found" golf balls.

Besides Joe's accomplished career in law enforcement his greatest loves were his loving wife of 46 years, Debra and his son, Joey. Joe loved spending time watching and coaching Joey play sports, vacationing with family or golfing with his friends and colleagues. He was often seen volunteering and participating in the community that he helped flourish. In 2002 following his retirement, Joe and Debbie became snowbirds and loved their time in the sun at their home in Edgewater, Florida.

Joe often called it the best of both worlds, sunny days year-round. Joe was blessed beyond measure when he became a "Hop" to his three grandsons, Nathan, Jacob and Lucas; the second generation of "the three Devine sons."

Hop was a pivotal monument at sporting events where he was found cheering on the boys. Along with his parents, he is predeceased by his brothers, William Devine, Donald Devine, Edward Devine and sister, Evelyn (Devine) Zukel. Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Debra (McCauley) Devine, his son, Joseph Devine, Jr. and his wife, Keri (Mayo) Devine; grandsons, Nathan, Jacob and Lucas Devine and a loving extended family. Please honor Joe the way he would have greeted you, a smile and a handshake.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the Merrimack Crimeline c/o Chief Joseph R. Devine Scholarship Fund, PO Box 701, Merrimack, NH 03054 or the Home, Health and Hospice Care, 7 Executive Park Drive, Merrimack, NH 03054. Services were held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 from 4-7 p.m. at Rivet Funeral Home in Merrimack, NH. A funeral was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Merrimack, NH. The burial will be held privately with the family in Johnston, RI.



This program will help you earn, learn, and connect with employers across Rhode Island. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Visit www.skillsforri.com/prepareri for more information.

Apple Fest Scheduled

The 34th Annual Apple Festival has been scheduled for: Saturday, Sept.10 and Sunday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days.

The event will be held at the Johnston Memorial Park — 1583 Hartford Ave. in Johnston. Register: www.members.nrichamber.com/.../the-34th-annual-apple

Rhode Island Senior Softball League Updated

The Rhode Island Senior Softball League, who has over 350 players on 20 teams, is currently seeking players ages 50 and over for the upcoming season.

The season will run from the beginning of May until the end of September, including playoffs, and no games will be scheduled on July 4. Games are played on Sunday, double-headers.

Masks and/or pitcher's screen will be mandatory, and the league will use the same 11 fields as it did last season. Fields are located in East Providence, Cranston, Johnston, Woonsocket, North Kingstown, Barrington and Western Cranston.

Visit www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=riseniorsoftball for more information. Please fill out player inquiry form, and the commissioner will contact you.

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.

RI Pre-K lottery applications

The 2022-23 RI Pre-K Lottery Email Notification Sign-Up form is now available! Please note that this is not the RI Pre-K Lottery application. This form will sign you up to stay informed of the lottery opening in late spring. You will only need to complete and submit this form once!

You can access the RI Pre-K Lottery Email Notification Sign-Up in three locations: 1. By visiting www.docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdn.../viewform to go directly to the Google Form; 2. By visiting the RIDE homepage and clicking the round "Pre-K Lottery Email Notification Sign Up" badge on the right toolbar and 3. By visiting the RI Pre-K webpage on the RIDE website and clicking the "Lottery Application" menu to reveal the link to the form

To be eligible for Pre-K, your child must be four by Sept. 1.

Did you know?

With President's Day coming up next week, did you know that Martin Van Buren was the first president to be born as a citizen of the United States. The presidents before him were born as British subjects. (Source: President's Day Fun Facts)

Send scoops to SunriseScoops@aol.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and nonprofit events as well as virtual events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.



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.

- Thank you

Jerry T. Badessa
Sixth Anniversary
FEBRUARY 21



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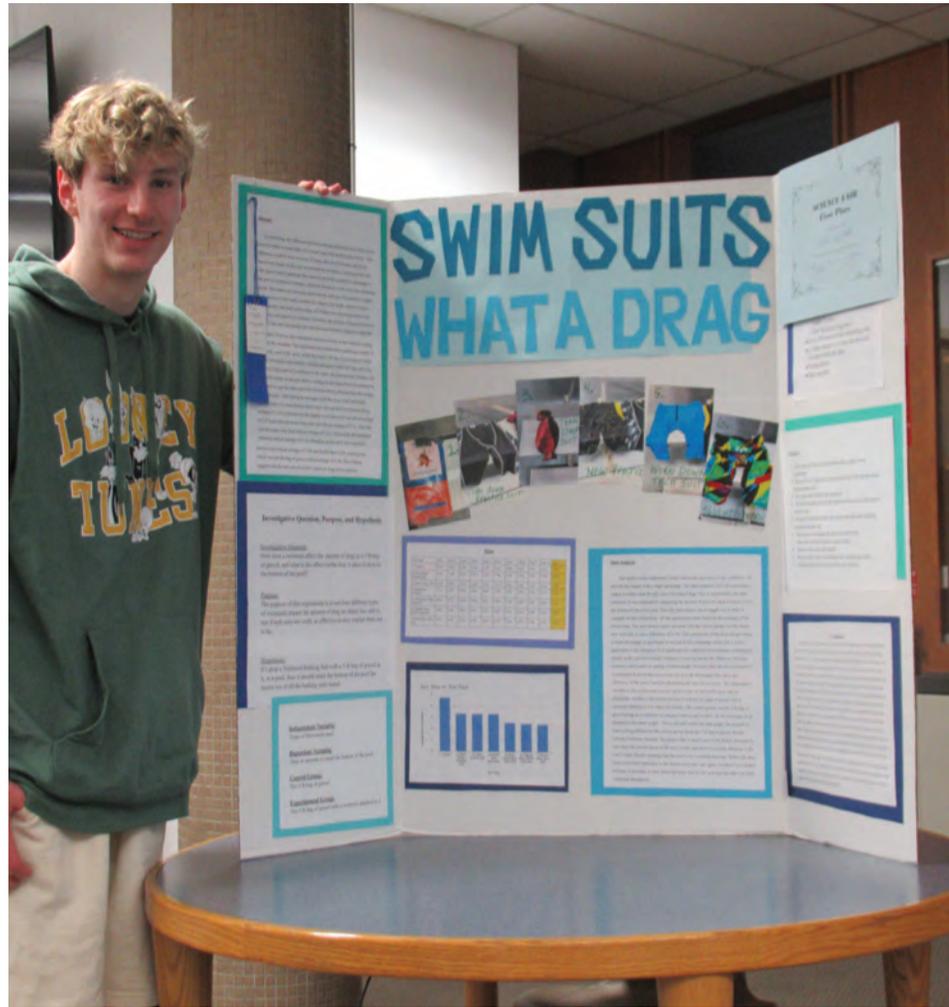
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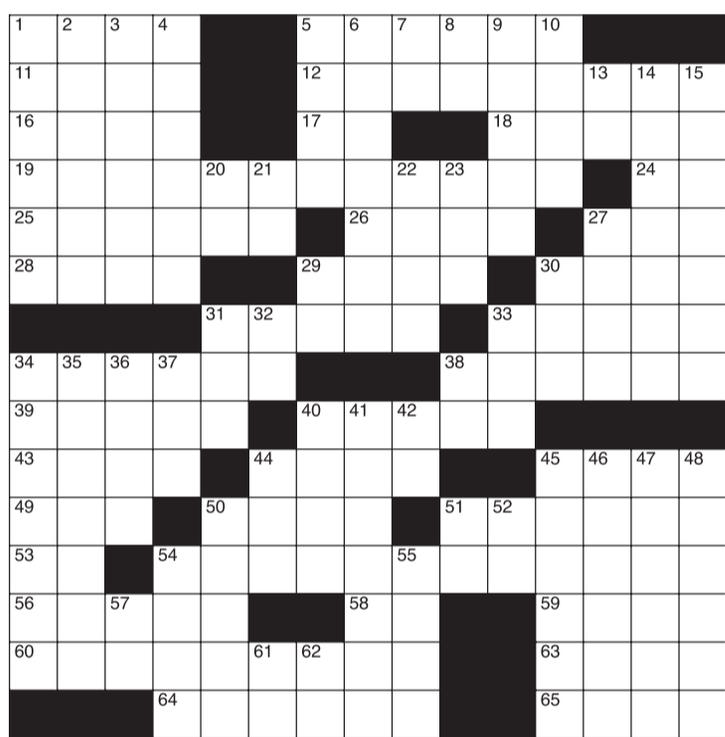
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SWIM SCIENCE: Junior James Guilmette's first place project was titled "Swim-suits, What a Drag!"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER

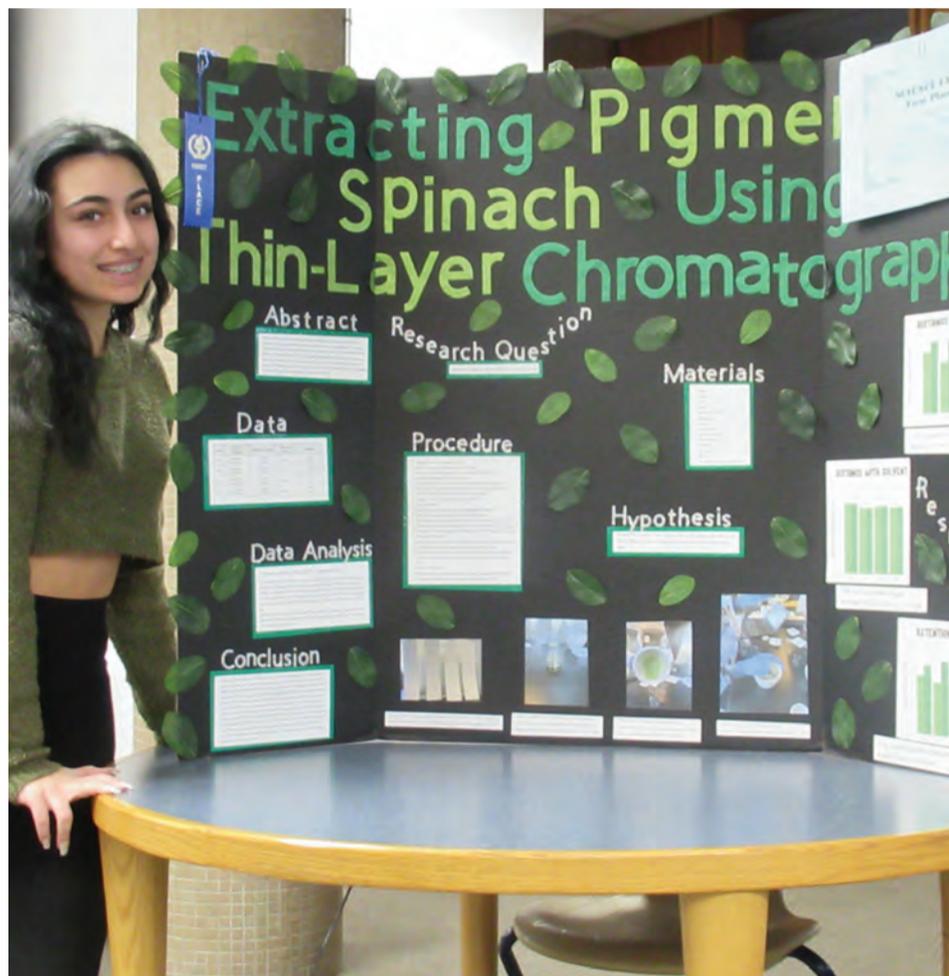


CLUES ACROSS

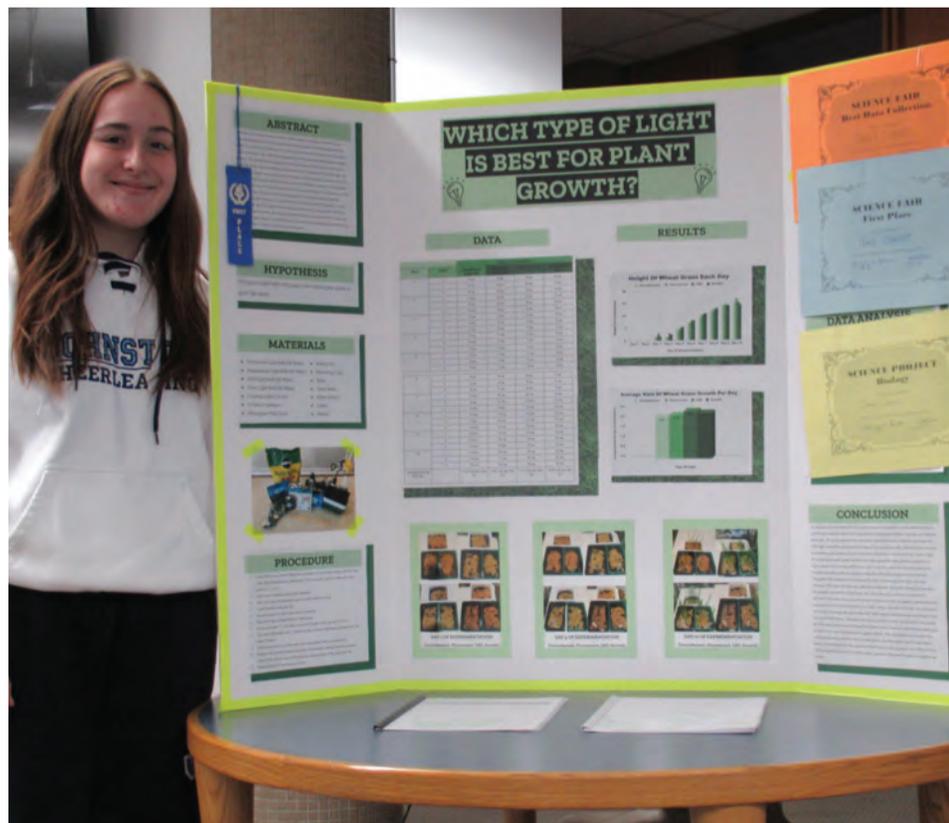
- 1. Remain as is
- 5. Functional
- 11. News magazine
- 12. Popular treat
- 16. Area units
- 17. Artificial intelligence
- 18. Marten valued for its fur
- 19. Forms of matter
- 24. Home of the Dodgers
- 25. Bordering
- 26. Part of the eye
- 27. It might be nervous
- 28. Visualizes
- 29. Crest of a hill
- 30. Measures engine speed (abbr.)
- 31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)
- 33. Not easily explained
- 34. Song in short stanzas
- 38. Detonations
- 39. Intestinal
- 40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri ___
- 43. Balmy
- 44. New Mexico mountain town
- 45. Gobblers
- 49. Insecticide
- 50. Golf scores
- 51. Has its own altar
- 53. "Pollock" actor Harris

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Small bone in middle ear
- 2. Long, angry speech
- 3. Move out of
- 4. Male organ
- 5. Two-toed sloth
- 6. Making dirty
- 7. Article
- 8. Oil company
- 9. Emits coherent radiation
- 10. Amounts of time
- 13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 14. Forbidden by law
- 15. Drains away
- 20. Not out
- 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
- 22. Bird genus
- 23. Gratuity
- 27. ___ and feathers
- 29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)
- 30. Hot beverage
- 31. Pouch
- 32. It followed the cassette
- 33. Large northern deer
- 34. Ones who offer formally
- 35. Famed genie
- 36. Bequeathed
- 37. Skeletal muscle
- 38. Atomic #56
- 40. Silk garment
- 41. They deliver the mail
- 42. Equally
- 44. Check
- 45. Light-colored breed of hound
- 46. Drug that soothes
- 47. Railroads
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Jacket
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Hello
- 54. His and ___
- 55. Supporter
- 57. Popular software suite (abbr.)
- 61. Railway
- 62. NY coastal region (abbr.)



GREEN SCIENCE: Sophomore Alesandra Pesare chose the theme Extract-Ting pigments from spinach using thin layer chromatography.



SHINE A LIGHT: "Which type of light is best for plant growth" was the title of senior Janet Clements' first place science project.

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Johnston's future scientists?

By PETE FONTAINE

Add the names Alesandra Pesare, Janet Clements, Cameron Tum, James Guilmette, Neko Mahoney and Ayomide Josephine Olagundoye to the prestigious list of students who took first place in Johnston High School's annual Science Fair.

"Congratulations to all!" exclaimed Greg Russo, the Johnston High faculty member who chairs the Science Department and has long organized the event that is, as he explained, "a yearly rite of passage for all students enrolled in college preparatory science course and honors science courses."

Russo, who also serves as faculty advisor for the Student Council and Students Against Dangerous Decisions (SADD), explained: "The students are required to develop a hypothesis and then test it using the scientific method that they have learned in their sciences classes."

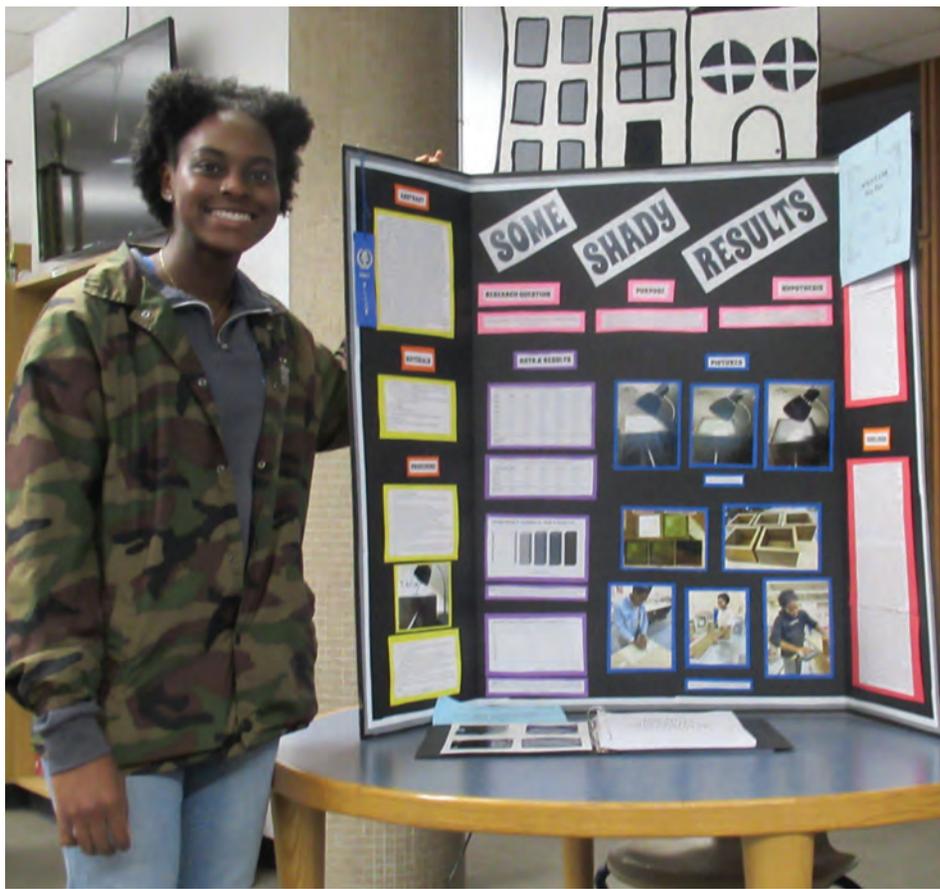
Once completed, all submitted projects are evaluated by three judges who are looking for presentation of data, sample sizes in the control and experimental groups and the ability of the student to communicate effectively. Then, as Russo noted, awards are presented to six winners, four second places, four third places and five honorable mentions.

Awards are given to the best data collection, the best backboard and most creative ideas. An award is also given for best physical science, best biology and best chemistry project. Thus, as a result of their extraordinary efforts, the students listed above will now participate in the State Science Fair, which is expected to draw a record crowd and will be held on Saturday, March 12 at the Community College of Rhode Island Knight Campus in Warwick.

Second place winners were Derek Salvatore, Jackson Troxell, Steffi Rotella and Emma Homenick. Third place went to Charles Curci, Giuseppe, Cucinotta, Michael Cepeda and Jacob Muller with Joshua Philbrick, Rebecca Clements, Ariana Medeiros, Catrina Zinni and Emily Patenaude earning Honorable Mentions.

Likewise, in addition to serving as Student Council President and being deeply involved in the entire JHS community, Janet Clements also captured two "Best" awards for Data Collection and Biology Project for her entry, titled "Which type of light is best for plant growth and testing which common house light produces the most growth in wheatgrass plants."

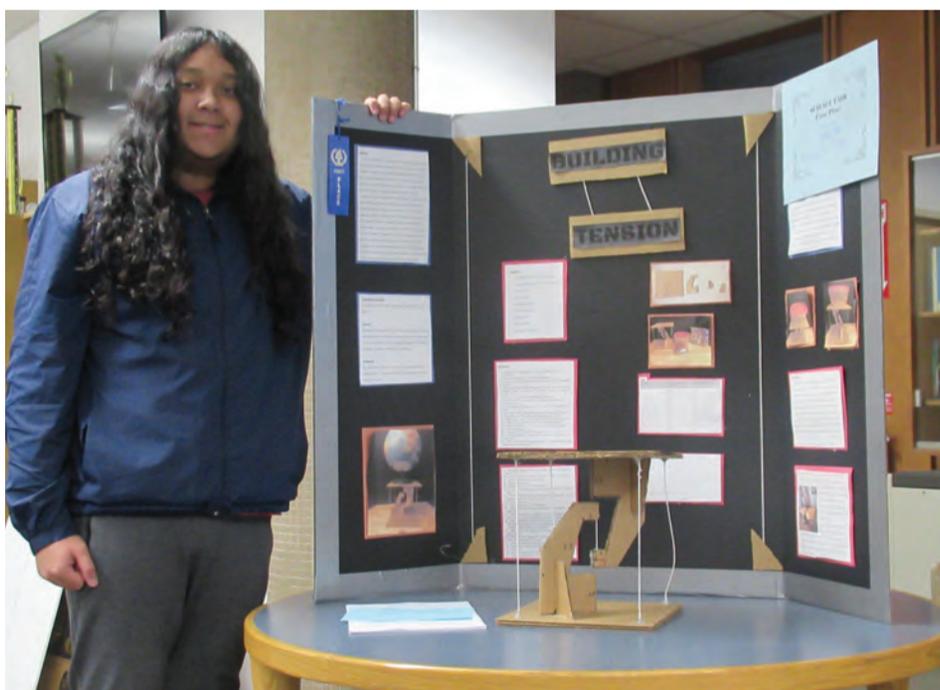
Russo also announced four other students who won "Best" awards, beginning with Best Background going to Catrina Zinni. David Pagliarini won Best Creative Project, Charlie Curci won for Best Chem-



CAST SOME SHADE: Ayomide Josephine Olagundoye, a junior, stands next to her winning Science Project titled Some Shady Results. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



SCIENCE SUCCESS: Neko Lulu Mahony, a freshman, with her first place science project titled "Mycelium growth in different substrates."



CUT THE TENSION: Senior Cameron Tum's first place project was titled "Building Tension," creating a table using tensegrity.

istry Project and Cameron Tum took home the Best Physical Science Project.

So on March 12, Olagundoye, Grade 11, will take her "Some Shady Results" — that shows the Heat Absorption Properties of Window Tint — to CCRI and test her skills

among other high school students from across the state.

The project of Neko Lulu Mahony, a freshman, was titled "Mycelium Growth in Different Substrates" while senior Cameron Tum showed "Building Tension creating a table

using tensegrity" and junior James Forefront's project, "Swimsuits, What a Drag."

Pesare, the lone sophomore to finish first, won for "Extrac-Ting Pigments in Spinach using thin-layer chromatography."

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COLLECTIBLES

MOUNTAIN COLLECTIBLES:



Are There Any?



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

snowboard, so I'm surprised this topic hasn't come up before, but here we go!

The short answer is no, your vintage skis, especially if from the 1950's and up are nearly worthless. Even if you have wood skis, they fall into a purely decorative category. What that means is if you own a cabin in New Hampshire and ski every weekend, you might spend \$50 or \$100 on a pair of vintage skis as a wall decoration. Otherwise, you will be hard pressed to find that collector with 247 different pairs of skis in their collection. What most people don't realize is skiing has been around for over 5,000 years beginning with hunters in the late Stone Age. By the eighteenth century the Swedish army was training their soldiers to use skis. So unless you have a pair of skis that's 300 plus years old you just have a pair of wall hangers.

Now while I've learned most skiers hate us on the mountain, if you were an early snowboarder of the

1980's and 1990's there is a chance you'll have something. Not something great, but something slightly better than a pair of skis. In today's market early Burton boards are the best. If you have a fishtail form board with vibrant color in great shape, it's easily a \$200 to \$300 piece. Again nothing spectacular, but definitely better than junk skis.

You might be asking where the exception is. Well, if you have a pair of skis worn by Phil Mahre in a winning race that's a big deal. But if they were your grandfathers skis they can stay in the garage.



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Fung 'back' on ballot

Joy Fox visits Atwood Grill pitching her run for U.S. Congress

By ALEX MALM



WE MEET AGAIN: Candidate Joy Fox and Atwood Grill patron Theresa Gambardelli remembered each other from long ago. Fox worked for Beacon Communications newspaper the Cranston Herald and Gambardelli worked for the Cranston school department. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

"I'm Back." That was the subject line to an email from former Cranston Mayor Allan Fung Friday. After a great deal of speculation the two-time candidate for governor and mayor for 12 years announced that he is running for Congress in the 2nd Congressional District as a Republican.

"When I ran for Mayor in Cranston, I did so because I saw my beloved city was headed down the wrong path, and I knew I could help right the ship," Fung said in a statement. "With hard work over the next twelve years, we turned it around. We stabilized Cranston's finances, and transformed it into one of the Top 50 Cities to Live in America."

Fung declined to discuss his candidacy Monday, saying he would be accessible to the news media in the coming months.

Since Congressman Jim Langevin announced in January he wouldn't be seeking a 12th term in Congress, Fung's name circulated as a potential candidate.

In a matter of minutes after news broke about Fung's run for General Treasurer Seth Magaziner, who announced as a Democratic candidate issued a statement.

"The very first vote Allan Fung would cast in Washington would be to turn control of Congress over to the Republican leadership who care more about doing Donald Trump's bidding than they do about delivering results for working families," said Magaziner. "I am in this race because Rhode Island needs a representative who will fight for the middle class, and we cannot allow Allan Fung and the Republicans in Washington to undermine protections for workers, repeal Obamacare, roll back voting rights, and turn back the clock women's rights."

Fung in his announcement said that he senses the country is going in the wrong direction.

"From record-setting inflation that is robbing you of your hard-earned dollars in the grocery stores and at the gas pump, to a feeling that we are less safe at home, it's just not working for your family or mine," said Fung. "Instead of focusing on the problems weighing on people each night at the dinner table, DC politicians spend their time attacking one another with the same old talking points. We do not need more hyper partisan politicians. We need a different type of leader in DC. We need a problem solver."

Fung said that he wants to seek bipartisanship support on issues if elected.

"We need leaders who are willing to work with people on both sides of the aisle to bring common sense solutions to our everyday problems," said Fung. "I did just that in Cranston, and I can't wait to do that for you as your next Congressman."

Fung said that the campaign would have "an official campaign launch in the near future."

"At which time I will share my vision with all of you," said Fung. "For now, just know that 'I'm back,' and we're going to work hard every single day to get our country back on track so that your family and mine can live the great American Dream."

Who else is in

Fung's entrance into the race makes him the second Republican candidate from Cranston to announce thus far.

Last February former state Rep. Bob Lancia announced that he was going to run for the seat again after running unsuccessfully against Langevin in 2020.

Also running in the Republican Primary is state Sen. Jessica de la Cruz.

On the Democratic side former Cranston Herald Editor, and Cranston native Joy Fox announced that she is running as a Democrat last week.

Fox toured the state last week, announcing her campaign. During one afternoon stop, she spent some time outside Atwood Grill in Johnston answering questions from reporters.

Then she donned her mask and went inside to chat with customers.

Atwood Grill patron Theresa Gambardelli worked for the Cranston school department. She and Fox recognized each other almost immediately.

"We spoke often when I worked for the Herald," Fox said to Gambardelli as she finished a bowl of soup.

Gambardelli remembered Fox well.

"She was very nice, very pleasant," Gambardelli recalled.

"She was always kind of bubbly."

For years Fox worked as a communications staffer for different elected officials including then General Treasurer Gina Raimondo, and Congressman Jim Langevin. She also worked at Providence Business News, and as an assignment editor with NBC 10 during her career. She is a former editor of the Cranston Herald.

The Democratic field also includes former state Rep. Ed Pacheco, Omar Bah the founder and executive director of Refugee Dream Center and a refugee from Gambia in West Africa, and Michael Neary, a former Rhode Island resident who spent the last few years working and living in Ohio. His past experience includes being a former national political strategist.

Johnston gets a little back from an epidemic

By EMMA BARTLETT

Johnston lost around eight residents to opioid overdoses in 2020, and at least 65 residents were rushed to the hospital. Now, the town's starting to see its share of money secured in a statewide lawsuit filed against opioid distributors.

Gov. Dan McKee announced Jan. 25 that Rhode Island received over \$114 million in a settlement with three major opioid distributors: McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen.

"The opioid crisis is one that I know all too well," Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisenia said in a press release. "As a registered nurse and as Mayor, it is my job and my responsibility to protect the residents of Johnston, and I will do everything in my power to make sure they have access to the services they need."

Polisenia said that Johnston will be receiving a total of a little under \$700,000 over the course of a 10-year period. He said that the town plans to spend it on things like Narcan for the police and fire departments, and in public buildings.

will contain an education component for schools, as a preventative measure.

The state Department of Health's Community-Level Overdose Surveillance Report for Johnston indicates the town had 65 "Opioid Overdose-Related EMS Runs" in 2020. That same year, Johnston had around eight overdose fatalities, according to the report.

"Together, we will beat this epidemic, and I want to thank Governor McKee and Attorney General Neronha for securing this crucial funding to make that possible," Polisenia said.

Cranston will receive 3.5 percent of these funds, which is just shy of \$1.8 million.

"No amount of money will ever be enough to undo the harm suffered by Rhode Islanders throughout the ongoing opioid epidemic," said Attorney General Peter Neronha. "But through this settlement, we can bring in much-needed funding to the state and municipalities to respond to the challenges brought on by this epidemic, which have grown particularly acute during the Covid-19 pandemic."

According to the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH),

last year the state saw 361 overdose fatalities due to opioids; the highest number of accidental drug overdoses occurred in 2020 with 384 deaths.

In the opioid settlement, Rhode Island will receive the following: \$90,833,000 from McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen over the next 18 years; \$21,078,000 from Johnson & Johnson over the next nine years and \$2,592,000 from McKinsey & Co. over the next five years.

According to Neronha, most of the funds will go toward coordinated, holistic approaches to address the opioid epidemic statewide, guided by input from municipal leaders, public health experts and community representatives.

Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi said that the City is expected to receive around \$122,000 per year over the course of 18 years for a grand total of around \$2.2 million. City officials plan to meet with the police and fire departments along with medical professionals to see what programs they can create with the funding.

(Staff reporters Alex Malm and Rory Schuler contributed to this story.)

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



AQUAMARINE Female Gemstone Puppies

Photo credit: Laurel Leaf Photography

Puppies!!

Aquamarine is one of a litter of nine puppies that are available for adoption at EGAPL The Heart of RI. They are mixed breed puppies and they are all this cute! You can view the puppies at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI on Wednesday from 3-7, Thursday and Friday 12-2 and Saturday 10-2. Please visit their website for more information at www.heartofri.org or call 401-467-3670. They will all melt your heart for sure!

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




Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Leroy

Leroy is just one of the many cats looking for love at the Providence Animal Control. He is a young, handsome boy who's had a rough start in life. If you like kitties that like to talk, he has lots to say! Leroy is hoping that he will now have a chance at a great life in a loving forever home! There are also several other cats in need of foster homes, if you are interested in fostering or adopting Leroy please email provanimal-control@gmail.com You can also visit their website for more information at www.providenceri.com/animals All adoption and foster information is done via email but you can also call 401-243-6040. Please be the one who shows Leroy what it's like to be loved, he will be forever grateful!



CLEAN UP: Emergency response and smoke and water damage crews were on the scene after the fire at Club Bebeto in Johnston on Sunday. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Club

(Continued from page 1)

void spaces in the walls," Lamb explained.

Neither Lamb nor Given would identify the injured individual. Lamb said the injuries were "non life threatening."

Given said he had "no comment" on whether investigators have identified the use of accelerants in the fire.

"That part of the investigation is still open," he said.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is called in to investigate "certain types of fires," Given explained. If a blaze fits the criteria — serious injury, death, anything suspicious — state fire investigators step in to probe the cause.

The owners of Club Bebeto, were set to appear at a show-cause hearing during Monday night's Johnston

Town Council meeting to defend their Class D Liquor License, Restaurant License and Entertainment License.

The owners would have been required to "show cause" why the licenses "should not be revoked."

"Over the last several months, I've noticed that our police presence has increased at this establishment," said Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza. "Based on our increased presence and public safety concerns, the owners are being summoned to appear before the Johnston Town Council."

According to fire officials, the club was operating the night of the fire, but had closed prior to ignition.

Given said the fire was reported around 4 a.m. Sunday morning.

He said investigators are probing all possible suspects and motives, including the establishment's struggles with licensure and police activity at the club.

"It would certainly be a track we would follow," Given said. "We'll follow this investigation wherever it goes."

Representatives of the owners — listed by the town as Willy and Silvia, LLC d/b/a (doing business as) Club Bebeto — did not attend Monday night's Town Council meeting. Their attorney, however, spoke to Assistant Town Solicitor Dylan Conley prior to the hearing.

"That establishment recently suffered fire at the location," Conley told Town Council on Monday night. "I've come to an agreement with legal counsel of that establishment that they cannot operate until they come back before this board."

Conley advised Town Council to pass a motion that Club Bebeto cease and desist all operations until the matter is heard in a public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Masks

(Continued from page 1)

or as other districts have done, strongly recommend but not mandate masks," Johnston Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. said Tuesday.

Last Wednesday, McKee's office and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) announced plans to lift the executive order requiring masking indoors.

They also instructed school districts to make masking decisions at the local level.

State officials cited a steady improvement in COVID-19 case and hospitalization data across Rhode Island.

Officially, the statewide school mask mandate will now expire on March 4.

Johnston will decide Feb. 17, at 6 p.m. in the Ferri Middle School Library (the meeting will be held both in person and by video/audio conference call).

By Friday, Feb. 11, the number of masks on faces in public spaces across Rhode Island dropped dramatically.

The Johnston School Committee voted last summer to make mask wearing voluntary in schools. That decision was eventually usurped by McKee's executive order,

as virus counts spiked locally.

"Thanks to Rhode Islanders stepping up to do the right thing, together we've made considerable progress against COVID-19 and the winter surge," McKee said last week. "Based on our decreasing case and hospitalization numbers, our team at the Department of Health feels confident in our plan to safely shift masking guidance for both schools and public settings as we move into an endemic management phase of the virus."

McKee's office said the decision to shift policies was made "in collaboration with the Department of Health and based on current COVID-19 data."

"Since peaking at approximately 6,700 cases a day in early January, Rhode Island's case numbers have decreased by more than 94 percent," according to a press release from McKee's office. "Since peaking at 598 hospitalizations in mid-January, Rhode Island's number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients has decreased by approximately 52 percent. (Hospitalization trends tend to lag behind case trends.) During the week of Jan. 2, there were 9,931 K-12 cases in Rhode Island, compared to 1,547 K-12 cases the week of Jan. 30."

It will now be up to

"cities, towns, and school committees" to implement their own masking policies using updated RIDOH and Department of Education recommendations.

Masking will now be just one of several mitigation measures, like testing, social distancing and symptom screening.

"Given the complexities of developing and implementing new COVID-19 policies in schools, the current masking requirement for schools will remain in effect for three weeks longer than the requirement for businesses and venues of assembly," according to the press release. "During these three additional weeks, school leaders will be able to develop masking policies after reviewing the updated recommendations from RIDOH and RIDE and after gathering input from families. This will also give families additional time to get their children vaccinated."

Masks will still be required for people in public transportation stations and while on public transportation, including school buses, due to federal requirements, according to McKee's office.

"Thanks to the availability of treatment and vaccine, severe COVID-19 illness is now largely a treatable, preventable disease," said Interim

Director of Health James McDonald. "We are also seeing that the Omicron variant is often resulting in a much less serious course of illness for many people. Given this reality, the shifts we are announcing today represent a measured approach that will help our schools and our community regain a much-needed sense of normalcy."

The state still recommends masking for "immunocompromised individuals and for those who are not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccination."

The state defines "being up to date" as having "received all the doses you are eligible to receive (for example, you have received a booster dose if you are eligible to receive a booster dose)."

"With cases rapidly declining and continued efforts to improve vaccination rates across the state, we were optimistic about the direction we were heading," said Education Commissioner Anglica Infante-Green. "Over the next month, we'll be working closely with districts to help them review the data, connect with the Department of Health, and create guidance that works for their school communities."

Editor's Note: Go to johnstonsunrise.net for updates on this story.

spotlight ON BUSINESS

Broadway Tire & Auto Repair

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By JENNIFER COATES

When a family-owned business has grown from its original site to three locations in three major cities in less than ten years, you can safely assume that this business is doing something right, something that brings customers back time and time again.

This is the success story of Broadway Tire & Auto Repair, a repair shop which first opened its doors nearly eight decades ago. The Hallenbeck family purchased this long-standing business in 2014, retaining its brand name and pouring all the time, expertise, experience, and energy they had into it to make it the well-established business it remains to this day. At that time, Broadway Tire existed only at its 588 Broadway location in Pawtucket. Some years later, the second repair shop was opened in Warwick, and today, the Hallenbecks proudly announce that they have expanded yet again!

The residents of Johnston can now officially welcome Broadway Tire & Auto Repair to their city!

The reputation of Broadway Tire has grown over time largely because of this promise: "Our goal is to become the premier tire and auto repair facility in the state with state-of-the-art facilities. We are dedicated to giving you the very best auto repair and tire service, with a focus on upfront and honest quotes, timely responses to issues, and quality parts and products." These guiding principles are what have kept this business growing and prospering.

The success of all three Broadway Tires begins with their technicians, all of whom were hand-selected for their skill, their talent, their commitment to their work and their trustworthiness. In addition to these key team members, the Broadway Tire "extended family" includes some employees who have been with the company for over 30 years, office



The city of Johnston welcomes Broadway Tire & Auto Repair, the third installation of this growing family-run business! Give them a call today for all your tire and auto repair needs.

manager Louise who has worked for Broadway Tire for 31 years and Dale, another manager, who has been with them since 1978. Their collective knowledge has contributed greatly to the longevity of a family-run company that has endured the test of time.

Today, Broadway Tire & Auto Repair is a one-stop destination for all your auto repair work, from tire rotations and installations to oil changes, brake repairs, wheel alignments, batteries, heating and A/C, belts & hoses, air filters ~ the list goes on and on. If you need a basic tune-up or to purchase new tires, you are all set! Vehicles of every

make and model are serviced here.

Broadway Tire & Auto Repair is the former home of Midas Brakes on 1307 Hartford Avenue. To learn more, to get a quote, to check out their inventory of tires, to get helpful car care tips, and to schedule an appointment, visit them at their informative website www.broadwaytireri.com. Call them at 401-450-0122. Hours are 7:30am ~ 5:00pm, Monday – Friday; 7:30am ~ 1:00pm on Saturdays.

If you live in Pawtucket, you can find them at 588 Broadway (401-725-3535) or if you live in Warwick, visit them at 1184 Warwick Avenue (401-884-2211).

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Sports

Panthers earn playoff berth

By RYAN D. MURRAY

Anthony Corsinetti, a junior, scored a game-high 17 points and led the Johnston Panthers to a 58-39 drubbing of the Patriots at Pilgrim on Saturday during a boys Division II basketball game.

Teammate Derek Salvatore, also a junior, finished second in scoring with 14 points while Hunter Remington, a senior, chipped in 11 points for the Panthers.

Stephen Soulliere was the leading scorer for the Pats with 13 points, while DJ Sollitto netted 10 points and Daniel Halliwell seven points.

Corsinetti came out of the gate and scored with an old-fashioned 3-point play.

The Pats tied the score at 3 when Sollitto sank a 3-point shot. Cam Walker put Johnston up 6-3 when he buried a trey of his own.



PLAYOFF BOUND: Johnston's Anthony Corsinetti (left) and Hunter Remington take on Pilgrim. (Photos by Ryan D. Murray)

■ BERTH - PAGE 15



CHAMPIONSHIP CLIMB: Logan Martins is all smiles as he stands atop the Olympic platform wearing his gold medal after wrestling his way to the state championship at Coventry High School. (Submitted photo)

State Champ

By PETE FONTAINE

Memo to schoolboy wrestlers and fans in Rhode Island: Remember the name Logan Martins; people will be hearing a lot about the talented freshman at Johnston High School.

Last weekend, in fact, Martins became this state's best wrestler in the always highly-competitive 113-pound weight class, as he beat back all opponents and staked claim to the Freshman State Championship.

Perhaps even more impressive that Martins pinned each of his opponents that represented Cumberland, Burrillville, Toll Gate and Narraganset in the freshman state meet which was held inside the legendary C. Arthur Flori Gymnasium at Coventry High school.

An overflow crowd that filled every possible seat in the famed gym, which was where Coventry High School under legendary coaches Dick Magarian and

■ CHAMP - PAGE 15

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THROUGH TRAFFIC: Cam Walker plows through the Pilgrim defense.

Berth

(Continued from page 14)

Mason Link answered with a 3-ball for Pilgrim and again the score was deadlocked, this time at 6. Remington put the Panthers up 8-6 when he made a layup.

But Pilgrim would draw its first lead at 9-8 after Sollitto sank a 3-ball from the top of the arc.

The Panthers took the lead back at 10-9 midway through the first frame after CJ Ragosta drove through the paint and made a layup.

Brandon Whitman answered with a driving bucket for Pilgrim before Johnston's Salvatore sank a free throw and evened the score at 11.

With 2:32 remaining in the quarter, Salvatore buried a 3-ball and put the Panthers up three. After that, Remington made a couple of layups and extended the Johnston margin to 18-11.

Salvatore closed the period with a trey and gave the Panthers a 21-12 advantage.

Corsinetti started the second frame with a layup in transition, which expanded the Johnston lead to 23-12.

Pilgrim got the deficit down to four at 23-19 when Halliwell and Mark Woods scored a

basket each and Sollitto, a layup, plus a free throw.

Walker put a halt to that spurt when he scored with a putback after an assist from Corsinetti. Then, Salvatore closed the half with a 3-ball and it gave the Panthers a 28-21 cushion as the teams headed for halftime.

Salvatore opened the third quarter with a transition layup and upped the Johnston lead to 30-21. Shortly after, Ragosta added a 3-ball, which extended the Panthers buffer to ten, at 33-23.

Pilgrim pulled within 33-26 with 4:56 left in the third when Sollitto scored with a 3-point play. Pilgrim got within five at 35-30 after Halliwell and Sollitto each scored a bucket, but then the Panthers started to heat up.

Remington responded with a 3-pointer, and then both Remington and Neari Vasquez each made a steal before dishing to Corsinetti for two layups. Next, Corsinetti closed the third period, burying back-to-back 3-point shots and ballooned the Johnston buffer to 48-30.

Johnston outscored Pilgrim 10-9 during the final frame on their way to the 58-39 victory.

The Panthers have clinched a spot in the playoffs and the win against the Pats marked their third straight victory.

"We've been focusing on our defense the last four or five games and it's showing," Johnston head coach Mike Bedrosian said. "We held St. Ray's to zero field goals the last 12 minutes of the game the other day, and then today, we only gave up 39 points. So, our goal is to keep teams under 50 and we're achieving that goal and we're getting wins. So, the plan works."

"After the game against Shea, we focused on our last five games, put everything behind us, and we said it's a new season," Bedrosian continued. "So, right now, I'm going to put 3-0 on the board because we're 3-0 in our new season, and we just have to stay hot going into the playoffs. And that's what I keep telling these guys. If we win out, the chips fall where they fall, and I think we have a very good team going into the playoffs, and I think that other teams fear us, as well. So, I'm looking forward to it."

On Monday night, the Panthers fell at Burrillville 59-49. Johnston hosted Tiverton (4-13) on Tuesday in what was the Panthers last regular season game of the season. That score was not available as the game was played after press time. Johnston went into that contest with a record of 8-9 in D-II.

filled with athleticism."

To which John Antonucci, the popular and hard-working head wrestling coach at JHS, offered: "We are thrilled that Logan won this state title. I have had the pleasure of coaching him from when he started as an elementary school student in the USA Johnston Youth Wrestling program. He is very hard working, dedicated and focused on the mat and in the classroom."

Antonucci, who emphasized how Martins has compiled and eye-popping 13-1 record this season, added: "He has an even more impressive grade average. We're expecting a strong sectional tournament Saturday as we approach the state (overall) tournament that will be held Feb. 25-26 at the Career Technical School in Providence."

Champ

(Continued from page 14)

Robert Smith once produced a miraculous string of 17 straight state high school championships and went on to do well in a number of New England Tournaments, and some even offered high praise for the Panther freshman throughout the event.

Several spectators, in fact, likened Martins to former Coventry state and New England champion David Smith, who during his schoolboy career was rated as one of the top schoolboy grapplers in the northeast.

"That Johnston kid is darn good," offered a fan. "He's got great moves and it's obvious he's well-coached and



POINT GUARD: Johnston point guard Derek Salvatore takes the ball up the court last weekend in Warwick.

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HARD WATER FISH: Gil Bell with a 14-inch black crappie jigged-up and released February 7 through the ice at Watchhaug Pond, Charlestown, RI. (Submitted photo)

Time to get your gear ready

By **CAPT. DAVE MONTI**

Spring is upon us. Sunday, March 20 if you can believe it. It has been another difficult COVID winter for all. A real “seasaw,” up and down, just like the ocean.

It’s time to get outdoors and breath in some of that fresh air as we fish with family and friends for species we love to catch, eat and/or release.

That said here are some tips I like to share about how to get your gear ready for the season.

Reel maintenance

Give your reels a good cleaning, particularly when the line is off. Grease where directed by manufacturer, often times, the reel is marked where to do this. If instructions are long gone do not hesitate to stop by your local bait or tackle shop to ask where to grease. Do not grease the drag, it is not meant to be greased, if you do, it will not work.

Every other year (or as needed) I have my reels thoroughly cleaned by a bait & tackle shop or by a rod and reel repair expert. The reels are taken apart, cleaned, parts that are broken or worn are replaced and then everything gets put back together.

Dave Morton of Beavertail Rod & Reel (www.beavertailrodandreel.com) has been repairing reels for almost 20 years. He is a trained tool & die maker so he has the unique ability to offer customers machining services through his fully equipped machine shop.

Morton said, “Why purchase a new lower quality reel when you can bring that old reliable reel back to new for less.” Beavertail Rod & Reel repairs all makes and models and can get parts for most of the oldest reels.

Line

Each year, replace used line. This is a judgment call as to what is meant by “used”. Braid line may still be OK to leave on the reel, however, I usually take off line at the beginning of the reel that shows signs of wear. Experts say to cross braid line when spooling onto conventional reels to prevent the line from digging into the spool when a big fish is on.

I often fish with lead core line that is designed to sink in the water column when trolling for striped bass and bluefish in 20 to 35 feet of water in Narragansett Bay. I re-spool the lead core line putting the used portion on the reel first, this way you use line that is new as most anglers rarely use more than three to four colors (90-120 feet) of line.

Replace all monofilament line on reels at the start of the season. Monofilament line has memory so it creates bird nest tangles when it is old or has been sitting in the cold for a while. Also stretch the line, the first 100 feet (of monofilament line) to relax its memory and avoid tangles.

When you change any type of line it is important to spool tight or the line may slip on the spool. To prevent braided line from slipping on the reel, first spool some monofilament backing to the reel as it will not slip, tie braid line to the monofilament, then spool the braided line onto the reel.

Rods

Examine the rods for cracks and

stress marks. Closely examine the eyes for chips or cuts on the ceramic rings inside the eyes. These cracks could cause line to snag, rub or break. Do not place hooks on the eyes or they will eventually create cracks that will cut line as it passes through. Place all lures at the base of the reel as those hooked to an eye brace will bang on the rod and may cause microscopic cracks in the rod blank that could lead to a broken rod.

Tackle

I get tackle ready in chronological order when certain species are fished ... in this region that means starting with tautog, then striped bass, bluefish, fluke, sea bass, etc. Make sure you have enough rigs to fish the species. Hooks should be clean and sharp (no rust), and strong enough for the size fish you are going after.

Often hooks that come with lures are not quality hooks so I replace them with stronger hooks.

A few years ago I took four of my brother-in-laws fishing. We really hit the summer flounder and sea bass hard, nonstop action for three to four hours, so much so we started to use some of the inferior fluke rings in my tackle box. One of my brother-in-laws hooked into a monster fluke. He brought it to the boat, the fluke saw the net, ran and straightened the hook and the fish was gone. I should have made sure we had plenty of quality tackle in the tackle box.

Leaders/Hooks

Use wire leaders for bluefish and monofilament or fluorocarbon for striped bass, fluke, sea bass, etc. Blues won’t bite though the wire and other species will find it harder to see the monofilament or fluorocarbon leaders. As a rule I replace all used leaders at the beginning of the season. During the season make sure leaders have no nicks or stress marks from fish pulling. If they do, replace them.

I switched most of my hooks to circle or wide gap hooks, I did this so I can safely catch and release undersized or unwanted fish (particularly striped bass and small summer flounder). Circle hooks are designed to hook the fish at the corner of the mouth and not down in the belly. This year the use of circle hooks is mandatory when bait fishing for striped bass.

Where’s the bite?

Cod and haddock. Party boats fishing for cod south of Cape Cod and off Rhode Island weather permitting include the Frances Fleet at www.francesfleet.com, the Seven B’s at www.sevenbs.com, and the Island Current at www.islandcurrent.com. To fish for haddock in Massachusetts Google haddock fishing Newburyport or Gloucester, MA.

Freshwater. As temperatures rise and fall this week check safe ice conditions with cities and towns

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

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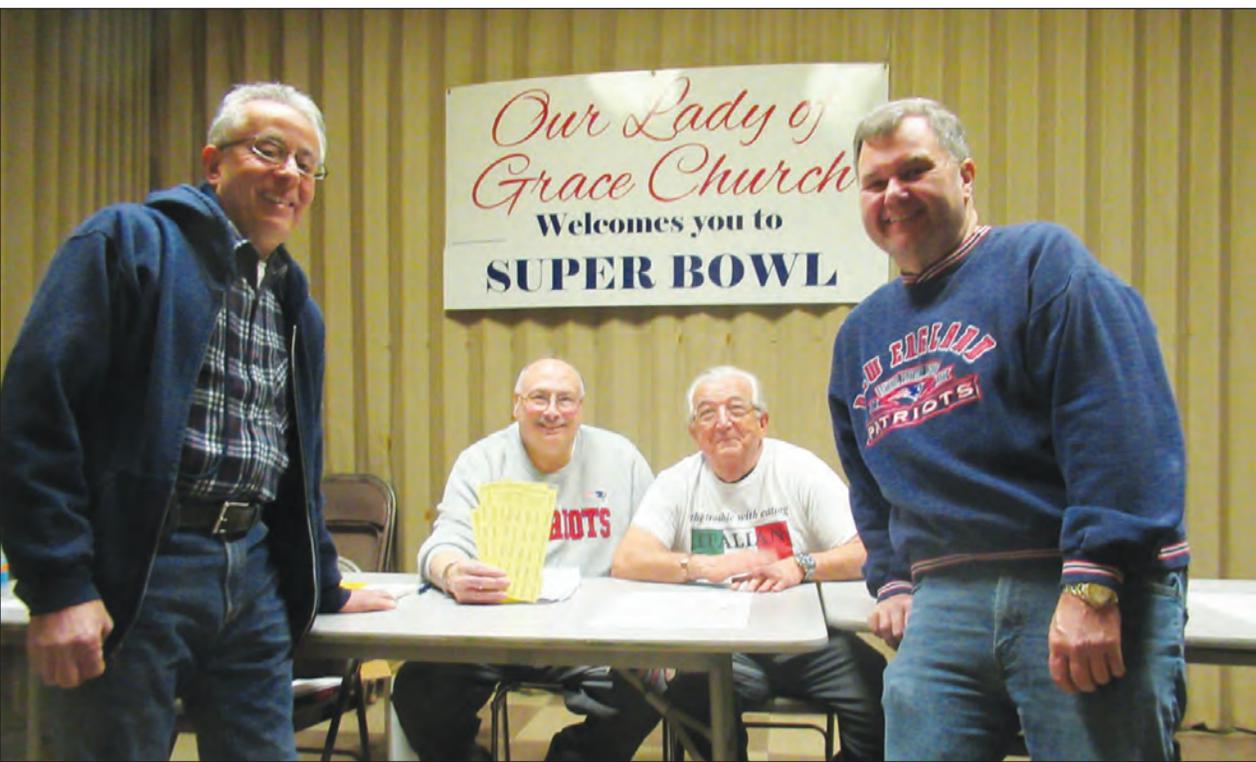
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WARM WELCOME: Bob LaFazia (left) and Tom Kowal (right) get a warm welcome from Joe Andreozzi and Norman Bessette at the outset of OLG's Pasta/Polenta/Super Bowl Party Sunday night in Johnston. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

OLG hosts Super Bowl bash

By PETE FONTAINE

It wasn't anything close to SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles where the temperature was 80-degrees Sunday.

However, despite the falling snow and freezing temps, there was a wonderful warmth and welcome Sunday night inside famed Fioretti Hall in Johnston.

That's where there was, as many people concurred: "Hospitality at its all-time" for not one but two terrific traditions hosted by Our Lady of Grace Church.

Although old man weather kept attendance down, OLG - with its popular pastor Rev. Peter J. Gower calling signals - celebrated fun and food fest that attracted dozens of proud parishioners and in some cases three generations of some families like the LaFazia's.

Robert "Bob" LaFazia, who proudly chairs the Johnston School Committee, had his usual "sold-out table" that included his son and JFD Firefighter Derek and grandson Derek Jr. while the grand gathering included a number of super OLG supporters like Joe Grasso and Peter Lombardi, just to name a few.

"This is always a special time," noted Maryann Grace, the executive director at OLG's next door neighbor The Bridge at Cherry Hill. "Great food, great people, a great time for all."

Grace's former Sales/Community Director Jen Burns was also on hand with her friend Mario Purro, general manager of The George Restaurant fame, who like all attendees enjoyed the super special service of Mecca Domenico, OLG's veteran keeper of the bar.

The falling snow, in fact, took people back several weeks when OLG's annual Pasta and Polenta Dinner was schedule but postponed on moved to Sunday.

"This Italian night has been a tradition here for many years," Father Gower offered. "Our Men's Holy Name Society sponsors this event. Tonight, it's extra special and it's also a great fundraising opportunity for our parish. The dinner is a great event for the people to attend and fun way for everyone to help the church raise money which is so needed during these trying times."

Few people, if any, would dispute that theory especially with the mouth-watering menu that included



SUPER SERVERS: Ladies like Marilyn Domenico, Becky Baggesson and Lisa Barard served everything from pasta and polenta and other fantastic foods as well as smiles during Sunday's food and fun-fest at Our Lady of Grace Church in Johnston.

old-time and homemade Italian specialties like pasta, polenta, sausage, chicken, salad, pizza as well as desserts such as Pizzelles and Italian cookies.

Add to that the Super Bowl being shown on four side-screen televisions, 18 raffles prizes that included every type of gift and liquor basket imaginable, unlimited food served by ladies like Marilyn Domenico, Becky Baggesson and Lisa Barand the unmatched hospitality that has become and OLG trademark through the years.

Perhaps Joe Andreozzi, a long-time dedicated parishioner/volunteer who along with Norman Bessette sold raffle tickets, cleared table and welcomed each and every guest, said it best about the Pasta/Polenta Dinner and OLG's Super Bowl Party, 2022: "We've taken these functions to another level."

And as other proud parishioners will attest: "It doesn't matter what teams are playing the Super Bowl, Team OLG is always at its all-time best!"



SPECIAL SUPPORTERS: Ladies like Jan Ricci, Chrissy Salmani and Corrine Cola were among the many people who purchased raffle tickets from OLG volunteers like Lou Mansolillo and Rev. Peter J. Gower Sunday night in Johnston.

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Castilho's debut album is culmination of growth

By ROB DUGUAY

Every artistic project starts with a clean canvas with the sum of its parts yet to be fully formed. The idea usually gets formulated by a singular individual and then bit by bit, or in this case song by song, it becomes an actual entity rather than a thought bouncing around a person's head. Under the moniker of Castilho, Portuguese artist Pedro Castilho went through a long process to create his first full-length album titled *Today We'll Be The Lucky Ones*. Musically the record exhibits a psychedelic pop sound that includes surf, alternative, jazz and R&B elements. This cool array of music became officially released on January 28 via the Cranston based record label Pitch & Prose.



CASTILHO

The creation of the album started nearly six years ago, which is an extensive time for any musician no matter their financial standing, popularity status or whatever else. As more songs came into the fold, the instrumentation started to expand while capturing a vintage aesthetic.

"Making 'Today We'll Be The Lucky Ones' was a long process, since the first songs started to be written in 2016, 'Come Back' and 'Lucky Ones', specifically," He says about the making of the album. "Since then, others began to emerge and after the first invitation to play live as a support band in 2018 new arrangements were added with the band in the rehearsal room. After a few concerts and after three singles released, we finally went to the studio in September 2019. We proceeded to record the remaining songs, including 'Numbers' and 'The Wind Blows' that were written that same year. There were added more instruments including a saxophone, a string trio and guest vocals."

"The idea from the beginning was to write songs inspired by the songwriting of the 60's and 70's with a verse-chorus-outro structure," Castilho adds. "It ended up being clear on the record, although some of them deviate a little from this aesthetic. For example, 'Moving Fast, Moving Slow' is a more modern synth driven track."

Castilho headed the production of the album while André Isidro, José Crespo, Luís Medeiros and Miguel Vilhena served as co-producers. Vilhena also handled the mixing for most of the songs and the same goes for Pieter De Wagter who took on the mastering duties. The only track they didn't do was "The Wind Blows", which was taken care of by Isidro on both fronts. Outside of the songs previously mentioned, I really enjoy "Survive", "Looking For Ways" and "Never Felt". The sax in "Survive" adds a really nice element, the dynamic between the piano and the guitar in "Looking For Ways" is fantastic and "Never Felt" has that sly, smooth synth that's reminiscent of a ton of '70s hits.

While being designated to a specific style, each song on *Today We'll Be The Lucky Ones* has the ability to stand out while also being cohesive with the others. Different tones weave themselves

in between the notes of certain tracks while others have their own intriguing characteristics. The listening experience takes you on a voyage where the soundscape provides visuals and colors within the mind, which is a rare quality for music to have. Anyone who is willing to go on the sonic trip should log on to Pitch & Prose's Bandcamp page at pitchandprose.bandcamp.com to give the album a stream and make a purchase. To keep tabs on Castilho in the future, follow him on Instagram at [instagram.com/_castilho_/](https://www.instagram.com/_castilho_/) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/souocastilho](https://www.facebook.com/souocastilho).

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In a badly convoluted scene, she and the rest of the world watch a video of future hubby making out with another woman.

Owen Wilson plays Charlie, a divorced math teacher who was dragged along to the live concert by his friend (Susan Silverman, as obnoxious as ever) and his teenage daughter.

He gets handed a "Marry Me" sign. Kat, in a moment of desperation, calls Charlie on stage and says that she will marry him.

You know all this from watching the promos, so I didn't let Kat out of the bag.

What follows are a series of publicity stunts and interviews

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where Charlie is dragged through Kat's glamorous, busy world, followed by Charlie introducing Kat to his.

You can only guess what happens. Their two different worlds collide, have their ups and downs, all leading to the ending that everyone expects.

It is all very silly, predictable, super sweet and adds up to a most romantic Hollywood valentine.

J.Lo is as gorgeous as ever, and Wilson as lovable as ever.

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the wrong theatre when the movie opens with black and white scenes of soldiers in the trenches during World War I. It all has to do with why Poirot wears that ridiculous mustache.

The scene then switches to the 1930s as we are introduced to a bunch of English aristocrats preparing for a trip down the Nile to attend a posh wedding.

Right from the get-go, one of the characters appears to be up to no good, but the plot and the suspects change in every scene.

More difficult than trying to figure out whodunnit, is trying to stay awake during the long, boring scenes.

There are some glorious shots of scenery along the banks of the Nile, but they don't compensate for the dragged-out scenes that lead to the familiar gathering where Poirot reconstructs the events leading up to the deaths.

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Thursday, February 17, 2022

Seniors and Social Media



Seniors might not be the demographic individuals initially associate with social media. However, Pew Research notes that seniors' social media usage has been steadily rising for a number of years, proving that individuals 65 and over are not tech-averse.

Pew data from 2019 indicates that 46 percent of individuals 65 and older use Facebook. Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram can be a great way to stay connected with family and friends and stay up-to-date on community events. But social media usage is not without risks, especially in regard to users' safety. Seniors without much social media experience can heed these safety tips as they navigate popular platforms and discover all they have to offer.

- Examine your account settings. Social media users can control their privacy settings so they can decide who can (and can't) view their online activity. Each platform is different, but profiles set to public generally allow anyone to

view individuals' activity, so seniors should set their profiles to private to limit access to their information.

- Be mindful of your social media social circle. It's easy to make virtual friends via social media, but seniors should be mindful of who they accept as online friends. Carefully consider each friend request and decide just how big or small you want your social media community to be. Many individuals prefer to limit their online social circles to individuals they know well and want to stay in touch with, and that can serve as a good measuring stick when deciding whether or not to accept a friend request.

- Avoid sharing personal information. Seniors are no doubt aware that they should never share especially personal information, such as their Social Security number. However, seniors also should hesitate to share personal information like vacation plans. Seniors who post about upcoming trips could return home to find they've been victimized by criminals

who scoured their social media accounts and learned when they were going to be away. A good rule of thumb is to keep personal information private and limit posts to information that is not overly specific or sensitive.

- Recognize the threat posed by scammers. Social media platforms have had varying degrees of success in regard to keeping their sites scam-free. But scammers find a way, and users must take steps to avoid being victimized. Never click on a link within a post from someone you don't know and avoid anyone soliciting donations through social media platforms.

Seniors are engaging with social media more than ever. Such engagement requires seniors to be mindful of the many ways to protect their privacy when spending time online. TF222703

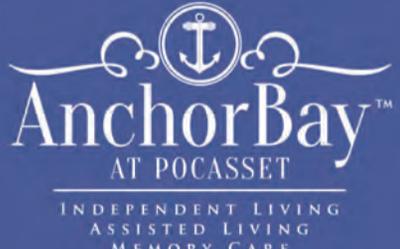
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MEMOIRS

by SUSAN DEAN

The Gift of Sight



I'm spending the month of February in Florida. From the gnarled palm trees and giant fern fronds to the long-legged stork-like birds, pelicans, and herons looking like they just stepped out of the dinosaur age, the flora and fauna couldn't be more different than what we're used to seeing in New England.

We've been watching a large gray bird sitting on a nest in the middle of a marshy pond on our daily walk. Day after day, she's there, unmoving.

This week we saw her standing, and beneath her were two large yellow eggs. Doing some research we discovered that she is a Sandhill crane. Today her mate was nearby - is it nearing the time for hatching? We read that the gestation time is four weeks. Perhaps we will witness the births on one of our daily walks soon.

Sitting outside recently, sipping my morning coffee and reading under a tree while enjoying the sunshine and a balmy breeze, I heard a giant "thwump" sound. I looked down and saw a good-sized green lizard sitting next to my foot, apparently having fallen from his perch on the branch above my head. I let out a "Little Miss Muffet" scream, which scared the creature into quickly skittering away. I'm not sure which of us was more terrified.

Last year when we were here my husband, Dave, came in from an evening walk. He was inside for more than an hour, sitting on the couch, getting up to visit the refrigerator for a snack, sitting back down to read the paper, and finally making a trip to the bathroom. Glancing into the mirror he was shocked to see two big eyes peering back at him from just above his left shoulder. He let out his own "Little Miss Muffet" screech and the tropical lime-green frog that had somehow attached itself to Dave's shoulder during his earlier evening walk jumped off and hopped under the bathroom vanity. We stepped carefully for a day or two until the wayward frog finally hopped out of its hiding place. We caught it with a paper cup and returned it to its rightful place outside.

I heard an old song recently. "Moonshadow" by Cat Stevens. Part of the lyrics resonated with me - "If I were ever to lose my sight" - particularly so since I recently learned that my great-grandmother was blind from her early twenties on - living into her eighties without her hearing as well.

Without my sight I would miss the wonders around me - not just the unusual birds and plants I'm seeing now, like the Sandhill crane about to welcome twins, but the everyday miracles.

Ocean waves that sparkle with sunlight and capture the moonlight, the twilight rainbow colors of the sky, and the billions of diamond-like stars that twinkle for us nightly. The faces of my grandchildren, my family, and my friends. The music that I sing at my chorus rehearsals or play on my piano, reading, driving, clothes that I choose to wear, flowers and trees waving in the wind. Millions of visual richness and variety that I take for granted, simply because I have never been deprived of sight.

I have a friend whom I see every summer at an annual choral workshop that we both attend. She has been blind since birth and has to learn the music entirely by ear within a span of a few days. The rest of us have the benefit of written music to aid us visually with the notes and the lyrics. Angie is always right up there on stage singing beautifully and confidently. She is always in good spirits. Angie has never seen her own face and has never experienced a sunrise or a sunset, but what takes my breath away is that Angie has never seen a single beautiful color in her entire life.

I wonder what the frog saw in his wide-eyed amphibian vision during his hour-plus long excursion on Dave's shoulder last year. Did he go home to his frog family and say, "You'll never believe what I saw!"?

Henry David Thoreau, one of my favorite authors and observers of life, would perhaps applaud my delight in keeping track of a Sandhill crane about to become a mother, and would most likely laugh at our visiting frog story. I feel a sort of kinship with him knowing that he spent time cavorting with the mice that ran freely through his cabin at Walden Pond more than 170 years ago. But I also know that he wouldn't have screamed had a critter landed beside his foot, as I did!

I am grateful every day for my gift of sight - something that my friend, Angie, has never had, and something that my great-grandmother lost at a young age while in the prime of her life.

Every day that I wake up and see the new day, whatever the weather, the light of the new and pristine day through my window, is a good day. A day for gratitude, rejoicing, and quiet celebration.

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AARP - RHODE ISLAND
by CATHERINE TAYLOR

The ABCs of ADUs



They are commonly known as “in-law apartments” or “granny flats.” These downsized housing options, which became popular in the years following World War II, have made a comeback in recent years. Technically, and at your local zoning office, they are known as Accessory Dwelling Units – ADUs, for short.

No matter what you call them, they are urgently needed by aging Rhode Islanders and demand is certain to grow. In fact, I might be talking about your future home.

Largely speaking, people prefer to remain in familiar communities where they have lived comfortably. But their homes, especially older homes, were designed without mobility considerations. Many have multiple levels, and many built up from street level. Or they’re just too big, with too many steps and requiring exhausting upkeep of space no longer needed.

Too often, smaller homes or apartments that might better serve your needs can’t be found in your community or are simply beyond your means. ADUs can fill that gap.

The people have spoken. A recent AARP Vital Voices Survey revealed that more than 54% of Rhode Islanders age 45 and older said they would consider building an ADU. In fact, 7 percent surveyed said they have already added an ADU. And a strong majority (84%) said they strongly support or somewhat support town ordinances that make it easier for property owners to create an ADU.

ADUs come in many forms you may one day consider,

including a detached backyard cottage, an attached addition to an existing home with its own entrance and kitchen, as well as interior units added to a basement, the attic over a garage, or a renovated attached or detached garage converted into an apartment.

You may weigh other options. You can rent your existing home to a grown child and his or her family, and then move into an ADU on the property. An ADU can be living quarters for a live-in caregiver you may need. You may even be able to rent the ADU to anyone as a source of retirement income.

Some of these options depend on where you live in Rhode Island. That’s why AARP will submit legislation to open up as many choices as possible. We believe that true Livable Communities include an array of accessible, affordable housing options that makes it easier for people to age in place.

Here’s the challenge: Some Rhode Island communities apply the same regulations to ADUs as they would other homes. But other cities and towns have special rules for ADUs. Frankly, many zoning regulations are designed to discourage ADUs. Resistance comes from homeowners who worry that visible additions will create crowding, parking issues or otherwise conflict with existing aesthetics. Others are concerned that ADUs will someday revert to ordinary rental units that will change the character of their neighborhood or lower surrounding property values.

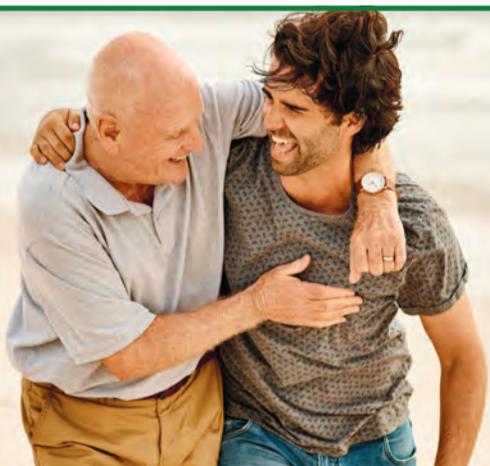
These issues can be addressed by height and size caps that require ADUs be shorter and smaller than the primary dwelling; requiring external units be behind the house and/or a minimum distance from the front curb; and imposing design standards so that external ADUs architecturally match the primary dwelling or otherwise blend with the neighborhood aesthetic.

Some communities have responded to these homeowner concerns by encouraging creation of internal ADUs, which are often unnoticed from the street. But that may not be enough. Some tough zoning regulations need to go.

The shortage of affordable, accessible, right-sized housing is a critical issue in the state that has been declared a looming crisis. The truth is it’s a crisis now for too many older Rhode Islanders who wish to age in place. Maybe it is a crisis for you.

We need an array of solutions and ADUs are an important option in that array. AARP wants to make ADUs better understood and easier to construct. One of AARP Rhode Island’s top 2022 General Assembly priorities is to make it easier to add an ADU by reducing or eliminating zoning requirements or restrictions that present barriers.

You can learn more about AARP Rhode Island’s proposed legislation at www.aarp.org/RILivable. And watch for AARP’s advocacy so you can take action and help get this done.



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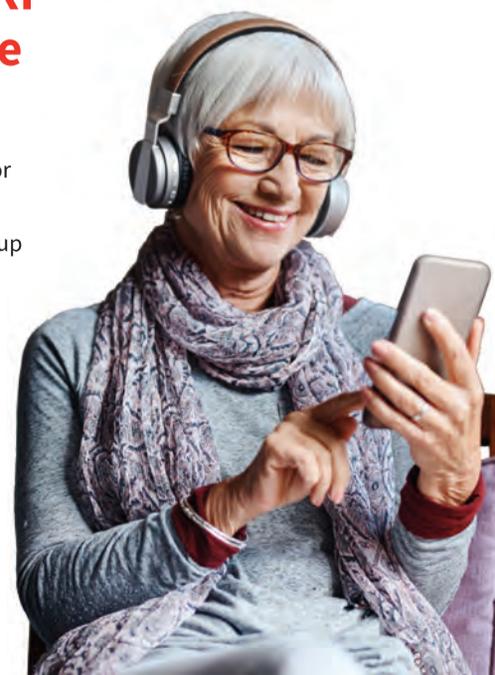
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SMART START

healthy breakfast recipes



Blueberry Buckwheat Pancakes

Recipe created by The Chef Next Door on behalf of Milk Means More

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Servings: 4

- 3/4 cup buckwheat flour
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 3/4 cups lactose-free, 2 percent milk
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups fresh blueberries, plus additional for topping (optional)
- syrup (optional)

In large bowl, whisk together flours, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In small bowl, beat eggs then add milk, oil and vanilla; mix well. Stir wet ingredients into dry ingredients and mix to combine.

Heat griddle or large skillet over medium heat. Using 1/4 measuring cup, pour batter onto griddle. Gently place several blueberries all over surface of pancakes.

Flip pancakes when bottoms start to form around edges and bottoms are golden brown. Cook on other side until golden brown, about 2 minutes. Remove to plate and cover to keep warm.

Top pancakes with additional blueberries and syrup before serving, if desired.

Huevos Rancheros Oats

Recipe created by Comfortably Domestic on behalf of Milk Means More

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Servings: 2

- Oats**
- 1 cup 2 percent milk
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- Huevos Rancheros**
- 1/2 cup sweet onion, peeled and chopped
- 1 1/2 teaspoons light olive oil
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes with green chilies
- 1/4 teaspoon chipotle chili powder
- 2 eggs
- kosher salt
- black pepper
- 1/4 cup sharp cheddar cheese, freshly grated

In medium saucepan over medium-high heat, bring milk, water and salt to boil. Stir in oats. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer oats, stirring occasionally, 4 minutes. Remove oats from heat and place lid on saucepan. Set aside.

In nonstick skillet over medium heat, saute onion in olive oil until soft, about 4 minutes. Stir canned tomatoes with green chilies and chipotle chili powder into onions to combine. Continue to heat salsa to boil, about 1 minute. Make two wells in middle of tomato sauce. Crack eggs into wells. Season eggs with salt and pepper, to taste. Cover skillet and poach eggs in salsa to desired doneness; about 3-4 minutes.

Divide oats evenly between two bowls. Spoon eggs and salsa over oats. Serve immediately with cheddar cheese.



White Pizza Frittata

Recipe created by Rachel Cooks on behalf of Milk Means More

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 35 minutes
Servings: 8

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 12 ounces frozen spinach, thawed and water pressed out
- 12 large eggs
- 1/4 cup skim milk
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
- 3/4 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup minced fresh basil
- 1/2 cup shredded, part-skim mozzarella cheese

Heat oven to 325 F.

In oven-safe skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic and cook 2 minutes, or until fragrant. Once garlic is fragrant, add spinach; break up to incorporate and heat.

In medium bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, pepper, oregano, ricotta, Parmesan and basil.

Add egg mixture to skillet, reduce heat to low and cook 1 minute, stirring gently. Move to oven and bake 25-30 minutes, or until eggs are almost completely set.

Carefully remove from oven and add mozzarella. Return to oven and bake until mozzarella is melted, about 5 minutes.

May be served hot, at room temperature or cold.

Ricotta and Fig Oatmeal

Recipe created by Foxes Love Lemons on behalf of Milk Means More

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 3 minutes
Servings: 1

- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons ricotta cheese
- 2 dried figs, halved
- 1 tablespoon sliced almonds
- 1 tablespoon honey

In microwave-safe bowl, stir together milk, oats and salt. Microwave on high 2 1/2 minutes, or until oats are tender and most liquid is absorbed.

Remove bowl from microwave; stir in ricotta. To serve, top with figs and almonds, and drizzle with honey.





RETIREMENT SPARKS

by ELAINE M. DECKER

NFTs That I'm Selling

Melania Trump recently made a media splash by offering an NFT of her “cobalt blue eyes” for about \$180. An NFT, or “non-fungible token,” is a way to sell digital “art”. It can’t be illegally replicated or altered once it’s been created. The “artist” mints their work on one of several NFT marketplaces by creating a detailed smart contract that is then stored on a cryptocurrency blockchain. I can see your eyes are glazing over, so I’ll move on. I’m not offering any NFTs of my eyes, but I think you’ll find some interesting and affordable options here.

Digital versions of my mouth. \$100 together

The real one may be the smallest adult mouth extant. I’m also providing a version resized in Photoshop. I won’t use the fixed aspect ratio, so it won’t be thicker, just wider. You can keep both versions. That way you’ll recognize me in photos that haven’t been retouched.

My right earlobe, which has been pierced crooked. \$100

This is thanks to my attempt to do it myself with a sewing needle as a teenager. I panicked part way through the piercing. My neighbor, an RN, took over and finished it with a hypodermic needle. I had started it crooked and she finished on the same angle. Folks are forever telling me I’m about to lose an earring from that ear. I explain: No. It’s just pierced crooked. Your NFT of it can be a real conversation starter!

My neck wattle, which is now so prominent that it rivals Mitch McConnell’s. \$125

You get a bonus with this NFT. I often camouflage my wattle with stylish neck scarves. Your digital version comes shown with the scarf of your choice. Several options are provided. Buy two and get the third one free!

My Chest Port, which is probably my most unusual NFT. \$250

It’s not the most attractive NFT that I’m offering here, but I’ll bet I’m the only one who has a port for sale. It’s also my most recent bodily intrusion. That’s worth extra.

The scar from my TRAM surgery for my mastectomy. \$200

It looks a lot like a Cesarean scar, and it’s the biggest scar I have, with an interesting history. The short version is that my right breast was rebuilt with a then state-of-the-art procedure using my abdomen. It was a hell of a way to get a tummy tuck.

My naval as reconstructed during my TRAM surgery. \$175

It’s slightly off-center, which adds a certain cachet. It’s an innie, as was my original naval. That’s now located at the top of my reconstructed right breast. TMI so that’s not being offered as an NFT.

The U-shaped scar on the outside of my right foot. \$150

What a story there! I must have been around 7 or 8 years old. I tried to pirouette around one of the metal poles holding up the awning over our neighbor’s front patio extension. I knocked over and broke the milk bottle next to the pole. I have no idea why I didn’t see it before my acrobatics. Of course it broke and cut my foot. Not badly enough to do anything more than put pressure on it to stop the bleeding, but it left a scar that I see it as a badge of honor of sorts.

Collection of smaller scars from my lung cancer medical procedures. \$150 together

There’s the tiny one near my Adam’s apple from my mediastinoscopy. The biopsy from my earlier bronchoscopy at Hartford Health Care was inconclusive and had found no cancer. Second opinions from Yale and Dana Farber recommended a more thorough scoping. That was done at Yale and found cancer in three lymph nodes. Also included is the small scar on my back below my ribs from a Video Assisted Thoracic Surgery. That found cancer in some nodules on my pleural lining, making my cancer stage 4. Hence I consider this scar significant even though it’s small. These scars are being sold as a lot.

My liver spots that form popular constellations. \$100 each

The Pleiades, aka seven sisters, are found on my left hand; Aquila (the eagle) decorates my right hand; the large singleton liver spot on top of my left thigh is the distinctive Evening Star, aka Venus; Cygnus (the Northern Cross) lives on my right thigh and the points of the cross are connected by spider veins. This NFT also comes with the offer to buy one constellation and get the second half off. What a deal!

There you have it. Nine exciting NFT options of digital body images of your favorite blogger. Because these are digital, I can offer multiple copies. NFT technology assures they’re authentic and non-reproducible, other than by me. All inquiries welcome.

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Elaine M. Decker’s books include *Retirement Downsizing—A Humorous Guide*, *Retirement Sparks*, *Retirement Sparks Again*, *Retirement Sparks Redux* and *CANCER: A Coping Guide*. Her essays appear in the anthologies: *80 Things To Do When You Turn 80* and *70 Things To Do When You Turn 70*. All are available on Amazon.com. Contact her at: emdecker@ix.netcom.com



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SENIOR ISSUES

by LARRY GRIMALDI

Two Columns For The Price Of One: Wishes and a Gift

As a columnist, I occasionally find myself at the intersection of inspiration and revelation. I've learned not to ignore these creative bursts, as they often lead to previously undiscovered insights. This month's column features two distinct, but ultimately related, real life events. They are inexorably linked by their connections to family. That link was the impetus for Two Columns for the Price of One: Wishes for Lorelai and One Last Christmas Gift.

WISHES FOR LORELAI: Our fifth grandchild, Lorelai Eileen, made her debut into the New Jersey branch of the family on August 4, 2021 at 3:45 a.m. She is the daughter of Renee (Iovine-Grimaldi), my son Benjamin, sister of three-year old Benjamin, Jr. and the newest member of the Grimaldi-Iovine-Bianchi clan. I usually don't write letters to my grandchildren until they were older; but I'm making an exception for Lorelai. These are my wishes for her.

- May you always be surrounded by a nurturing and supportive family.*
- May your life be filled with love and laughter.*
- May you discover and cherish your heritage and continue time-honored family traditions.*
- May you realize the value of lasting and true friendships.*
- May you develop a deep sense of spirituality to sustain you through challenging times and foster an attitude of gratitude for times of joy and triumph.*
- May you view failure as an opportunity for growth.*
- May you recognize that true success lies in quality of effort.*
- May your curiosity always outweigh your knowledge.*
- May you hear the beauty in music, and appreciate the creativity of art and literature. May you dance and sing like no one is watching.*
- May you learn to step out of your comfort zone and be willing to embrace new experiences.*
- May you learn to live one day at a time. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. The present is a gift to be celebrated.*
- May you be open to seeking advice and counsel, and have the common sense to know what you don't know.*
- May you discover that integrity, honesty, humility, empathy, compassion, kindness, tolerance, and generosity are the character traits that transcend time and treasure.*
- "May you live in interesting times." -Chinese proverb*
- Remember the words of poet e.e. cummings, "It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are."*
- And finally, "If I could give my granddaughter three things, it would be the confidence to always know her self-worth, the strength to follow her dreams, and the ability to know how truly, deeply loved she is." -*

ONE LAST CHRISTMAS GIFT: By late afternoon Christmas day, we had opened all our presents-or so I thought. After a few moment's pause, my daughter, Kate (Bianchi), gave me this letter that she had to me just a few days before Christmas.

On December 14, 2021, I was very aggravated and waiting in line at the Dunkin' Donuts Center attempting to redeem hockey passes. I was rushing around during my lunch hour. The gentleman in front of me was asking so many questions about a Harlem Globetrotters game. I was growing impatient. Then I started to eavesdrop on the conversation. The way he was speaking with the ticket lady reminded me of you. He was asking about seating and pricing. Then I noticed he was asking about handicap accessible seating. I became a little less annoyed and rushed. You see, he was purchasing tickets for his eight-year-old grandson to see the Globetrotters. He wanted him to have great seats. Money was not a concern. He was also debating about a ticket for his son, the father of his grandson. His son is wheelchair-bound and a twin. (Kate and my son-in law, Ray are parents to our twin granddaughters Katharine and Sophia, age 18 and grandson Nicholas, 12). I became still less annoyed and maybe my Grinch heart grew a few sizes more. I decided that as my last Christmas gift to you would be to purchase his grandson's courtside seat. It would be a grandfather-grandson event, not unlike the sort of event you share with Nicholas. The man was overcome with emotion as I explained what I was doing. He said he would pass on the story and that he was not used to accepting gifts. I told him about you, how he reminded me of you, and it was just the sort of gift you would like to receive.

*Love you. Merry Christmas.
Kate*

Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Comments can be e-mailed to lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com.

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YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

Common tax return mistakes that can cost taxpayers

Tax laws are complicated but the most common tax return errors are surprising simple. Many mistakes can be avoided by filing electronically. Tax software does the math, flags common errors and prompts taxpayers for missing information. It can also help taxpayers claim valuable credits and deductions. Using a reputable tax preparer – including certified public accountants, enrolled agents or other knowledgeable tax professionals – can also help avoid errors.

- **Filing too early.** While taxpayers should not file late, they also should not file prematurely. People who don't wait to file before they receive all the proper tax reporting documents risk making a mistake that may lead to a processing delay.

- **Missing or inaccurate Social Security numbers.** Each SSN on a tax return should appear exactly as printed on the Social Security card.

- **Misspelled names.** Likewise, a name listed on a tax return should match the name on that person's Social Security card.

- **Entering information inaccurately.** Wages, dividends, bank interest, and other income received and that was reported on an information return should be entered carefully. This includes any information needed to calculate credits and deductions. Using tax software should help prevent math errors, but individuals should always review their tax return for accuracy.

- **Incorrect filing status.** Some taxpayers choose the wrong filing status. The Interactive Tax Assistant on IRS.gov can help taxpayers choose the correct status especially if more than one filing status applies. Tax software also helps prevent mistakes with filing status.

- **Math mistakes.** Math errors are some of

the most common mistakes. They range from simple addition and subtraction to more complex calculations. Taxpayers should always double check their math. Better yet, tax prep software does it automatically.

- **Figuring credits or deductions.** Taxpayers can make mistakes figuring things like their earned income tax credit, child and dependent care credit, child tax credit, and recovery rebate credit. The Interactive Tax Assistant can help determine if a taxpayer is eligible for tax credits or deductions. Tax software will calculate these credits and deductions and include any required forms and schedules. Taxpayers should Double check where items appear on the final return before clicking the submit button.

- **Incorrect bank account numbers.** Taxpayers who are due a refund should choose direct deposit. This is the fastest way for a taxpayer to get their money. However, taxpayers need to make sure they use the correct routing and account numbers on their tax return.

- **Unsigned forms.** An unsigned tax return isn't valid. In most cases, both spouses must sign a joint return. Exceptions may apply for members of the armed forces or other taxpayers who have a valid power of attorney. Taxpayers can avoid this error by filing their return electronically and digitally signing it before sending it to the IRS.

The IRS urges all taxpayers to file electronically and choose direct deposit to get their refund faster. IRS Free File offers online tax preparation, direct de-

posit of refunds and electronic filing, all for free. Some options are available in Spanish. Many taxpayers also qualify for free tax return preparation from IRS-certified volunteers. In Rhode Island you can call the United Way 211 to find the nearest FREE Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. Also, at IRS.gov – search the word "VITA" and then click on Free Tax Return preparation for you by Volunteers. To locate the nearest AARP Tax-Aide site, visit aarp.org, or call 888-227-7669.

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by DON FOWLER

Back To Live Theatre

OK, so it's cold out there. And you might have to wear a mask. And show your vaccination card. Is it worth it to see live theatre after a two year sabbatical?

You bet it is!

The Big Three- Trinity Rep, PPAC, and Gamm-all have full seasons planned, and they include plays and musicals of particular interest to Senior Citizens.

Trinity presents August Wilson's "Gem of the Ocean" the first play in the legendary playwright's American Century Cycle, where he wrote a play a decade, set in Pittsburgh in 1904, described by director Jude Sandy as "a lyrical masterpiece of myth and history".

It opens on February 24 and runs through March 27.

"Sueno" follows from April 7 to May 8. It is a contemporary reimagining of "Life is a Dream", one of the jewels of the Spanish Golden Age, described by the Chicago Tribune as "Enchanting and frequently funny take on the classic."

Call 351-4242 for reservations.

PPAC presents "An Officer and a Gentleman", based on the Oscar winning film starring Richard Gere with a score based on the 1980's catalogue of music, including the Grammy winning "Up Where You Belong". If you like romantic endings, this one is for you.

At PPAC February 18-20.

"The Prom" is a new



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musical comedy about big Broadway stars on a mission to change the world. We saw a version on Netflix and loved it.

At PPAC March 8-13.

"Oklahoma" has been reimagined so successfully that it won a Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical.

The classic musical will be on stage March 22-27.

Be sure to get your tickets now for one of the best musicals ever to reach the stage, "My Fair Lady" on May 11-15.

Call 421-ARTS for reservations.

GAMM has another week of "An Octoroon", an irreverent re-telling of a hit 19th century melodrama dealing with race relationships.

March will feature Martyrna Majok's "Ironbound", a darkly funny, heartbreaking portrait of a tough woman

for whom love is a luxury-and a liability-and survival is the only measure of success."

Call 723-4266 for reservations.

Get out the winter coat, muffler, hat and gloves. Warm up the car and head to the theatre.

Gamm has a large parking lot adjacent to the theatre in Warwick.

Trinity and PPAC have paid parking lots close by. You need to get there early to find on-street parking. Or take Uber. Think of all the money you saved over the last two years.

Supporting the arts is needed badly these days. And the actors can't wait to practice their craft once again.

Pets Got Us Through The Pandemic

The only people I saw in my neighborhood at the height of the pandemic were delivery persons and neighbors walking their dogs.

Our pets became the center of our universe as we sheltered in place, providing us with companionship, security, and, most of all, love. In return, we spoiled them.

We gave them treats, played with them, cuddled them, talked to them, and never let them out of our sight. Sheltering at home meant that we didn't have to say "Goodbye" five mornings a week, as we went off to work or school. We had our dog or cat sitting by our computer as we worked from home.

Even the fish in our aquarium were paid closer attention to.

Trey, our three-legged rescue cat follows me around, climbing the stairs to my office to watch me on the computer, occasionally jumping in my lap to disrupt my train of thought.

We rescued Trey after he lost his leg in a bear trap in northern Connecticut, and my veterinarian granddaughter convinced me that he needed a loving home. She was unaware that I was a dog person, never owned a cat, and didn't necessarily care for the independent creatures.

Trey quickly changed my mind. He would crawl up in my lap while I read or watched TV, and sit there purring away as I petted him. During stressful times, I discovered that this three-legged animal was doing more for my mental health than any therapist could.

After my return from two trips to the hospital, I found him crawling into bed with me in the middle of the night.

He ate three meals a day with me, looking up at me with those loving eyes that said "Feed Me".

My wife is a night owl and I am an early riser. I enjoy his company in the mornings, while he keeps Joyce company when I retire.

After Joyce goes to bed, Trey sleeps in my office chair. He has his own cushioned chair, but prefers mine when I'm not in at.

In the morning, he waits for me to shower and dress and follows me downstairs, where we have breakfast together. Then it is lap time while I read the morning paper.

With fewer people to hold a conversation with during the pandemic, Trey fills the bill perfectly. I discuss the news, talk about my day, and call him "Good Kitty" a dozen or so times. He never talks back.

My wife says that I talk to him more than I talk to her.

So, that's my story. I am sure that those of you with pets have experienced a much closer relationship with them. And I am sure that you are better for it.

Now, with people returning to school and work and beginning to have somewhat of a social life again, let us not forget those loyal animal friends who helped us through the difficult times.