

Atwood Ave. under water



ATWOOD RIVER: Above right, a family was rescued from their stuck vehicle in the middle of Atwood Avenue during Monday night's widespread flooding in Johnston. (Photo courtesy Mike Edwards) At center, later that night, the stranded vehicle continued to float around the roadway as the waters rose, but eventually receded. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler) Below right, War Memorial Park also fell victim to flood waters, leading to a temporary closure of the walking path.

MAYOR: 'We've been waiting for over a decade for the state to mitigate the flooding on Atwood'

By RORY SCHULER

The water looks deep. But that guy made it through. I can't back up now. Just accelerate and pray?

Ocean State drivers find themselves in an increasingly familiar quandary. Drive across the flooded roadway, go around somehow or stop, obstruct the traffic breathing on my back bumper, and hope the water retreats?

As torrential rains dumped on Johnston Monday, rivers, ponds and streams overflowed banks and onto roadways. Atwood Avenue, just before the Stop & Shop plaza, became an impassable tributary. At least one motorist lost the battle against the rising water. He and a small child were rescued from the car by firefighters in a boat.

"We've been waiting for over a decade for the state to mitigate the flooding on Atwood Avenue, which is a state road, nothing has happened," Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. "We are trying to take matters into our own hands by asking our federal delegation, Senators Reed and Whitehouse, as well as Congressman



(Photo courtesy Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr.)

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Senior 'Spotlite'



CARD SHARK: JoAnn Pietrantonio is a "bulldog" at the HI-LO Jack table. (Photo courtesy Richard J. Delfino Jr.)

No need to beat the house at the JSC

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

The Johnston Senior Center "Spotlite" this week shines on JoAnn Pietrantonio, who has resided in Johnston for the last 50 years, and has been a weekly card player and now coordinator of the Center's popular "HI-LO Jack" League for the past 15 years.

JoAnn is very active in the Johnston community. She is a lector and Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Grace Church. She delivers Communion to elderly in their homes and to members here at their request.

For many years, JoAnn was known as the "Boxer Lady" as a result of her being one of the better known "Boxer Breeders" in Rhode Island for more than 35 years.

The last 20 years, she moved on to breeding "English Bulldogs." In the early 1990's, JoAnn and her husband were trying their hand at retailing closeout items at various flea Markets. This effort developed into a very successful business and the introduction to the first "only a dollar" stores here in the Ocean State. At one point, they owned and operated four such stores.

JoAnn and her many friends here at the JSC benefit from many enjoyable relationships and activities. She is a great example that even those with a "full plate" can find time to make new friends and have fun. If you enjoy card playing, stop by the JSC and meet JoAnn.

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

Rhode Island
T. F. Green International Airport

SAY NOGAN TO LOGAN FLY RI!

MORE THAN 30 DESTINATIONS FROM NASHVILLE TO LA TO CHICAGO

Chomping to the core of Johnston's 35th Apple Fest



HOT AIR: Gather Glass demonstrated glass blowing throughout the festival.

OPENING THE FESTIVAL:

At right, Johnston High junior Katelyn Loffler sang the National Anthem, backed by drummer Jonathan Guilmette, and trumpeters Gerson Cabrera and Alberto Estrada. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



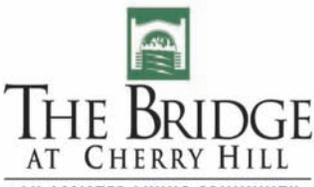
CHOPPING BLOCK: A youngster stopped by Mastery Martial Arts' boot at the 35th annual Apple Festival in Johnston's War Memorial Park last weekend.

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First Day Photos



Ali Grace, a sixth-grader at Ferri Middle School, poses for a first-day photo with her grandfather (School Committee Chairman) Bobby LaFazia. "He never misses the first day for any of the kids," according to his daughter, Sheri.



Ashton Laput, Fourth Grade, and Leah Laput, Third Grade, Winsor Hill Elementary

BACK TO SCHOOL: Most of the youngsters in Johnston have gone back to school. If you have a back to school first day photo you'd like to share, email it to Johnston Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at rorys@rhodybeat.com, and we'll publish it over the next couple weeks. Don't forget to include a caption with the student's first and last name, grade and school. (Submitted photos)



Chantelle Lacasse, a JHS Sophomore, Devyn Lacasse, JHS Senior, and Dominic Lacasse, Seventh Grade, Ferri Middle School

Rhode Island Monthly's **best** OF RHODE ISLAND★ COMEDY LUNCH/DINNER SHOWS

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Sat. Oct. 14- ISLANDER, Warwick

Reservations/Info/More dates at
AGINGDISGRACEFULLY.NET/288-1188

90th ANNUAL

Smithfield Sportsman's Club

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Saying farewell to a pair of respected educators

By PETE FONTAINE

At approximately 4:30 last Wednesday afternoon, ladies like Sheila Scuncio, Angela Brasil and Gail Rainone began creating a party atmosphere inside Pete Matteo's Bar 101 at 1478 Atwood Ave. in Johnston.

They placed colorful centerpieces on tables that read "New Beginnings" and put a variety of other decorations inside the popular bar/restaurant.

Soon after, the spacious room was filled wall-to-wall with people — a virtual who's who of the Johnston Public Schools.

As the invitation read: "Breanda Le Troia and Julie-anne Zarrella are retiring" and urged people to come and enjoy food and drink and wish them well.

Perhaps Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr., superintendent of public schools in Johnston, said it best about the heart-warming happening.

"The turnout at this retirement party is a testament to how much each of these people have meant to all of us," DiLullo began. He was joined by School Committee Chairman Bob LaFazia, Vice Chairman Joe Rotella and School Committee member Marysue Andreozzi. "They are valued as they consistently went above and beyond to ensure that the school department met its goals. I thank them for their many years of service to our staff and students."

In a word, Troia and Zarrella — who have both worn many hats during their tremendous tenures — are unique.

Troia, for example, applied to be a teacher assistant and bus monitor and worked her way up the ladder to the important position of Human Resource Coordinator in DiLullo's office.

Zarrella, meanwhile, was hired by Johnston Public Schools as a World Language Teacher in 1991, and because of her special skills was a respected and effective teacher eventually moving on to several principal positions before becoming Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Which speaks volumes why Bar 101 was filled with warmth, embraces and love for two women whose shoes many people concurred "will be hard to fill."

Likewise, it was a precious moment for Zarella's husband Mark, who rekindled relationships and chatted about his days in the Johnston School System. And for Troia, her family and children witnessed the extraordinary expressions of admiration their mother received during the fun-filled event.

Add to that the hospitality provided by Bar 101's smiling staff — and fantastic food that included 10 different items ranging from chicken and Caprese skewers, stuffed mushrooms, fruit platter, empanada, assorted pork and cheeseburger sliders, assorted pizza, penne alla vodka, pasta Bolognese and pasta aglio e olio, and cupcakes covered with chocolate and vanilla frosting.

So, on Sept. 29 Troia will officially retire, while Zarrella will mark the end of her classic career on Oct. 20, and they both will move on leaving long-lasting legacies of making a difference in many people's lives.

Editor's Note: Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. announced Tuesday night at the monthly School Committee meeting that he has chosen Edda Carmadello, the district's Director of Special Services, to be his new assistant superintendent. The School Committee expects to get a copy of the new contract and vote on the hiring at their next monthly meeting. Angela Brasil, DiLullo's Confidential Administrative Assistant, and the School Committee's recording secretary, has also resigned her position with the Johnston Public Schools, effective Sept. 29. She's moving on to a new job.



SPECIAL SENDOFF: Julie-anne Zarrella and Brenda Lee Troia are all smiles and joined by Johnston School Committee Vice Chairman Joe Rotella, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. and School Committee Chairman Bob LaFazia during last Wednesday's retirement party. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



PARTY PEOPLE: Johnston Public Schools staff members Sheila Scuncio, Angela Brasil and Gail Rainone enjoy a lighter moment while decorating the inside of Pete Matteo's Bar 101 for last Wednesday's love-filled retirement party for Brenda Lee Troia and Julie-anne Zarrella.



I-95 WEEKEND LANE CLOSURES AT ROUTE 10 IN CRANSTON



THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18

RIDOT will close lanes on I-95 at the Wellington Avenue Bridge, at the Cranston/Providence line, just north of Route 10. The closures will take place on consecutive weekends through Monday, Sept. 18. **Travelers should expect delays and seek alternate routes such as Route 10 and I-295.**

Each weekend, lanes will be closed on both sides of the highway as RIDOT demolishes and replaces different parts of this structurally deficient bridge. The closures start each weekend at 7 p.m. on Fridays with all lanes open by 5 a.m. on Mondays. We'll keep at least two lanes open on the side of the bridge we're working on each weekend.

Also, for September 8 and the week of September 11-15, there will be a lane split on I-95 North. **All lanes go through.** This rapid approach to bridge replacement saves motorists more than two years of lane closures, shifts and splits. For more details, please visit www.ridot.net.



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SCOOP OF THE WEEK

Sept. 14 & 15



HELP FOR VETS: Each year, veterans in need gather at an assistance event hosted by Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) at the organization's Johnston Veteran Service Center. (Submitted photo)

OSDRI hosts annual Veteran Assistance Event

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) is set to kick off its annual outreach event on Thursday Sept. 14, at 8 a.m. The two-day event will feature a myriad of resources to help veterans in need.

The Veteran Assistance Event will take place at OSDRI's Headquarters, the Anthony DeQuattro Veterans Service Complex 1010 Hartford Ave., Johnston. Attendees are asked to park across from Tri-County Community Action Agency at 1133 Hartford Ave., Johnston. Shuttle service from the parking to the headquarters will be provided. (Media interested in attending will be provided on-site parking.)

Key services will include housing, employment, basic human needs, legal assistance, welfare and social services, dental services provided by Thundermist Dental, and healthcare services provided by the VA. On site healthcare services will include COVID-19, FLU, Pneumonia, and Hepatitis Vaccines, and VA Health care. Additionally, the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal and District Court will be present on Friday morning, Sept. 15. Veterans seeking to address license reinstatements, traffic violations, misdemeanor criminal matters, expungements, and court-costs should arrive at 8 a.m. to meet with attorneys. The Division of Motor Vehicles Operator Control will be present on Thursday and Friday to address license and ID issues.

A broader array of services will be available this year to appeal to a wider audience of veterans. These programs include employment services with onsite employers and an expanded legal clinic.

"We have put a specific emphasis on ensuring we can provide services to the newer generation of veterans as well as our older generation. Both groups have different and unique needs and OSDRI wants to ensure no veteran is left behind," said Executive Director Erik B. Wallin.

Lunch will be provided by Smoke and Squeal BBQ Food Truck on both Thursday and Friday from 12-1:30 p.m. On Thursday, numerous public officials are expected to attend and serve lunch to veterans and volunteers.

Over the past 30 years, the annual outreach weekend event has assisted thousands of veterans by providing them access to life essential services including healthcare, dental care, employment services, legal services, social welfare benefits, housing assistance, and clothing.

OSDRI was founded 30 years ago by three Vietnam era veterans in an effort to end homelessness in the veteran community. The first Stand Down assistance event was held in 1992 in Exeter at the old Ladd School Property, it later moved to Diamond Hill State Park in Cumberland and today is proudly held at OSDRI headquarters. The event has consistently been a staple in the veteran community and has assisted thousands of veterans over the past 30 years.

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and Rhode Island's primary nonprofit resource for homeless and at-risk veterans. Founded in 1993 and headquartered in Johnston, OSDRI's mission is to help veterans secure stable housing, employment, and basic human needs. OSDRI offers an array of services for veterans including a food pantry program, pro bono legal services, rental assistance, and a robust employment program. In addition, OSDRI has 88 units of housing for veterans spanning across the state from Woonsocket to Westerly. On average 2,000 veterans a year benefit from OSDRI's services.

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:



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JPD: Have you seen this stolen car?

LEAVE A TIP: The Johnston Police Department is asking the public for assistance locating a stolen car. The vehicle, pictured here, was taken from the victim's driveway on Capri Drive around 2:30 a.m. on Sept. 6, according to police. It's described as a rare model, two-door 2006 Mercedes-Benz SL55 AMG. "The vehicle, which is now heavily tinted, has had its registration plates changed several times and has also been used in thefts in Pawtucket," police said. "Those with information regarding the vehicle are asked to contact the Johnston Police Department at 401-231-8100 or email tips@johnstonpd.com." (Johnston Sun Rise Staff Reports)



Opinion

EDITORIAL

Is the world safer since 9/11/2001?

Another anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks has come and gone; this year commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the deadliest terror attack in American history.

There has never been an author qualified to try and sum up the impact of that day on American society, or the geopolitical shockwaves it has wrought the entire world over. We won't attempt to become the first in this brief column here. To put it succinctly, the world has never been the same since that terrible day, nor will it ever be the same for those who lived through it and recall life before it happened.

For those old enough to remember a world prior to TSA security lines and the Patriot Act, or the heightened sense of anxiety that occurs any time something slightly unusual happens while aboard a commercial airliner, it is rational to question in the decades since the attack whether or not our nation's efforts to safeguard itself against another similar attack have done their job, or only created the veil of a safer society.

Are hour-plus-long wait lines to go through intimidating security checkpoints, where all items are removed from us (including our shoes and belts), and reducing carry-on liquids to bottles containing 3.4 ounces or less really preventing another 9/11 from occurring? Or is it merely security theater — tactics used to create the illusion of safety rather than actively securing it?

There is no doubt that America's airport security system was dangerously lax in 2001. Terrorists were able to exploit those vulnerabilities with relative ease. There's little argument to defend whether or not allowing knives up to four inches aboard a plane was a bad idea in retrospect (as was the law back then). However, experiencing the full extent of invasiveness we have been subject to since the attack gives good reason to question whether the drastic swing in the opposite direction has been fully necessary, either.

Two would-be terrorists failed in their plots in the first decade following 9/11, not because the security that was initiated, but because their respective bombs (one hidden within a shoe, the other hidden within the bomber's underwear, malfunctioned while aboard the plane). In June of 2015, undercover agents from the TSA itself found that TSA personnel failed to detect hidden weapons and contraband going through screenings in 95% of the test cases, which prompted more training and more investments in technology. A year later, would-be suicide bombers that were successfully turned away from a security checkpoint in Turkey opened fire with guns, killing 45 people and themselves in a hail of bullets; rendering even a successful anti-terror operation a devastating failure.

Today, our airports are fitted with the kind of security devices and technology that would have seemed laughable in a spy movie from 2001. Facial recognition cameras, full-body scanners, and detailed X-ray imaging all overseen by more than 65,000 security personnel wielding a more than \$1.5 billion budget. There is no going back from this level of domineering scrutiny. It is our new reality.

So to answer our question posed at the beginning of this column — is the world safer since 9/11 — it depends entirely on your own perspective. There has not been another successful airplane-based terrorist attack since that day, so you could argue that the enhanced security measures have served their purpose.

But the question that truly haunts us in the post-9/11 world continues to be: What costs have we endured in the name of safety? What measures will be deemed necessary should they fail us one day in the future?

We hope to never find out.

GUEST OP



HALF CENTURY: Tri-County Community Action Agency has announced Joseph DeSantis's remarkable milestone. The organization's esteemed President & CEO celebrated his 50th anniversary of employment with the organization in June. (Submitted photo)

Joseph DeSantis celebrates 50 years at Tri-County Community Action Agency

Tri-County Community Action Agency is thrilled to announce the remarkable milestone of Joseph DeSantis, their esteemed President & CEO, who celebrated his 50th anniversary of employment with the organization in June 2023. This significant achievement highlights Mr. DeSantis's unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions to the agency's mission of empowering communities and improving lives.

Since joining Tri-County Community Action Agency in 1973, Mr. DeSantis has exemplified exceptional leadership, compassion, and commitment to serving those in need. Starting out as a program director, his passion for helping others combined with a natural ability to lead, and a strong work ethic quickly propelled him into the CEO position in 1980. Through his visionary guidance, the agency has grown to include 16 locations across RI, expanding its programs and services to positively impact countless individuals and families throughout the region.

Over the course of his illustrious career, Mr. DeSantis has spearheaded numerous transformative initiatives, such as operating a Federally Qualified Health Center, and one of the largest employment and training programs in the state, all aimed at addressing poverty, promoting education, ensuring affordable housing, and enhancing access to healthcare. His unwavering passion and tireless efforts have played a pivotal role in improving the quality of life for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Under Mr. DeSantis's astute leadership, Tri-County Community Action Agency has garnered widespread recognition for its exceptional achievements and innovative approaches to community development, and most recently for its Health Equity Zone initiative and Mobile Health program. The agency, and Mr. DeSantis himself, have received numerous accolades and awards, solidifying its reputation as a leading force in social services, including being named the RI Verazzano Italo-American "Man of the Year" in 2015, the Washington County Children's Coalition Special Recognition Community Service Award in 2012, and the South County Community Action "Man of the Year" Award in 2008.

"Joseph DeSantis's unparalleled commitment and visionary leadership have been instrumental in shaping Tri-County Community Action Agency into the influential organization it is today," said

Brenda Dowlatshahi, Chief Operating Officer for Tri-County Community Action Agency. "His unwavering dedication to our mission has inspired all of us to work harder and reach new heights in service to our community. We are deeply grateful for his remarkable contributions and congratulate him on this milestone," she added.

"Reaching this 50-year milestone is an incredible honor, and I am humbled by the opportunity to have served Tri-County Community Action Agency and our community for all these years," said Joseph DeSantis, President & CEO. "I am grateful for the consistent support of our dedicated staff, board members, partners, and of the people we serve. Together, we have made a meaningful impact in the lives of countless individuals, and I look forward to continuing our important work."

As Tri-County celebrates Joseph DeSantis's remarkable 50-year journey, the organization remains committed to building upon his legacy and furthering its mission, and to creating lasting positive change in our community.

Editor's Note: Tri-County Community Action Agency, headquartered in Johnston, operates 16 locations across the state. Tri-County is a private, nonprofit, community service agency providing a broad range of programs, services, and supports to individuals and families in need throughout Rhode Island. Tri-County has been providing services to low income adults, children and families since 1965. For information on programs or services, contact the Agency at 401-351-2750.



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JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

FATAL CRASH INTO HOUSE

At 10:54 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 2, a Ford F-150 traveling west on Greenville Avenue veered off the roadway and ultimately struck a residence located at 816 Greenville Ave. in Johnston, according to Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira.

"Preliminary investigation indicated the cause of the accident was due to a medical emergency," Vieira said.

Police identified the driver as Angelo Calcagni, 93, of Greenville. Calcagni was transported to Rhode Island hospital where he was pronounced dead, according to police.

"The cause of death has not been confirmed, however, it appears the 93-year-old male died as a result of the medical episode," according to Vieira. "There were no further injuries. The residence was inspected by the building official who deemed it was structurally safe. No additional details are available at this time."

RECKLESS DRIVING & SHOPLIFTING

At 4:34 p.m., May 18, Johnston Police responded to a store in town following a report of shoplifting in progress. Dispatch advised responding officers that the sus-

pects fled in a gold colored Toyota sedan with Rhode Island plates.

The car was attempting to exit the lot.

"While behind the vehicle, I could see two females attempting to hide in the rear seat, periodically peeking out the rear window," according to the incident report written by Johnston Police Patrolman Matthew D. Murphy.

Murphy positioned his cruiser behind the car, confirmed it was the suspect's and initiated a motor vehicle stop. But the driver "refused to stop" and continued toward Atwood Avenue. The driver took a left onto Atwood, traveling north, then took a right onto Route 6 East.

Murphy followed the vehicle onto Route 6, when he was advised by a commanding officer to "terminate" the pursuit.

Murphy drove back to the store, where the original caller filled him in on the shoplifting incident. Store employees told police that two female suspects took various items and left without paying.

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Auction Legal Notice

To: 101 Motorsports inc 2955 Noblesville pike, Nashville TN A public auction will be held at 100 South Street Johnston RI on SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 at 900 am. The vehicle a 2018 Ford 1FTBW2ZMXJKA07150 belonging to the above. the auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

9/14/23

Public Auction Legal Notice

To: Wells Fargo PO Box 997517 Sacramento, Ca Mariah Groat 878 River Ave Providence RI A public auction will be held at 775 Hartford Ave Johnston RI on SEPTEMBER 23 2023 at 900 am. The vehicle a 2019 HYUNDAI 5NPE24AF2KH799067 belonging to the above. the auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

9/14/23

NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 23-CVD-832

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

ANA LILLIAN DELIZ,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ORLANDO ROMAN GONZALEZ LOPEZ,
Defendant

TO DEFENDANT HEREIN

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading has been filed against you in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: ABSOLUTE DIVORCE BASED UPON ONE YEAR CONTINUOUS SEPARATION.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty days from the date of the first publication and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This is the 7th day of June, 2023.

N. CLIFTON CANNON, JR.
Attorney for the Plaintiff
355 S. New Hope Road, Suite B
Post Office Box 551154
Gastonia, NC 28055
704-867-9070
N.C. Bar No.: 10154

9/7, 9/14, 9/21/23

The suspects were confronted in the parking lot, but refused to stop, and continued to the car, getting inside, abandoning a shopping cart filled with merchandise in the store's parking lot.

One of the suspects managed to take a black Hurley Light, valued at \$89.97, while fleeing into the vehicle, which was driven by a black man, according to the police incident report.

The store estimated the value of the merchandise in the shopping cart around \$2,291, and provided still shot images of the two female suspects and video surveillance of the incident.

Following a background check of the fleeing vehicle's registration, Johnston Police traced the car to Tina C. Lemieux, 46, of 14 Hope St., Third Floor, Lincoln. A "cross-agency search of the vehicle's registration" revealed Lemieux had recently been stopped in the vehicle with a man named Darryl Henries, 53, of 460 Pine St., Providence.

Murphy matched Henries to the man he saw driving the escape vehicle, and Lemieux's photos matched the surveillance images, according to the report, which was forwarded to the Johnston Police Detective Division for further investigation.

Eventually, Johnston Police issued warrants for their arrest.

On June 8, around 2:30 a.m., Johnston Police drove to the State Police barracks in Lincoln to take custody of Lemieux, who had been picked up on the active warrants for Shoplifting and Conspiracy.

On June 12, Henries was arraigned on a felony charge of Reckless Driving/Eluding Police. He was also charged with misdemeanor conspiracy and presented as a Superior Court bail and probation violator. He was incarcerated at the ACI.

Around 4:45 p.m., July 11, Warwick Police transported the third suspect, Elizabeth A. Dwyer, 39, of 15 Monongahela Ave., North Providence, to the Johnston Police Department, on an active arrest warrant on charges of Habitual Shoplifting, Eluding Police (second offense), and Conspiracy.

WARRANT ARREST

At 10:30 p.m., July 11, Johnston Police Officer Nik J. Bordieri was on a fixed post at 39 Greenville Ave. when a car passed "with a license plate cover over the rear registration plate."

Bordieri initiated a traffic stop. He identified the driver as Sean T. Parenteau, 37, of 20 Thornton St., Pawtucket. "Procedural checks" revealed Parenteau had an active arrest warrant issued by Warwick Police for two counts of Shoplifting. He

was taken into custody and his car was towed from the scene.

LEAVING THE SCENE OF A CRASH

Around 7 p.m., July 29, Johnston Police responded to the report of a motor vehicle crash, hit and run, with no injuries. Following an investigation, Jorge A. Acosta, 56, of 24 Wilson Ave., Johnston, was charged with a misdemeanor, Duty to Stop (Accident resulting in Damage to Attended Vehicle).

BLOODY B&E

Police have made an arrest in a two-year-old Johnston smash and grab break-in.

Around 5:03 a.m., Oct. 15, 2021, Johnston Police responded to a local business (the business name was redacted from the police reports), following the activation of an alarm.

"Upon our arrival we discovered that the street facing/front glass door was smashed with glass strewn everywhere," according to the incident report filed by Johnston Police Patrolman Adam M. Parkinson. "We subsequently cleared the interior of the establishment and checked the immediate surrounding area for a suspect, but were met with negative results."

The front of the business had an assortment of glass and mirror display cases. Two of the cases had holes the size of a fist smashed through them, in the tempered glass.

"It appears the suspect(s) attempted to force entry into the cases by smashing the top of the case and then cut themselves while attempting to retract their hands containing the stolen merchandise," Parkinson wrote.

Police found blood evidence "on the glass holes." The business owner provided police with a list of stolen items and told police that they wished to pursue criminal charges.

Exterior video surveillance footage revealed a man wearing a black hoodie, dark pants and a white face mask smashing the front door using his hand around 4:56 a.m. that day.

There was no exit-footage, so police believe he exited out the back door. Later footage shows the suspect carrying a white bag and wearing light colored latex gloves.

An investigation led police to arrest Patrick A. Maranda, 32, of 574 Newport Ave., Attleboro, Massachusetts. He was arraigned on July 31 in Third District Court on a felony charge of Breaking & Entering.

IDENTITY FRAUD & FORGERY

Around noon on July 18, Johnston Police responded to a local bank to investigate a report of an individual attempting

to cash a fraudulent check.

Bank employees suspected the signature on the check did not match the signature on-file.

The suspect fled the scene shortly before police arrived. Employees told police the man climbed into the rear of a red Nissan Rogue with Pennsylvania plates. Police located and stopped the vehicle.

They identified the vehicle occupants as driver Rodney Zellars, 39, of 1111 East Sharpnack St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and passengers, Dinna Simpkins, 37, of 7808 Woolston Ave., Philadelphia, and Norman Thweatt, 41, of 485 Plainfield St., Providence. Bank employees identified Thweatt as the suspect who attempted to cash the check.

All three were removed from the vehicle, handcuffed and searched.

The account holder told police they had not written the checks in question and wanted to press criminal charges.

"During an inventory search of the vehicle, there were multiple other checks scattered throughout the vehicle," according to the incident report filed by Johnston Police Patrolman Matthew D. Levesque.

Police also found a Viper electronic stun gun in the center console and a small pepper spray keychain.

"While conducting the search of the vehicle, I did observe several Banking items to include, assorted checks, ledgers, account documents, receipts, debit cards, and money orders," Johnston Police Patrolman Matthew V. Leveillee wrote in an arrest narrative report. "Note: some of the items had different names attached to them, and did not belong to the three males on scene."

Police discovered Thweatt had an active Warwick Police warrant for violation of a no contact order.

Police also discovered Zellars had a suspended license.

All three were interviewed by Johnston Police Detectives.

"Due to the other individuals being involved with Mr. Thweatt attempting to cash in a fraudulent check they were also placed in hand restraints double locked and checked for fit and placed in separate police cruisers," according to the arrest report written by Johnston Police Patrolman Bryan Yepes.

Zellars and Simpkins were charged with Identity Fraud, Forgery and Counterfeiting, Conspiracy (all felonies) and Weapons Other Than Firearms Prohibited (a misdemeanor).

Thweatt was also charged with Identity Fraud, Conspiracy, Forgery and Counterfeiting.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Request for Bids to Furnish Thirteen (13) Dental Operatories: Tri-County CAA is soliciting bids from qualified vendors to provide dental equipment to furnish thirteen (13) new dental operatories located at 1637 Mineral Spring Avenue, North Providence, RI, Suite 201, 02904. Beginning on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 bid packages may be obtained by visiting Tri-County CAA's Administrative Office located at 1126 Hartford Avenue, Suite 201, Johnston, RI 02919. Bid packages may also be downloaded at www.tricountyri.org. Tri-County reserves the right to waive any information in, or reject any and all bids, or to award to other than the lowest cost proposal if deemed to be in the best interest of the agency and to do so without further explanation. The deadline for bid submission is Monday, September 26, 2023 at 3:00 pm. Questions: Brenda Dowlatsahi: bdowlatsahi@tricountyri.org

Bid submissions will be opened on Monday, September 26, at 3:15 pm.

9/14/23

Solicitation of Bids

Tri-County Community Action Agency is requesting formal bids for **Dental Renovations** to the Agency's facility located on 1637 Mineral Spring Avenue, Suite 201, North Providence, RI 02904.

Beginning on Monday, September 18, 2023, bid packages may be obtained by visiting Tri-County's Administrative Office, located on 1126 Hartford Ave, Suite 201, Johnston, RI 02919. Bid packages may also be downloaded at www.tricountyri.org.

A walkthrough of the facility will be conducted on Friday, September 22, 2023. During the walkthrough, potential bidders may examine the facility and ask questions related to architectural drawings, specifications, renovations and/or the bid process. All questions related to the renovations and bid will be recorded in writing and will be answered in writing to all "walk-through" participants, within 48 hours. The walkthrough of the site and sign in sheets is mandatory.

Bids must be delivered in a SEALED envelope addressed to

Tri-County Community Action Agency
Attention: Dental Renovation Bid Committee
1126 Hartford Avenue
Suite 201
Johnston, RI 02919

Bids must be received not later than 3:00 p.m., on Friday, September 29, 2023

The official clock is located within the Administration office of Tri-County CAA at 1126 Hartford Avenue.

Sealed bids will be publically opened beginning at 3:15 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2023.

Tri-County CAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive technicalities, and make award(s) for reasons other than cost, as deemed to be in the best interest of the Agency or its programs.

Renovations may begin any time after the contract is awarded.

9/14/23

JFD for MDA



THANK YOU THANK YOU: That's what Johnston Firefighters like Tyler McNulty said to motorists on successive weekends when Local 1950 collected \$14,000 for MDA through the nationally famous Fill the Boot program. (Photos by Ryan Elmasian)

These boots were made for fillin'

By PETE FONTAINE

Add another \$14,000 to the more than \$500,000 the Johnston Association of Firefighters Local 1950 has collected since 1970 for the highly acclaimed Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

"We have kept this tradition alive for over 53 years since 1970 when Local 1950 organized as a union," said Johnston Fire Department Lt. Jon Pistachio. "We have done so during that time thanks to the generosity of Johnston residents and those who travel through our town."

It's all part of The International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) partnership with the MDA that began in 1950 and features union members across the country collecting critical funds in the community — one dollar at a time — as part of the famous "Fill the Boot Program."

"The unique partnership began when the IAFF signed a proclamation designating MDA as its charity of choice vowing to continue raising awareness and funds to ensure effective treatments and therapies are found," Pistachio explained. "The dollars raised are used to empower people living with neuromuscular disease to live longer more independent lives."

Also, the MDA is the number one voluntary health organization in the United States for people living with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related neuromuscular diseases. For more than 70 years, MDA has led the way in accelerating research, advancing care and advocating for support for their families.

"It's absolutely amazing," Pistachio continued. "Our members wear special vests and hold an actual firefighter's boot and stand safely at intersections in town and receive donations that range from a handful of change to a dollar. This year we received a \$100 bill from a motorist."

In keeping with a tradition that has become a 1950 credo through the years, Pistachio said: "We cannot thank enough the many people who stopped to drop a donation into the boot, and we truly appreciate all of the motorists' patience while we were out there collecting for this very important organization."

MIGHTY MISSION:

Local 1950 member Rick Ballirano (left) and Capt. Sal Martira are holding an actual firefighters boot they used to collect a total of \$14,000 for MDA on successive weekends in Johnston.



Obituaries

Louise DelVecchio

Louise DelVecchio, age 92, passed away on August 23, 2023, at Anchor Bay at Pocasset, Johnston RI.

Born April 22, 1931, in Providence, RI to parents Domenic and Antonia (Isoletta) Zarrella, she grew up in Johnston and graduated from North Providence High School and Rhode Island College of Education (Class of 1953). Louise spent her teaching career in the Johnston school system, primarily teaching first and second grade at Thornton Elementary. She met her beloved husband, Frank DelVecchio, through two of her young students, who introduced her to their handsome cousin. Louise retired from teaching in 1989.

Louise was a loving and supportive wife and mother, as well as a gifted teacher who touched the lives of countless students. She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Frank DelVecchio. She is survived by their three sons, Frank (Debra) of Portsmouth, RI; Steven (Francine) of Fairfax, VA; and David (Susan) of Cumberland, RI. She was devoted to her seven grandchildren, Alex, Devon, Cara, Ford, Angelina, Dominic, and Maxwell. Louise was the eldest of her siblings and leaves behind to mourn Anne McCarthy, Tim Zarrella (Ursula), Theodore Zarrella (Cheryl), Elena Loffler (Wilmer), Maria Diamante, and Domenic Zarrella, Jr. (Janice). She was predeceased by her brother John Zarrella (Marie), half-sister Violet Klier (Chester), and sister-in-law Florence (DelVecchio) Adams. Louise was blessed with a large extended family and is survived by a host of nieces and nephews, relatives, and lifelong friends.

True to her generous and kind nature, Louise devoted herself to a number of volunteer activities in her later years at both her church and Anchor Bay. Louise was beloved by all who met her and will be greatly missed.

A Memorial Service will be held on September 26, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ, 546 Budlong Rd., Cranston, RI 02920. Burial will be in St. Ann's Cemetery, Cranston. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in her name to Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ.



Obituaries

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

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

- Thank you

72nd Birthday Remembrance ANNA TOONE

1951 September 13 2023



I miss you so much.
I think of you every day
And tell you, "I love you."
I hope you can hear me
Talking to you.
I wish I did that more
When you were alive.
I was so lucky to have
You as a Mom.

Your pure generosity, your kindness
and unconditional
Love for me and my family
Never wavered.

Please know that we appreciate
Everything you did for us.

I will always strive to
Fulfill your wishes.
You will never be forgotten.
Lastly, you were right
When you said, "You're
Gonna miss me when
I am gone."
Every day, Mom.

*Happy Birthday in heaven, Mom.
Always in our hearts
And with much love,*

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SON-IN-LAW DENNIS, AND
CHERISHED GRANDDAUGHTER,
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For more information,
call Ida at
732-3100

Flood

(Continued from page 1)

Magaziner, for help.”
By Tuesday morning, Polisena said the flood waters damaged “multiple town buildings, the park, town roads and state roads” in Johnston.
“All three (Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse and U.S. Rep. Seth Magaziner) have supported the Town and are seeking federal appropriations to fix the chronic flooding issues on Atwood Avenue,” Polisena said. “Moreover, between last night and this morning, all three reached out to check on the damage and well-being of our residents, which I am grateful for.”
Despite the still saturated soil, forecasters predicted more rain likely later this week.
“As of this morning, much of the water has receded,” Polisena said Tuesday morning. “We are currently checking for any structural damage sustained from the flooding.”
The Atwood Avenue flooding issue has

been frustrating town officials for years.
“The Town is in the middle of multiple stormwater drainage projects for town roads,” Polisena explained. “Stormwater drains are not connected to sewer drains.”
Johnston’s Emergency Management Director and Police Chief Mark A. Vieira is tasked with collecting flood damage estimates from residents. He’s been collecting tornado damage estimates since the Aug. 18 twisters that struck the area.
The damage footprint from the floodwaters rival that left by the August wind storm.
“Flash flooding occurs when storm drains become overwhelmed from heavy rainfall,” Vieira explained. “This heavy rainfall also exceeds the ground’s ability to absorb it. Stormwater floods roadways when there is more rainfall than the storm drains were designed to handle.”
Too much rain fell too fast Monday.
“When we get 5 inches of rain in 2 hours, as opposed to 2 days, the storm drains simply cannot handle that amount of water,” Vieira said. “The town is currently seeking Federal appropriations to correct the flooding issues on Atwood Avenue.”

The pond at Johnston’s War Memorial Park also overflowed its banks.
“Due to extensive flooding at ... Memorial Park, the walking track will be closed until our crews can get the water out,” according to a post on the town’s Facebook page. “This is a public safety issue as the water has risen up over the pond, so please do not use the path.”
Vieira had a few tips for motorists caught on a flooded roadway:
“During periods of flash flooding, stay on higher ground and avoid driving through flooded roadways. Never drive your car into water of an unknown depth. Most flash flood deaths occur after people drive their vehicles into flood waters. If your vehicle stalls and water is rising inside your vehicle, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.”
And if the rising water hits home: “Lastly, avoid contact with floodwater that enters your home where floodwater has touched or submerged electrical outlets or cords making you at risk for electrical shock,” Vieira warned.
The town’s working with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) “to assess the extent of damage

and costs resulting from the rain events that occurred on Sept. 10 & 11.”
“Johnston homeowners and businesses affected by the flooding are asked to email any incurred costs to Chief Mark A. Vieira, Johnston EMA, at EMA@johnstonpd.com,” according to a bulletin distributed by the town. “The email must provide your property address, contact information, and a description of your incurred damage or costs directly related to these weather events. Also submit by email any costs or assessments from your insurance provider or vendors providing service or quotes (other damage should be listed with a ‘best estimate’).”
Town officials ask those submitting estimates to include photographs, “if available ... to support the damages.”
“This damage assessment is necessary in order to explore the possibility of a Small Business Administration disaster declaration,” according to the town wide bulletin. “If you are unable to email your damage assessment, please contact Chief Mark A. Vieira at 401-757-3116 in order to make arrangements to submit your documentation.”

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable

Herbie



Herbie’s smile is worth a thousand words! This playful boy is a three year old Boxer/Pit mix who loves to be active and is very smart! He gets excited when he meets new people, it’s as if he’s saying “Are you here to play with me?” He loves to run around so a fenced in yard would be a dream come true for him. If you live an active lifestyle and you are looking for a loving, loyal companion then Herbie is your boy. You can reach out to Shelter to Sofa to inquire about meeting Herbie at sheltertosofa@gmail.com or visit their website www.shelertosofoa.org Who remembers Herbie the love bug? This Herbie is a total love bug!

Photo credit: Shane Cronan

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

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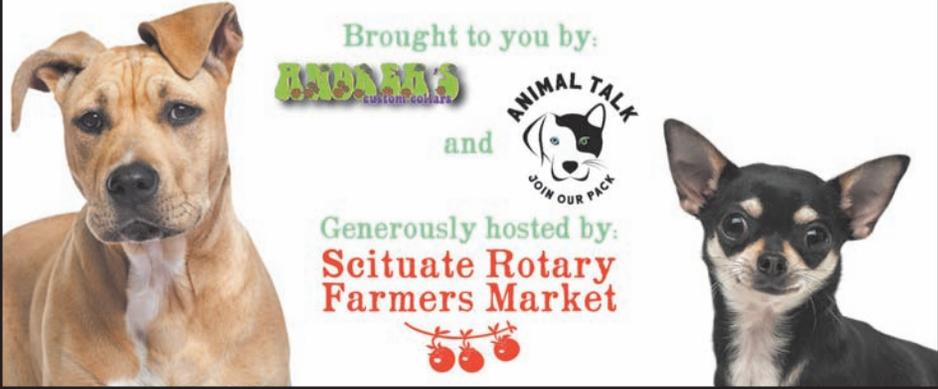
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LIKE A BOBBER: Later Monday night, a stranded contoured continued to float around a flooded Atwood Avenue as the waters rose, but tow trucks were unable to reach it until the waters receded. (Sun Rise photo Rory Schuler)

AAA: You and your car during and after flooding

As communities across Rhode Island clean up after torrential rains and devastating flooding, AAA Northeast is offering motorists advice on how to avoid vehicular flood damage and what to do when roads become inundated during severe weather.
Even what looks like shallow flood water can cause significant damage to a vehicle. Just six inches of standing water can cause a car to literally float out of control and stall an engine. And flooded roads can be deadly. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into flood water.

- AAA offers these reminders:**
- Behind the Wheel:**
 - An engine can ingest water even driving through what looks like a deep puddle. If this happens, the engine can become hydro-locked and be destroyed.
 - Even large SUVs may not be capable of driving through deep water. Many stranded motorists overestimate their vehicle’s capabilities.
 - Deep puddles might be hiding sinkholes that could be several feet deep. Don’t take any chances!



ATWOOD OVERFLOW: At left, a family was rescued from their stuck vehicle in the middle of Atwood Avenue during Monday night's widespread flooding in Johnston. (Photo courtesy Mike Edwards). At right, later that night, the stranded vehicle continued to float around the roadway as the waters rose, but eventually receded. Standing guard, Mike Edwards of the JPD BCI, kept motorists from driving through the water. (Sun Rise photo Rory Schuler)



AAA

(Continued from page 10)

- Never ignore warning signs or roadblocks. Local first responders put them there because people regularly get stranded at these locations
- Pay attention to emergency weather alerts and take them seriously. Roads can become flooded within minutes of a downpour.
- Be extra careful at night when it's harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Don't feel pressured to drive through floodwater just because other people are doing it. Turn around and find another route or wait until the road becomes passable again.
- Turn on your headlights. In many states, including Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the law requires headlights to be on when wipers are activated.
- Slow down! Hydroplaning risks increase with speed. A car can hydroplane in as little as one-sixteenth of an inch of water.
- When Parked:
- If your parked car ends up in deep water, don't try to retrieve it until the water recedes.
- Seek higher ground: stalled cars can be swept away if flood waters continue to rise. And seek out higher ground when parking and leaving a vehicle for an extended period when storms are in the forecast.
- Avoid parking in low-lying areas, above sewer grates and storm drains or next to ponds, streams and other bodies of water that might spill over.
- Pay attention to emergency weather alerts and take them seriously. Roads can become flooded within minutes of a downpour.
- Stay home: if you don't have to drive, wait until the storm passes. And when the rain stops, give drainage systems time to catch up. Sometimes floodwaters continue to rise hours after the last drops fall.

After Rain:

- After driving through deep water, your brakes will be wet and might not perform as expected right away. Gently apply the brakes and brake early and gently to dry them off.
- Hot brake rotors can be warped or damaged when they come in contact with cold flood water.
- If your car is submerged while parked and the engine was not turned on, have the car towed to a trusted repair facility to be inspected and serviced before attempting to start the car. Draining and replacing engine oil, coolant and other fluids may be required if the car is repairable.
- Before attempting to start a flood-damaged car, check all mechanical components and systems that contain fluids for water contamination.
- Take detailed photos of the car, inside and out, before attempting cleaning or repairs.
- Inspect, clean and dry any electrical system components and connections.
- If water entered the passenger cabin, use a vacuum designed to suck up water to thoroughly clean the carpets and seats.
- Look under carpeting and trunk liners for standing water, such as in the spare tire well.
- Check under the dashboard for signs of water damage.
- Call your insurance company. Hopefully, you have comprehensive coverage, which will cover repairs to a flood damaged vehicle. But in many cases, the damage will exceed the vehicle's value and be considered a total loss.
- Even minor flood damage can cause a vehicle to be totaled by an insurance company. Water damage may not be immediately apparent. Over time, components that were exposed to water can corrode, causing frustrating and expensive problems down the road.
- Moisture trapped deep in the recesses of a car can be a breeding ground for mold and bacteria. Pay attention to any odors and moisture on interior surfaces, particularly when the car is parked with the windows closed for a period of time.



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By JENNIFER COATES



Come to Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry, a familiar laundromat on Putnam Pike in Johnston, for all your wash/dry/fold laundry needs and for self-service washing & drying machines.

There is nothing in the world quite as wonderful as the Downy-fresh smell of clean clothes and clean linens. This familiar aroma evokes images of newly-washed clothes, hung on a clothesline to billow in the wind and dry in the warm summer sun.

While there are no clotheslines hanging in Jain's Laundry, it is a common, daily experience to have your clothes and linens smell just as Downy-fresh as this sensory memory, every time you bring them home from this tidy laundromat on Putnam Pike.

Jain's Laundry is a family-run laundromat in Johnston that has been in continuous operation since it was first opened by the Jain family in 1993. It is a place that has earned a reputation for cleanliness, trustworthiness, affordability, consistency, and friendly customer service. It is a place that provides an invaluable service for today's modern family ~ both as a place where one can do all their wash in "one fell swoop" or take advantage of their convenient, same-day, wash-dry-fold service.

Cleaning your clothes and household linens is "essential work" but it does not have to be drudgery! If time is your most precious commodity, then why not bring your laundry to Jain's Laundry for their drop-off service? Why not spend your time doing the things you love this fall and let Kaushal Jain help you carry the load?

For an incredible .69/pound, Kaushal will wash, soften, dry, and even fold your laundry - all in one day. Besides the convenience of this great service, this price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and

hangers! What a bargain!

For the most competitive prices in the area, you will find both the wash-fold, same-day service offered by Kaushal here at Jain's Laundry as well as a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers for the "do-it-yourselfers". If you don't have enough quarters, no worries ~ there is a change machine that accepts up to a \$20.00 bill available here.

There are large capacity machines available for all size loads, from 25 pounds to 65 pounds. The top loading machines are available here for only \$2.00 per

load compared to \$2.50 in most other places. Vending machines are also on-site if you need to re-stock your supply of detergent, softener, or laundry bags.

There is plenty of parking and a friendly, helpful staff here, ready to meet the needs of both residential and commercial customers.

Jain's Laundry is found in the Plaza 44 shopping plaza on 39 Putnam Pike. It is open seven days each week - from 8 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, and 7 am to 8 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about their services, call 401-231-7019.

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Building a pollinator pathway yard by yard

Sept. 30 workshop focuses on native plants, importance of pollinators

By **DANA RICHIE**

On Saturday September 30, the Clouds Hill Museum in Cowesett will host a free workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to educate guests about the native plants they can grow to preserve and expand pollinator habitats and populations.

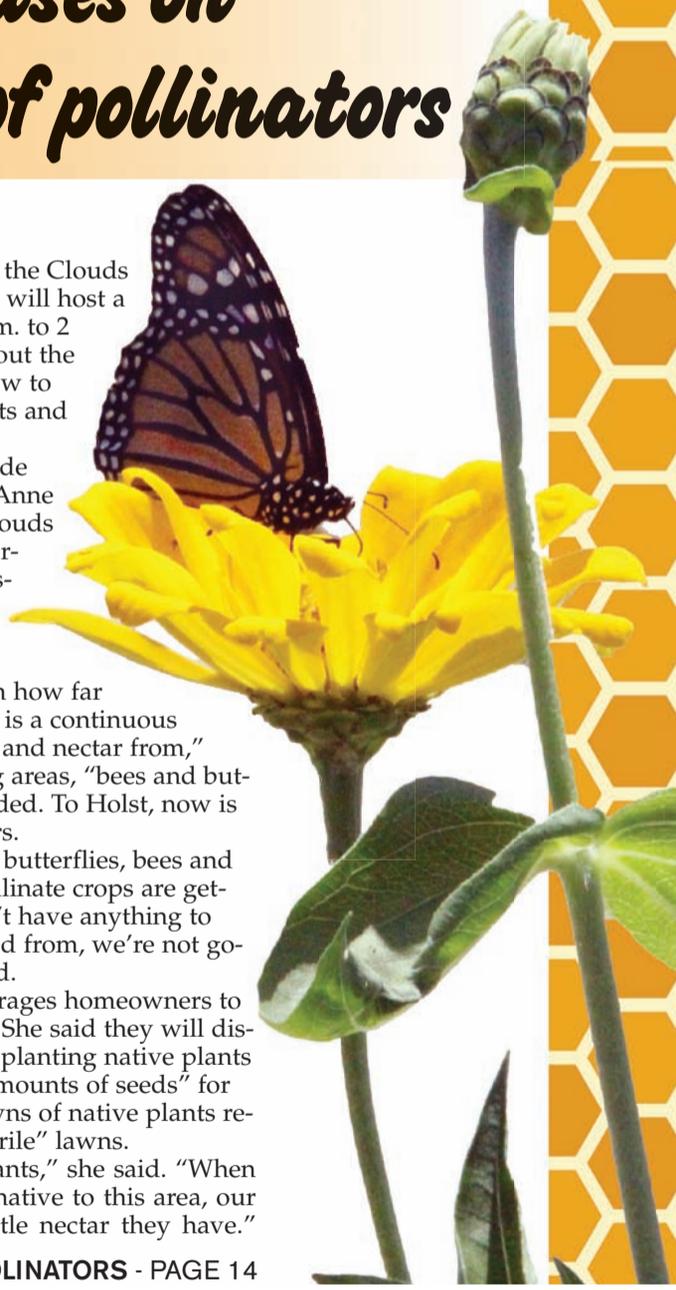
This program supports the nationwide phenomenon of Pollinator Pathways. Anne Holst, the curator and owner of the Clouds Hill Museum and Chairman of the Warwick Wildlife & Conservation Commission, explained that a corridor of native plants expands the reach of pollinators.

"Particularly bees are very limited in how far from the hive they can go unless there is a continuous path of plants that they can get pollen and nectar from," Holst said. With a pathway connecting areas, "bees and butterflies can go back and forth," she added. To Holst, now is the time to act to protect the pollinators.

"Our pollinating insects, our moths, butterflies, bees and even some of the birds that help to pollinate crops are getting seriously depleted, and if we don't have anything to pollinate the plants that we eat the food from, we're not going to have any food to eat," Holst said.

According to Holst, the event encourages homeowners to consider participating in the pathway. She said they will discuss the advantages of a "bee lawn" – planting native plants like clovers to provide "tremendous amounts of seeds" for pollinators. Holst added that these lawns of native plants require less upkeep than traditional "sterile" lawns.

"It's important to plant the right plants," she said. "When landscapers plant plants that are not native to this area, our insects don't go to them for what little nectar they have."



SEEDING A FUTURE: A stand built by Wayne Cabral of Clouds Hill Museum featuring information on pollinators and seed packets can be found at Saw Tooth building in Apponaug with offices for AAA Northeast and the Warwick City Hall Annex. Sue Cabeceiras of the Warwick Planning Department makes sure the stand has plenty of handouts. (Beacon Communications photo)

■ **POLLINATORS - PAGE 14**



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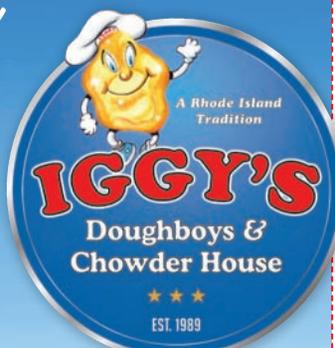
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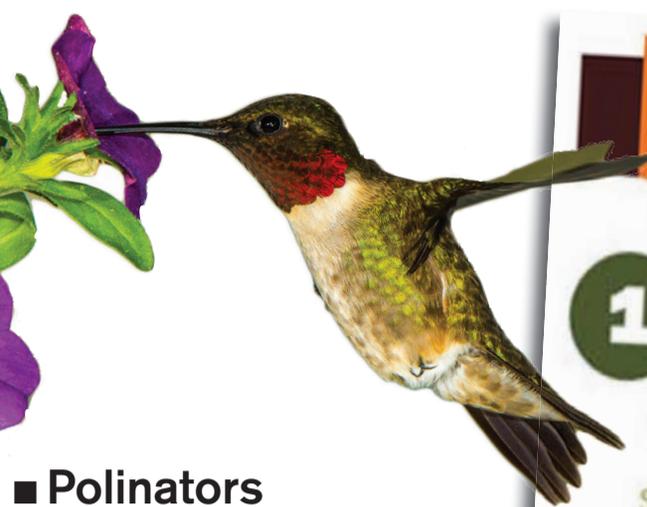
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Polinators
(Continued from page 13)

She added that native bees, which are solitary, only roam 600 feet from their nest. When surrounded by grassy lawns, they often perish, but the presence of native plants would sustain them.

She said Warwick is just starting out with pollinator pathways, but homeowners should take action on their own properties because "every little bit helps."

"If people would devote even just a small portion of their backyard to native plantings and to maybe not mowing a section of the lawn, that would be great," Holst said.

The event will feature experts including keynote speaker Nathan Lamb, a landscape designer from Kingston specializing in native plants, and Amy Otilige, a monarch butterfly keeper. Holst said that there will be speakers from the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, the Department of Environmental Management's Division of Agriculture and the Environmental Council of Rhode Island. A representative from the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Center in West Warwick has also been invited.

Lamb said his career has "bounced between horticulture and restoration ecology for the last 15 years." In 2020, he

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- 2 CHOOSE YOUR SITE**
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- 3 DETERMINE YOUR COVERAGE**

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started a business to take what he's learned about ecology to gardeners who "want a healthy relationship with the land." He said his talk will be "practical," providing "some advice on how to go about choosing plants and installing them in a way that will be more successful, pollinator-friendly, and still beautiful."

He hopes his talk will show that small changes can make a huge difference. "Even the right plant in the window box will bring pollinators," Lamb said. "And the more we all get to know them, up close and personal, the more we see their value and can work to make a world in which we both thrive."

Otilige— a butterfly enthusiast who has raised 1,300 butterflies since 2014— said her presentation will include book recommendations, information about milkweed, plant suggestions and an activity for children to raise awareness about butterflies. Like many pollinators, the monarch butterfly population is slowly decreasing due to changes in climate and the environment.

"I'm really hoping that it will entice and show interest," she added. "If I can encourage people to do something, that is great." She said is receptive to helping people as they begin their gardens.

Holst added that this event is geared towards "people interested in gardening and school aged groups." Building pollinator pathways is a great scout project, she added.

She added that there is currently a kiosk of small packets of wildflower seeds at City Hall if residents want to use them for their yard.



WORKSHOP VENUE: Clouds Hill Museum in the Cowesett section of Warwick is the site for the pollinator workshop set for Sept. 30. (Beacon Communications photo)



Anthony T. Goss as Lincoln and Marc Pierre as Booth give powerful performances in Gamm's "Topdog/Underdog."

Gritty, powerful "Topdog/Underdog" at Gamm

Theatre Review by **DON FOWLER**

While Artistic Director Tony Estrella is off performing at Massachusetts's Huntington Theatre, he has brought in two powerful Boston based actors to play the roles of brothers Lincoln and Booth in Suzan-Lori Parks' "Topdog/Underdog."

Director Cliff Dole creates the somber atmosphere by setting the two-act play in the round (Or should I say square) on a raised stage representing Booth's sparse rented room.

To get to your seat, you must pass by Gamm's darkened original seating area and a long corridor before entering another world.

Booth (Marc Pierre) is the younger brother whose abandoning parents left him with the responsibility of caring for Lincoln (Anthony T. Goss) who has squandered their small inheritance.

Booth is interested in pursuing "economic opportunities" by learning his brother's former con of three card monte. But Lincoln has just started a new job portraying a white-faced Abraham Lincoln (Did I mention the brothers are Black?) at a local arcade.

Booth allows Lincoln to stay with

him temporarily and the two spend a few days together at times bonding, and at times fighting as the two recall their past, trying to deal with the present, and dreaming for a better future.

The two actors are excellent. Parks' writing is sharp, to the point, but at times difficult to catch as she writes in the dialect of street-wise inner city characters.

We never see the third character, Booth's girlfriend, Grace. At times I wondered if she really existed.

We learn about the brothers' checked history and feel for them as if we doubt if they are ever going to rise above their situation.

It all comes down to the final intense, allegorical scene, which will leave you breathless.

"Topdog/Underdog" is at times a tough play to watch. You feel for the brothers and doubt if there is any hope for them. They let you into a world that most of us never experienced.

A warning that there is a great deal of profanity and street language that may offend some.

"Topdog/Underdog" is at Warwick's Gamm Theatre through October 1. Call 723-4266 for reservations.



Gamm's "Topdog/Underdog" stars Anthony T. Goss and Marc Pierre.

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Sports

Lions run past Panthers

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston football team was run over by visiting Lincoln in the season opener last week, as the Lions surged in the second half to grab the 30-7 win.

Johnston trailed just 8-0 at halftime, but would lose control early in the third quarter and fall behind. The Panthers failed to recover the opening kickoff in the third quarter and the Lions gained possession at the Johnston 22-yard line to set up a score moments later to make it 15-0. Lincoln would score again on its next offensive drive to extend the lead to 22-0.

Johnston's offense would finally break through and march downfield, capping off a long drive when Matt Clements connected with Michael Carlino for a score to make it 22-7.

Johnston would recover the ensuing onside kick and seemed poised to make a run at a comeback. The Panthers would once again stumble, though, as a shotgun snap was sailed over Clements' head back into Johnston territory which would kill the drive.

"I thought (recovering the onside kick) was going to be the turning point right there. We score to



SEASON OPENER: Johnston's Michael Carlino (left) and Jacob Spinella during the team's opening night game. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

■ PANTHERS - PAGE 17

Balling 'till the sun goes out

Midnight hoops program aims to bridge community gaps

By ADAM ZANGARI

Throughout this summer, the Kent County YMCA has played host to the Rhode Island Midnight Basketball League (RIMBL), and as the sun set on the month of August, organizers celebrated a successful first year back.

The RIMBL aims to bridge gaps between the community and the police, according to Greater Providence YMCA CEO Steve O'Donnell, who helped organize the league with Greater Providence YMCA COO Kobi Dennis.

The program returned from a ten-

■ HOOPS - PAGE 18



THE GAME'S MENTAL SIDE: East Providence firefighter Edson Evora, playing with the Rhode Island State Police team, prepares to shoot a free throw.

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Championship venues not a crisis

University of Rhode Island athletic director Thorr Bjorn was recently on WRPO doing an interview and said that he hopes to one day bring the Rhode Island Interscholastic League state championships to campus, specifically football and soccer to Meade Stadium. It is a topic that has been on the table since I arrived here five years ago that clearly is still very much in the forefront of people's minds.

To put it politely, coaches want out of Cranston Stadium for football. I have had many coaches over the years say that, whether it is on social media, on the record, off the record, most coaches in the state feel that the Stadium has gone stale and no longer provides the big arena atmosphere that you'd like to see these championships have.

Soccer state championships have bounced around a bit so I will stick to football when it comes to Cranston Stadium.

To be frank, I don't understand the heat that the Stadium has with coach-

es. Sure, it does not feel like a big arena, but it provides everything needed, especially for those not involved in the game itself.

It provides adequate seating, parking, concessions, restrooms. It's centrally located in the state, has quality field conditions, lighting, PA systems, scoreboards, locker rooms. Does atmosphere really trump all of those amenities?

Sure, these colleges would provide all of that plus atmosphere, so I am certainly not saying that I feel that the RIIL shouldn't rally together to extract them from Cranston. I just don't totally understand why so many people are treating the Stadium as this old, run down facility. It is still perfectly capable of hosting big events.

I'm not sure how money is involved but I am going to assume that it is cheaper for the league to work with the Stadium rather than these colleges. Considering the number of people fighting for the move, I'd assume money has to be what is keeping the championships in the

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
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city. There has been such an outcry over the past few years as well as local college big wigs expressing interest that you'd think the league must be feeling some degree of pressure.

Again, I am not against a potential move to say URI, Brown or Bryant. I think it would be cool to see these games played in these arenas. I am totally satisfied with the Stadium, though, and am in no rush to leave.

Atmosphere is generated by the fans in attendance more than anything. Yes, it's cool to be playing in a large facility with big stands, scoreboards, loud speakers. Without fans, though, it

just feels a bit empty. I have watched championship games be played in large stadiums in the past and there have been times where the fans almost get drowned out. As big as high school sports are, there are some arenas that just aren't designed for say, only 2,000 fans.

If there is any reason to move on from the Stadium, it is just for something new. Not because it is inadequate, not because it has failed to live up to its end of the bargain. Sometimes a change of scenery is refreshing, which I understand, but don't tell me that the championships need to go.

This topic is making me dig up an old topic that I have harped on many times before, but this whole conversation once again is a reminder that the Mickey Stevens com-

plex in Warwick should still be renovated. Those plans should be put back on the table.

As the years have gone by, those plans have been pushed further back on the burner to the point that they seem to be completely disregarded. At one point, it seemed almost certain that they would go through, but things have changed.

A brief refresher, former Warwick mayor Joe Solomon proposed a plan that would completely revitalize Mickey Stevens and make it a massive, new athletic complex. It would include a new football stadium, baseball fields and tennis courts. Although since those plans were proposed the city has kept the complex in better condition than a few years ago, it is still a disappointing, underwhelming facility that has so much po-

tential.

The city should dig up the blueprint and break ground. Not only would it give the city something of great value, but it could also bid to be the new site that people are looking for. Cranston Stadium's capacity is reportedly 5,000, although I have heard it ranges as low as 1,800. Either way, a new stadium with 5,000 seats should be doable at Mickey Stevens with all of that land. Make a big stadium to host football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey. Then make a new baseball field with new tennis courts and field house. Boom.

Once again, I am sure money was the biggest factor in putting these plans to bed which is a shame. That is a potential goldmine just sitting there waiting to be cashed in on, but the city is too afraid to go for it.



BLIND SIDE: Johnston tackle Christian Sonner delivers a block.

■ Panthers

(Continued from page 16)

make it 22-7, then we get the ball back. At that point we thought, 'OK now it's our turn to make a run, we are in this,' but then more mistakes," said Johnston head coach Joe Acciardo after the loss.

It was all Lincoln in the fourth quarter as the Lions added another insurance score to finish the 30-7 win.

"We just made too many mistakes. What is frustrating is that we have been making all of those same mistakes at

practice. We got served some humble pie tonight, we saw these mistakes coming but thought we could just play through them. Lincoln took advantage of every mistake that we made," said Acciardo. "These issues are easy to fix, but we have to work harder at practice. Just because we are making plays in practice doesn't mean we can just make those same plays in the game. We have a long way to go."

The Panthers fell to 0-1 on the season but will be playing its league opener this Friday night when they take on Rogers at home.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Type of crayon
- Fashion accessory
- Most cerebral
- Incline from vertical
- Dependent on
- Broken in
- Strongly desires
- Mounted soldier
- Ad ___: when necessary
- Cattle
- Ottoman military commanders
- ___ student, learns healing
- Composed in poetic meter
- Promotional material
- Where people live
- Sodium
- Embarrassing
- Medical man
- Mother of Hermes
- One who saves the day
- Tooth caregiver
- Not clothed

- Slope covered with loose stones
- Used to cook
- Praises enthusiastically
- Rooney is a famous one
- Beekeeper
- Pigpen
- Potato chip brand

CLUES DOWN

- Living quarters
- Horizontal passage
- Attacks
- Vietnamese offensive
- Midway between east and southeast
- Confined (abbr.)
- Book of Esther antagonist
- Port in Yemen
- CNN's founder
- Type of bulb
- Prepare
- Promoted

- Dinner jackets
- Partner to cheese
- Nebraska city
- Human gene
- Pays no attention to
- Lowland South American plain
- Blood group
- Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano
- Atomic #37
- Unit of electrical resistance
- Jeweled crowns
- Nastiest
- Traditional cars need it
- Bowler hat
- Robust
- Not straight
- Stony waste matter
- Have an interest in
- Jacob ___, journalist
- Maintains possession of
- Swiss river
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Locals lead Stonehill to win

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Senior placekicker Perry Shelbred (Ridgefield, Connecticut/John Jay (N.Y.)) delivered a program-record matching 52-yard field goal as time expired to lift Stonehill College to a 33-30 triumph over Central Connecticut State University to open its second Northeast Conference campaign at Arute Field this afternoon.

Shelbred's career-best field goal matches the program-best set by Joe Crowley, '04 against Bryant University during the 2003 season and marked the Skyhawks first 50-plus yarder since Matt Haite, '20 converted from 51-yards at Saint Anselm College in 2019. The field goal also staved off a 23-point fourth quarter comeback effort from Central Connecticut who erased a 16-point deficit after three quarters of play to knot the score twice in the final 8:10, including a pair of two-point conversions, capped by a three-yard touchdown scamper by sophomore Ricky Ortega (Coates-

ville, Pennsylvania/Coatesville) with 63-seconds remaining in regulation.

Stonehill marched 40-yards in eight plays, led by 30 yards on the ground from senior preseason All-NEC running back Jermaine Corbett (Long Branch, New Jersey/Long Branch), to give Shelbred the gamewinning opportunity as time expired.

Corbett paced a Stonehill offense that finished with 399 yards of total offense with a game and career-high 238 all-purpose yards as he carried the ball 28 times for a season-high 182 yards and a score, while collecting five receptions for another 57. Senior Tom Comella (Johnston, Rhode Island/Bishop Hendricken) added 147 all-purpose, contributing 64 yards on seven carries, including a 47-yard touchdown run, with another 83 yards on three kickoff returns.

Junior quarterback Ashur Carraha (Cambridge, Massachusetts/Cambridge Rindge & Latin) completed 17-of-30 passes for 163 yards and two touchdowns, while

Shelbred also added a 22-yard field goal in the first half for Stonehill.

Senior Devin Fortes (Brockton, Massachusetts/Brockton) finished with a career-high seven tackles (five solo) on defense for Stonehill, while classmate Anthony LaMonica (Dorchester, Massachusetts/Buckingham Browne & Nichols) added a career-best six stops (three solo), including 1.0 tackles for a loss of ten yards, and a pass breakup. Senior Gardner Cousins (Newburyport, Massachusetts/The Governor's Academy) chipped in five tackles (career-high four solo), including a career-best 2.0 for a loss of two yards, while freshman Mahkai Wilson (Waterbury, Connecticut/St. Thomas More) had one of three fumble recoveries by the Skyhawks defense on the afternoon.

Junior CJ Duell (Toms River, New Jersey/St. John Vianney) passed for 299 yards by completing 18-of-28 passes with a touchdown to lead a Central Connecticut State offense that posted 420 total yards. Classmate Isiah Williams (Germantown, Maryland/Northwest) caught seven passes for a game-high 95 yards, while freshman Naj Johnson (Liverpool, New York/Jireh Prep) totaled 64 yards on two catches, including a 51-yard touchdown.

Junior Kimal Clark (Lackawanna, New York/St. Francis) posted a game-high ten tackles (four solo) to lead the CCSU defense, while classmate Dan Toatley (Trenton, New Jersey/Lawrence) added six stops (two solo), including 2.0 for a loss of 13 yards.

SECOND QUARTER

Stonehill reclaimed the lead 2:19 into the second quarter as Corbett capped a ten-play, 66-yard drive with a two-yard touchdown rush after CCSU missed on a 51-yard field goal late in the first quarter.

Shelbred gave Stonehill a nine-point halftime lead (16-7) with his 22-yard field goal with 4:38 remaining in the quarter.

THIRD QUARTER

Stonehill extended its lead to 23-7 with six minutes left in the third quarter with a 47-yard touchdown run by Comella on third and six on the Skyhawks second possession of the half.

FOURTH QUARTER

CCSU got its comeback started with a 21-yard touchdown run from junior Davion Johnson (Bedford Heights, Ohio/Bedford) with 9:26 remaining, converting the two-point conversion with a Duell pass to senior tight end Jadd Dolegala (Hamburg, New York/St. Francis).

The Blue Devils knotted the score when freshman Trey Howe (Uxbridge, Massachusetts/Assumption) was able to get a hand on a Stonehill punt, then scooped the loose ball and returned it 15 yards for the score. CCSU pulled even when Davion Johnson caught the two-point conversion from Duell with 8:10 to play.

Stonehill responded to the shift in momentum with a seven-play, 67-yard scoring drive capped by a six-yard Carraha toss to junior Jake Newsham (Paxton, Massachusetts/Saint John's of Shrewsbury) with 4:05 remaining for his first career touchdown reception.

CCSU followed with its second tying score of the quarter, and third of the game overall, with the Ortega keeper with 1:03 remaining to wrap up an eight play, 77-yard drive.

Corbett opened Stonehill's game-winning drive with a 13-yard gain and added a 17-yard run on third and four from the Skyhawks 44. Carraha completed a short four-yard pass to Domercant to the CCSU 35, but the drive stalled there, before Shelbred delivered his record-breaking game-winner as the clock expired.

FIRST QUARTER

Stonehill took advantage of a Central Connecticut fumble on the first play of the game, recovered by junior linebacker Marc Christian Georges (Stoughton, Massachusetts/Stoughton) at the CCSU 47, and grabbed an opening touchdown as junior wide receiver Chris Domercant (Bellingham, Massachusetts/Bellingham) hauled in a 12-yard touchdown toss in the left corner of the end zone three minutes into the game.

CCSU knotted the score with 5:42 remaining in the opening quarter as Duell connected with Johnson for a 51-yard touchdown to cap a six-play, 80-yard scoring drive.

Hoops

(Continued from page 16)

year hiatus due to lack of funding, according to O'Donnell.

"It takes a lot of money, time and effort to run a program like this," Dennis said. "The referees, the scorekeepers, all the young people in the orange shirts, we hired them for the summer."

According to Dennis, the process of restarting the league started in January, with calls to potential sponsors. The league's goal of spreading messages against drunk driving and for financial literacy resonated with sponsors, and led to the money that the league needed to get back off the ground.

Dennis and O'Donnell chose the Kent County YMCA as a host in large part due to the facilities and its central location within Rhode Island.

"This was done by design," O'Donnell said. "It's the middle of the state. You've got to come drive here, and nobody knows where this is beyond the Y."

O'Donnell said that he was "shocked" by the talent level of interested players in the league's first

year back, with some players having international professional experience.

The RIMBL offers three different basketball leagues- the "Off the Couch" league, which consists mainly of local law enforcement employees and other people involved in emergency services, the "Almost Pros" league, which consists of other community members, and a women's league. The former two leagues both had their championships last Thursday night.

The league boasts fifteen sponsors, with the main sponsor of the rebooted league's first season being Centreville Bank, who invested \$50,000 into the league. Centreville Bank president and CEO Hal Horvat said that it "didn't take too much convincing" to become the league's main sponsor.

"There's nice courts, it's at night, it's something to do," Horvat said. "I think once folks have come out they've seen it's good basketball and there's been more consistency and it's developed well."

Horvat's son Tom was one of the players on the Centreville Bank team, which wrapped up an undefeated season with a 61-59 win over Link Commer-

cial Properties in the Almost Pros championship. In the Off the Couch championship, the Rhode Island State Police team pulled away late against the Providence Police Department team and won 44-34.

Buy-in from both local communities and local police departments were crucial to the success of the league. According to Dennis, the league managed to assuage most concerns in both communities.

"A lot of the police didn't believe in programs like this as well," Dennis said. "But when they come out, they shake hands, they're shoulder-to-shoulder with community members, it's working."

Throughout the course of the year, the program has seen significant growth, and each league's finals had turnout in the triple digits.

As for next summer, O'Donnell and Dennis hope to grow the program to include more locations, as well as more teams involved.

"We're trying to keep it going every summer for the next ten years and as long as I'm at the YMCA," Dennis said. "I'd like to have all 39 cities and towns in the state involved- that's my goal."

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Ponaug Bait & Tackle has community roots

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Tom Olson, owner of Ponaug Bait & Tackle at 287 Arnolds Neck Road, Warwick (the old Ray's Bait location), has been a member of the Warwick and Apponaug community all his life. He grew up in Warwick, is a graduate of Tollgate High School and worked for Ray Chase, owner of Rhode Island Boat Moving at Ponaug Marina which his son Dave Chase runs today.

The new shop has all the bait anglers are interested in this time of year, i.e., squid, silver-sides, crabs, eels, clam worms, shiners and more. He also has a variety of tackle, new gear and some slightly used gear for sale. "My brother-in-law upgraded all the gear on his charter boat, so we have much of the old gear from him and others on sale," said Tom.

Last week I purchased green crabs for a charter fishing trip. I reserved them the night before when Tom said, "I only have a few gallons left so I will put some aside for you." I appreciated the effort but thought, oh boy the last of the crabs, they are going to be limp and not lively. To my surprise they were fresh looking and alive, Tom had stored them not in the refrigerator but naturally in the Apponaug Cove water behind his store.

This is the type of service and product Ponaug Bait & Tackle is offering customers. They are open at 6 a.m. weekends in the Fall, and 7 a.m. weekdays, the shop closes at 6 p.m. However, if you are planning a trip and need access to the shop Tom asks that you give him a call and make a special arrangement like I did when I bought the green crabs that allowed my charter customers to catch their first keeper tautog.

Fly fishing clinic for women

If you are a woman, and think you want to learn how to fly fish, now is the time to give it a try at the Women's Introductory Fly Fishing Clinic, Saturday, September 23, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The clinic is being held at the South Kingstown Land Trust Barn, 17 Matunuck Beach Road, South Kingstown.

Susan Estabrook, clinic coordinator said, "The clinic is sponsored by the Rhode Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited in collaboration with the South Kingstown Land Trust. Early registration is suggested as the clinic class size is limited. The cost is \$25 and including lunch." To register email susan@ysrinc.com and include "Women's Clinic" in the subject line of your email.

The workshop will cover an overview of fly fishing rods, reels and lines; basic fly fishing knots and terminology; how to make a roll cast and when to use it; and how to make a pick up and lay down cast. Anglers will paractice casting with certified fly fishing instructors on the grass at the Land Trust Barn.

Rhode Islanders finish 1, 2 and 3 in Boston Bluefin Classic

Nick Papa of South Kingstown, RI, captain of the vessel Ruthless, took first place in the Boston Bluefin Classic tournament held September 3 to 6 with a 788 giant bluefin tuna caught



COMMUNITY ROOTS: Tom Olson of the new Ponaug Bait & Tackle, 287 Arnolds Neck Road, grew up in Warwick, who went Tollgate High School and worked for RI Boat Moving at Ponaug Marina. (Submitted photo)

off Scarborough Beach, Narragansett in 100 feet of water with a bluefish filet as bait.

Congratulations also to team Mission Critical captained by Brad Righi also from Rhode Island who took second place with a 783 pound bluefin. And, to charter captain Rob Taylor. His boat Reel EZ from Newport finished third place in the tournament with a 781-pound fish.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass, bluefish, false albacore and bonito. This week the bluefish were being caught throughout Narragansett Bay with the hot spot being between Gould Island north of the Newport Bridge to Hope Island and Prudence Island.

Angler Max O'Connell of Cranston said, "We caught about a dozen school striped bass and monster bluefish off the southern tip of Prudence Island trolling tube and worm Saturday," when he picked up more worms Sunday at Ponaug Bait & Tackle.

Jay Marshall of Sam's Bait, Middletown, said, "The bluefish and striped bass bite from the beaches off Middletown and Newport has been very good. Most anglers are using top water lures with success with customers also catching false albacore off the Sakonnet River."

Tom Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle, said, "The bluefish bite has been outstanding in Greenwich Bay and even Apponaug Cove in Warwick. Fish are hitting all types of swimming lures."

"The false albacore bite has been good from outside of the Breachway down to Point Judith. Dozens of schools of mackerel, peanut bunker and rain bait. Epoxy and metal jigs rigged with a teaser seem to be producing bites. As well as Albie Snax and small swimbaits. Bonito are still being caught too," said Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown. "Striper fishing in the ponds

and breachways has been producing good number of fish up to around 40 inches."

"Tautog fishing is fairly slow in the Bay and rivers around dock piles but fish are being caught off Newport," said Jay Marshall of Sam's Bait.

"Tautog fishing seems to be heating up a bit with fish to around 7 pounds caught this week along local reefs," said O'Donnell.

Black sea bass, scup and summer flounder. "Scup fishing is good throughout the Bay with a fairly strong black sea bass bite in the lower Bay. Not many fluke being caught in the Bay," said Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence.

Tuna and mahi fishing. "There are giants being caught off Narragansett. Fish in the 700-pound range are common with anglers who have never fishing for bluefin or yellow fin school tuna buying gear and catching fish," said Henault of Ocean State Tackle.

"Offshore, the tuna bite south of Block Island continues to produce well for yellowfin and bluefin. Fish are being caught on the troll, jigging, and chunking with quite a few mahi around the highflyers and debris. More tuna was seen off Charlestown/Green Hill with giants being caught off Pt. Judith to Beavertail," said O'Donnell.

"Freshwater fishing for largemouth bass remains good with many anglers using shiners. Ponds producing for include Olney Pond at Lincoln Woods and Stump Pond, Smithfield," said Henault.

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.noflukefishing.com.

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Simple tips to improve your status with mortgage lenders

Owni ng a home is a dream shared by millions of people. Investing in property that can be owned within 15 to 30 years of closing on the home makes more financial sense to many than continuing to rent and having little to show for it over time.

The first step to take when planning to enter the real estate market is to ensure that your finances are in order. Various factors will influence individuals' ability to secure a mortgage, and these are some ways to make yourself more attractive to prospective lenders.

- Check your credit report. Lenders will check your credit report before deciding if you are a risk or a safe bet for a mortgage. So it makes sense to check your credit report prior to speaking with a lender. The Federal Trade Commission says everyone can get one free credit report a year from each of the three credit reporting bureaus. If you split it up, you can get a credit report every four months so you are aware of anything that may adversely affect your ability to get a mortgage loan. A credit (FICO) score that's too low may disqualify you from a mort-



gage. Each lender sets its own thresholds when they price and approve loans, but the higher your credit score, the better.

- Improve credit standing. One way to improve your status in the eyes of lenders is

to pay down credit card balances to reduce your credit utilization ratio. A high utilization occurs when there is a high balance in relation to the credit limit, says Business Insider. Also, it may be wise to avoid any

credit inquiries through new credit card applications for several months before applying for a loan, as these inquiries can affect your score.

- Be realistic about what you can afford. Do your homework and determine your target interest rate and monthly payment as well as what down payment you can afford. It will help you research potential lenders and provide an idea of what may be offered to you.

- Pay bills on time. Paying bills promptly not only helps you avoid late fees, but also positively affects your credit. The financial resource The Mortgage Reports urges diligence when paying rent, as late rent payments can bar you from getting a mortgage. Lenders look at rent history as the biggest indicator of whether you'll make mortgage payments on time.

These are some of the ways to make a prospective home buyer look better in the eyes of mortgage lenders. Individuals can speak with financial professionals about what else they can do to improve the possibility of securing mortgages at the best rates possible.

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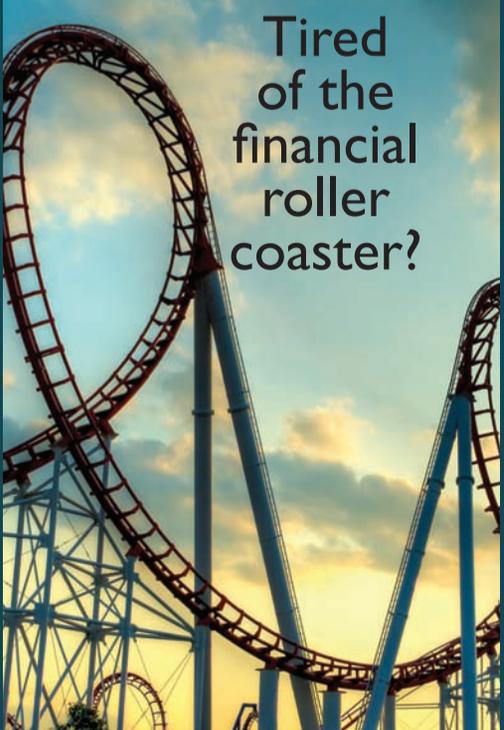
If you would like to step off the financial roller coaster onto solid ground, we have some suggestions:

- Evaluate your investments
- Determine your state of risk
- Review your needs
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Contact Steve Volpe at GCU Wealth Advisors. He would be glad to help evaluate your needs and make suggestions to help secure your financial goals.

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By Travis Landry
Auctioneer & Specialist
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As a middle-aged person, you could be sitting on a treasure trove you never even thought of... your old clothes! As everything vintage-retro continues to rise in popularity amongst millennials and even more so gen-x, you would be surprised what your old, worn-out t-shirts and sweatshirts can be worth today.

The craze originally started about five years ago, but back then was primarily focused on t-shirts, especially vintage concert shirts. Any t-shirt produced before 1994 is known by collectors for their iconic single stitching. This is referring to the stitching around the arm cuffs and collars. Modern era (post 1994) shirts have a double stitching that creates a stronger hold, keeping the form of the shirt. Thus, vintage shirts were prone to stretching and tearing and wore out as they lacked the elasticity of modern era clothing.

The really interesting part though is what originally started as a new collecting trend has turned into mainstream fashion. People are not just buying old shirts with stains and holes to collect, but to wear! Ironically enough the more beat up (yet still functional) the shirt is, the better in the eyes of every trendy fashionista. "Thrashed" is the term used today to describe an article of clothing that is heavily worn, stained, and tattered – but still useable. Have an old 1990's Champion crewneck sweater you painted your house with three different times over twenty years? Perfect! You've just entered the world of high fashion. Now, it does take the right buyer and marketplace to sell these things, but when you reach it, you won't be throwing your old concert t-shirts into the donation bin anymore!

If you are sitting at home and have been contemplating emptying out the spare room closet or totes of 1990's Guns 'N Roses and Motley Crue t-shirts, you'll want to have an expert take a look first. For example, earlier this year at Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers we had a 1984 Ozzy Osbourne Rules graphic t-shirt that was heavily worn. The shirt was stretched, had multiple holes, and one sleeve was cut; It was the definition of "thrashed" - and it sold for \$190.00 in our auction! Will you be able to retire early off one shirt? Nope... but if you have fifty of them, it's a good start! When the time comes, give me a call!



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