

The Mayor vs. The Governor

How can the taxpayers of Johnston possibly win?

By RORY SCHULER

When the mayor fights the governor, who wins? Probably not Johnston's taxpayers.

Hostilities have been building between Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr., who has been in office for fewer than 10 months, and Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee.

When Polisena's father was mayor, McKee made frequent trips to Johnston for ribbon-cuttings and major announcements. Joseph M. Polisena sat next to McKee in the Johnston High auditorium as the plans for the giant Amazon on the hill were first revealed to the public.

They were buddies for years, since McKee himself was a small town mayor.

But suddenly, the relationship crumbled in public, around the same time Polisena Jr., an attorney, left his job at the State House (inside sources tell different, competing tales of the new mayor's severance from the job; Polisena Jr. says on the record that he left the post to focus on his private law practice, and eventual run for mayor to succeed his father).

Last month, Polisena Jr. refused to sign on to McKee's Learn365 plan, arguing that the government spending program could lock the town into unforeseen expenses down the road. According to the governor's office, Johnston tops a short list of just four Ocean State municipalities — which also includes Exeter, West Greenwich and Tiverton — who have not signed the pledge.

■ FEUD - PAGE 5



HAPPIER TIMES: Former Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Sr. and his son Joseph M. Polisena Jr. posed with then-Lt. Gov. Dan McKee at the younger Polisena's first political fundraiser in 2019. McKee went on to become Rhode Island's governor and Polisena succeeded his father as mayor. A fissure seems to have formed between the pair of former political allies and "family friends." (Sun Rise file photo)

He's Johnston's Columbus now

By RORY SCHULER



Johnston resident and Italian-American Raena Calisi stood at the juncture of the tiny bridge and the small island in the center of the pond in War Memorial Park.

"He was an explorer!" She yelled, her voice matching her opponent's.

A few feet away, protester and fellow Italian-American Joseph Gizzarelli of Providence chanted, "Murder! Genocide! Is this Italian pride?"

Calisi shouted back. "He was an explorer!"

"Murderer!" Gizzarelli screamed his reply.

"Explorer!"

"Murderer!"

"Explorer!"

"Rapist!" Gizzarelli's younger sister Sarah, the event's only other protester, added her voice. "You're bringing your children to celebrate a rapist and a murderer!"

■ STATUE - PAGE 8

PIKACHU PEEK: Youngsters climbed onto shoulders for a glimpse of Johnston's new Christopher Columbus statue. More photos inside. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

When a structure's not a structure

Editor's Note: This is the second installment of a series looking at the newest iteration of the proposed Winsor Avenue solar farm. Look for part three in next week's edition. The series is expected to conclude following the Nov. 2 continuation of the Zoning Board special use permit hearing.

Solar company argues nearly 50,000 solar panels aren't legally considered 'structures'

By RORY SCHULER

State zoning laws define a structure. Do solar panels qualify? How about more than 46,000 solar panels?

Solar field developers pitching an industrial solar farm to cover approximately 160 acres of mostly forested land in a residentially zoned

Johnston neighborhood argue their solar panels don't fit the definition of a structure.

According to the Rhode Island zoning laws, a "structure" is defined as "a combination of materials to form a construction for use, occupancy, or ornamentation, whether installed on, above, or below the surface of land or water."

■ SOLAR - PAGE 6



CRAVING SUNSHINE: At right, the agenda rack was picked clean at the meeting. For a while, it was standing room only at the Senior Center. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



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Senior 'Spotlite'



IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Father and son, Richard Giusti Sr. and Richard Giusti Jr., both answered the call to serve. Sr. served in the U.S. Army and Jr. is a Johnston firefighter. The elder Giusti has found some solace and new friendships at the Johnston Senior Center. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

Please help dad feel just a little bit better

Johnston Senior Center tells worried son 'mission accepted'

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

The Johnston Senior Center Spotlite this week shines on a father and son, Richard Giusti Sr. and Richard Giusti Jr., who both answered the call to serve.

When he was in his early 20s, Richard Sr. joined the Army in service of his country, following the call of duty and patriotism. After his time in the military, he forged a career as a mason, showcasing his skills throughout the state.

He and his wife were married for over 65 years, a testament to their unwavering commitment to each other, where he established a strong work ethic and many meaningful and long relationships. Later in life, he faced his most challenging experience, the loss of his life partner. The loss was heartbreaking and he was in need of a means to cope.

His son, Richard Jr., who also serves our community by way of the Johnston Fire Department, a well respected public servant, who like all our first responders, we owe a debt of gratitude for their service, came to the center in hope he might find assistance by helping to "re-socialize" his father. That scenario is not unusual. So many caretakers, sons and daughters, struggle and feel the pain of their loved ones loss, and sometimes help or a "cure" seem so distant.

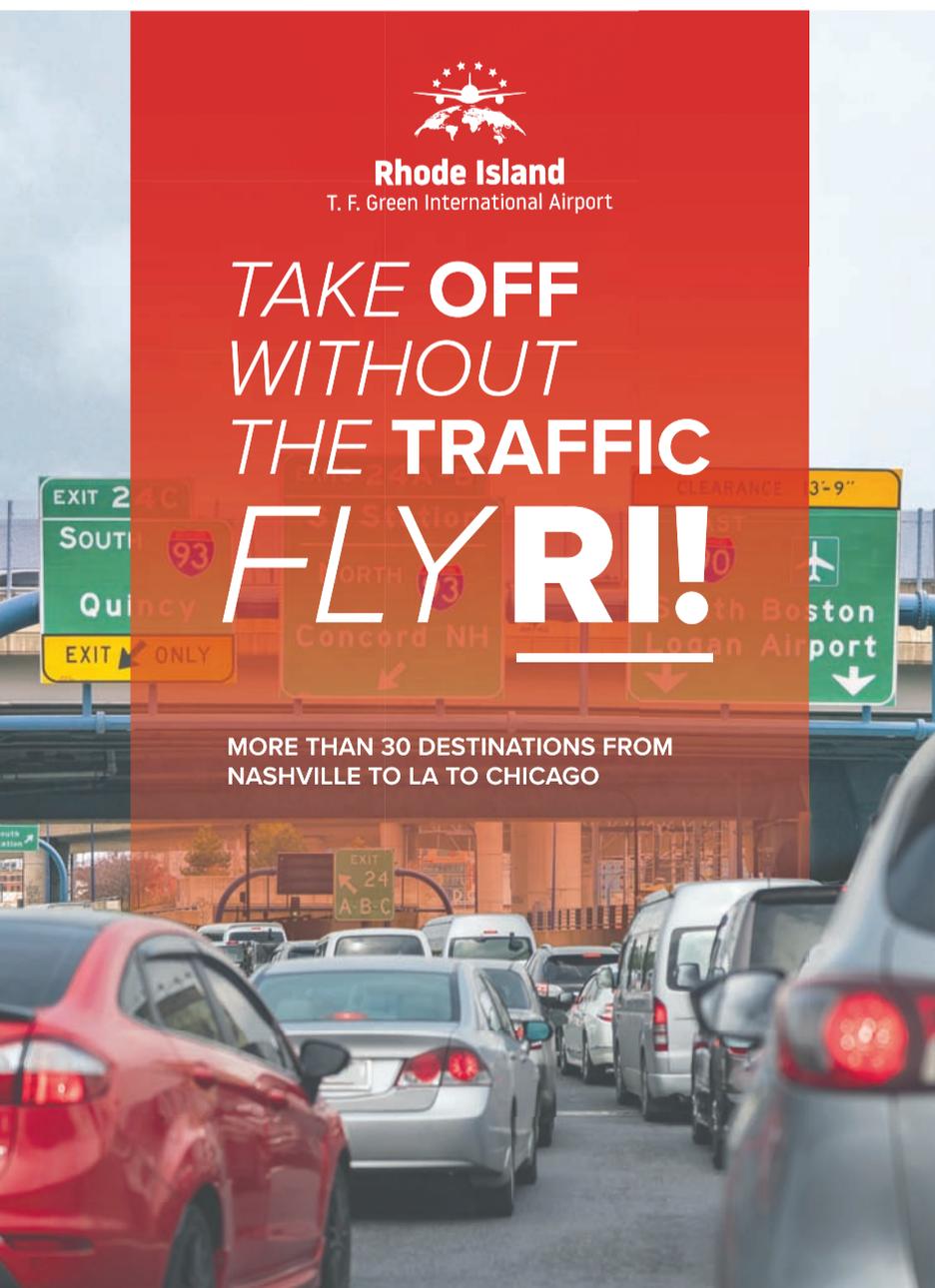
Richard Jr. says the Johnston Senior Center has had "a profound impact on his fathers life."

Here at the Johnston Senior Center, Richard Sr. has found solace among others who have experienced similar loss. He has made new friends, who help with the coping and provide invaluable support.

According to his son, "the JSC has opened a new chapter in his father's life, filled with new experience, laughter, and a sense of purpose. He now embraces each day with enthusiasm, and that spark of happiness has returned to his eyes."

For those who work in a field such as this, there is no greater reward than to feel your efforts are so well appreciated, but more so to know our work can make life our neighbors' lives just a little more tolerable. Although the loss for many is never re-gained fully, through coffee or lunch with new friends, a game of bocce, or a relaxing day trip, one can maybe find a little peace, and maybe the return of a sense of happiness.

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.



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2023 JHS Homecoming



PANTHER ROYALTY: Although the annual Homecoming King and Queen Coronation was moved from halftime to pre-kickoff, there were countless cheers for this year's top vote-getters, Panther football standout King Steve Finnegan and Co-Queens Hanna Lavergne and Alesandra Pessare, who wound up in a tie. (Courtesy photo)

The Panthers came home and kicked some Husky tail

By PETE FONTAINE

Johnston High School's 2023 Homecoming will long be remembered as one for the ages.

For example, the oldest participant in Saturday's colorful Homecoming parade was Ida Acciaro, 96, who enjoyed riding in a golf cart driven by her son and JHS Head Football Coach Joe Acciaro.

The coach drove his cousin Gary Salzillo's spiffy Northeast Auto Body golf cart along the entire route as he and his mighty mom were greeted by applauding parade-goers.

The youngest marchers represented upstart grid-iron mini pigskin warriors who play on various teams from the Johnston Youth Football Panthers who added super spirit to the parade and were accompanied by their dedicated volunteer coaches.

Of course, there were many proud town officials headed by Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr., dozens of spirited JHS undergrads who were surrounded by four of the most impressive handmade student floats in recent memory, as well as the national award-winning Marching Panther Band under the direction of JHS Mu-

sic Chair Ron Lamoureux.

Sandwiched in between were nearly four dozen Herculean Heroes – a.k.a. JHS' undefeated football Panthers who made Mount Hope High's Huskies from Warren and Bristol their fourth victim in as many Rhode Island Interscholastic League starts.

Likewise, the parade — which escaped the predicted rain washout — attracted one of the largest spectator galleries ever, including people of all ages who lined both sides of Atwood Avenue, as well as the entire route.

"Today seems extra special," offered Bob Deming, the popular supervisor of the well-maintained Joseph M. Polisena Stadium. "This is Panther Pride at its very best!"

The same held true for the four floats made by students in the Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027, all of whose unlimited imagination and creativity and in some cases featured moving parts, such as a train wheel and Husky waving for help in a cage.

The grand champion float had a monopoly game theme titled "Panthers Pass Go" and the Husky in jail and symbolized Mount Hope losing. The Panther rode toward the end zone on a train with a football in hand.

"Destroy all Hope" was the Class of 2024's theme with the first section a backdrop of the visiting school with an excavator operated by a Panther, wrecking the school and dumping it in the trash. At the end zone, a Panther was jackhammering the goal post to make the Husky fall off.

The Class of 2025's theme was "Ice Them Out" featuring an Arctic scene replete with a snowball and polar bear trying to tackle a Panther who was headed for a touchdown.

For the Class of 2027, the theme was "Wild West" with the Panther lassoing the Mount Hope Husky and the goal post was a cactus.

Although the annual Homecoming King and Queen Coronation was moved from halftime to pre-kickoff, there were countless cheers for this year's top vote-getters, Panther football standout King Steve Finnegan and Co-Queens Hanna Lavergne and Alesandra Pessare, who wound up in a tie.

In keeping with tradition, the Johnston Police and Fire Departments added to the pageantry with the JPD's classy color guard leading the parade, led by a cruiser, and the JFD's red shiny apparatus completing the impressive line-up for 2023.



PANTHER DANCER: The famous JHS mascot displayed unmatched spirit during Saturday's Homecoming Parade. Turn to pages 10 & 11 for more Homecoming photos. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

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Pride of Lions serve breakfast with pride

By PETE FONTAINE



SUPER SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS: Above, the nine people who prepared and served Saturday's annual Johnston Lions Club Alumni Breakfast were from left: Joe Sabetta, Carol Sabetta, Wendy Buono, Paul Buono, Joe Swift, Al Savage, Carol Civetti, Robert Civetti and David Civetti. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

It's an unmatched and unique tradition as well as an excellent example of community spirit and support at the highest level.

It happened late Saturday morning inside the spacious and nearly full Johnston High School cafeteria where the Johnston Lions Club hosted and served nearly 250 people during the annual Homecoming Alumni Breakfast.

Perhaps the most amazing thing is that the Johnston Lions Club is small in numbers — it has less than a dozen members — yet the long-serving group has been sponsoring the alumni breakfast for the past 15 years.

"As the old adage goes, 'Time flies,'" said Joseph Swift, 80, King Lion and longtime JLC president. "We really enjoy doing this breakfast; our members and their wives have always enjoyed doing this."

A total of nine people — including "Big Al" Savage who is 90 years old — prepared food and then served people of all ages as well as students during what many people called "a big Johnston alumni homecoming reunion."

Once the colorful and classic Homecoming Parade was over, people started filing into the JHS cafeteria for the "Rite of October" and went through the line and were served by Swift, Savage, Joe and Carol Sabetta, Wendy and Paul Buono, Carol and Councilman Robert Civetti and his brother David Civetti, who put together a menu that included scrambled eggs, hash browns, crispy strips of bacon, sausage, French toast with maple syrup, water, juice and of course coffee.

Saturday's alumni breakfast drew rave reviews from a host of people who enjoyed what they called "some great food" and of course a chance to catch up with alumni they haven't seen in a few years.

"This is just another example of Panther Pride at its best," several people said while reminiscing about their days at JHS and talking about the football Homecoming Game vs. visiting Mount Hope High's Huskies from Warren and Bristol that Coach Joe Acciaro's undefeated team made their fourth victim of the 2023 season.

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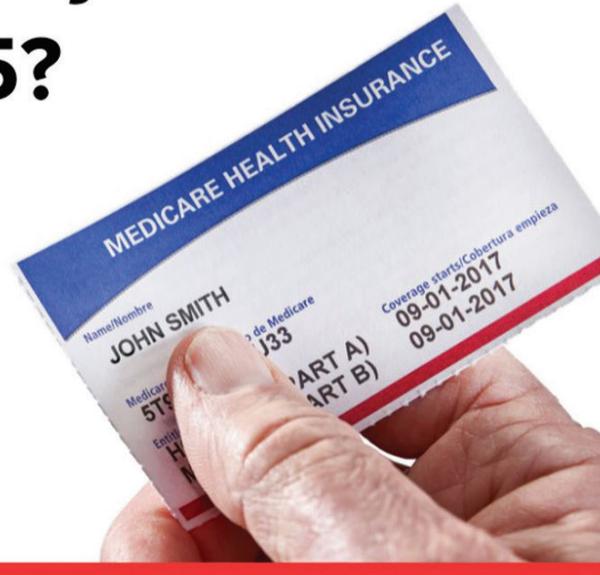
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■ Feud (Continued from page 1)

Critics of the move argue Polisena Jr. left millions on the table that could have served Johnston's students. The Johnston Republican Town Committee wrote a letter of support for the Democratic mayor's decision.

And then, on Columbus Day, the young mayor fired a shot across McKee's bow, alleging the governor attempted to orchestrate protests at the unveiling of War Memorial Park's new Christopher Columbus statue (Providence's old statue that was removed in 2020 and eventually moved to a new home in Johnston).

The mayor claims McKee urged "at least one group" to crash the event and protest. He hasn't named a source.

"I've spoken with people, even from outside of Johnston, who oppose the statue," Polisena wrote via email Tuesday night, the day after the town's Columbus celebration. "Throughout this process I've actually cultivated a good relationship with some of that opposition. At various times the dialogue shifted away from the disagreement we have on the statue to other things where we can find common ground on."

Polisena Jr. contends that the statue opponents revealed nefarious plans by McKee, who the mayor also alleges did not respond to an invitation to the statue unveiling.

"During these talks, it came to my attention the Governor's office called at least one group about going to protest the statue," Polisena explained. "I expressed maybe that's the reason there were no state or federal officials at the unveiling to show their support for not just Johnston, but Italian-Americans in general. The only person who came that has a statewide presence is Helena Foulkes and she's not even an elected official."

The list of dignitaries at the unveiling included emcee Gene Valicenti, NBC 10 news anchor and radio personality; former Providence Mayor Joseph Paolino (who bought the Columbus statue for \$50,000 after it was removed, stored it, and offered it to Johnston); North Providence state Rep. Arthur J. Corvese (on behalf of House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi and the R.I. House of Representatives), Dr. Patrick Conley, President of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame and Historian Laureate of Rhode Island; and George Lazzareschi, President of the Italo-American Club of Rhode Island.

Polisena Jr. spoke to podcaster and journalist Bill Bartholomew in the park and the interview was posted to social media.

"As you can see there are no state officials here,"

Polisena Jr. told Bartholomew. "What I am saying is I don't hold those state officials accountable, because they care about Johnston, they care about the Italian-American community. I think that they may have been worried that there was going to be a mad protest here. As you saw, there were just a couple of people with signs."

"So it's a rumor?" Bartholomew asked.

"That's what I was told?" Replied Polisena Jr. "What I was told, by this individual..."

"Who's the individual?" Bartholomew interrupted with a question. Polisena Jr. refused to answer.

"I'm not going to burn his confidence."

"Why not?" Bartholomew asked.

"Because," Polisena Jr. said. "He and I do not see eye to eye on a lot of things. And I'm not going to ruin the good relationship that he and I cultivated. Because it speaks to that. We don't agree. Live and let live."

"Would you be prepared to release your day book, or text messages or emails, or anything else that documents this?" Bartholomew followed up.

"Ok," interrupted Polisena Jr.'s assistant chief-of-staff Dominique Turner, a former ABC6 news reporter. "We're going to wrap this up now."

Turner shut down the interview, but Bartholomew and Polisena Jr. kept talking for a moment.

"Submit any ARPA (Access Public Records Act) request you like," answered the mayor.

"Thank you guys," Turner said, over the questioning, attempting to stop the interview. "Thank you for coming."

The strained relationship has been clearly visible since the mayor's inauguration in January, when McKee's primary opponent, Foulkes, attended the ceremony and was seated on the stage. McKee did not attend.

McKee narrowly defeated Foulkes in last year's Democratic Primary for the governor's race. Polisena also added Foulkes, who is not a Johnston resident, to the Johnston School Building Committee (while running for governor she listed Narragansett as her permanent residence).

"The relationship seems so strained because I speak my mind and he's incredibly thin-skinned," Polisena Jr. wrote to the *Sun Rise* on Tuesday evening. "This is the same guy whose first words to his opponent when she called to concede was 'hang up on them.'"

On Primary Election night, McKee brashly refused to take a phone call from Foulkes who was conceding the race. Many saw the move as, at worst, misogynistic, and at best, rude.

"He's the same guy whose office moved Attorney General Neronha's

elderly parents out of the front row of an inauguration, presumably because the Attorney General is publicly critical of him as well," Polisena continued. "He's the same guy who fired his opponent's father from the RI Convention Center board after he'd been there for over 20 years, which means through multiple administrations, both Republican and Democratic. All examples that don't even have to do with me or Johnston that show a pattern of really sad behavior that's unbecoming of a governor."

Each example has been previously reported on by various Rhode Island media outlets. Foulkes' father, then-R.I. Convention Center Authority Chairman Bernard "Bernie" Buonanno Jr. told WPRI 12 that he "retired after the governor asked for his departure through an intermediary."

The *Sun Rise* asked Polisena if he worries his feud with McKee could adversely affect the constituents of both men — the taxpayers of Johnston.

"I don't anticipate it affecting Johnston residents because at the end of the day, he's just one man and the checks and balances we have in government prevent that," Polisena Jr. argues. "I maintain a good relationship with other state and federal leaders as well as the General Assembly."

Recently, the state has been the boogeyman in several important Johnston stories. Flooding on Atwood Avenue — Polisena argues the state has failed to act. The closed Greystone Bridge between Johnston and North Providence — Polisena blames the state Department of Transportation.

"Sure, if there's ever something Johnston needs that he is in sole decision of, I'll anticipate we'll be at the back of the line due to his pettiness, but we'll still thrive," Polisena Jr. threw a jab. "We have great local elected officials here in Johnston from the town council to school committee and in the General Assembly as well. And at the end of the day, the majority of Johnston voted for Ashley Kalus (the Republican nominee for governor)."

While Polisena Jr. won nearly three-quarters of the vote when he was elected mayor last year, a slight majority of voters went for Republicans in local and statewide races. While historically Democratic, Johnston leans right on most issues, from Columbus to abortion.

"I would be in conflict with the people I represent if I started engaging in these progressive policies you see the Governor championing like legal use drug facilities, also referred to as safe injection sites, which the council banned here in Johnston with a unanimous resolution," the mayor contends. "I think it's safe to say you won't see him here in Johnston until he comes around asking for

votes in three years. And even then he may say to hell with Johnston anyway, just like he is now."

The Johnston Sun Rise provided Polisena Jr.'s full statements to McKee's communications team.

McKee's Press Secretary Olivia DaRocha responded late Tuesday night.

"The mayor is using false statements to get media attention," DaRocha said in a written statement. "It's clear he is still trying to litigate the campaigns of those who ran against the Governor and lost. This is pure politics. Our focus remains on doing the work for the people of Johnston and the State of Rhode Island. We're not going to spend any more time responding to a bizarre political tirade. There's more important work to do."

Following news of the latest row between Polisena Jr. and McKee, WPRI 12 Politics/Business Editor and Investigative Reporter Ted Nesi, posted the following online, in response to Bartholomew's video.

"The rift between the Poisenas and McKee is really something," Nesi wrote.

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Solar

(Continued from page 1)

And Johnston's town zoning laws clearly define a "building."

During a public hearing on Sept. 28, Stop Johnston Solar Attorney Matt Landry read an excerpt directly from the Johnston Zoning Ordinance.

"A 'building' is defined as any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupants," Landry asked Joseph D. Lombardo, president of JDL Enterprises, a witness for Cranston-based Green Development, the company requesting a special use permit from the Johnston Zoning Board. "Would you agree with that?"

"Without looking at it, I can't agree with it ... But I'll take your word for it," Lombardo replied.

"And the definition of a building ... refers to a

structure?" Landry continued his line of questioning, pushing hard for a straight answer.

Green tried to build a slightly larger version of the proposed solar project but lost their bid before the town zoning officials in April 2022. They're back before the board with a plan they argue is much smaller than their previous pitch.

The developer argues their fresh 19MW proposal (reduced by 5 MW from their previous 24MW proposal) is a "20% reduction in overall panel surface area."

Landry, however, argues the project's total site coverage — the proposed site, zoned for residential use, contains agricultural fields, a historic farmstead, a Rhode Island Historical Cemetery and isolated pockets of wetland — will actually be closer to a mere 5% reduction in project scope from the rejected application.

Around 160 forested acres have been targeted by Green Development for clear-cutting and the eventual installation of nearly 50,000 solar panels at 118 Winsor Ave. (AP 59, Lot 15) in northwest Johnston, about a half-mile from the Smithfield and Scituate town borders. The company presented several witnesses at the first half of the Sept. 28 public hearing (the hearing is expected to continue and conclude on Nov. 2), held in the Johnston Senior Center before a near-capacity crowd.

Structured Argument

"Do you know what the definition of a structure is under the state (Zoning) Enabling Act?" Landry asked Lombardo. "I do not," Lombardo answered.

"Would you agree that there are several components that comprise or make up this solar facility?" Landry asked.

"Yes, that's been described to us," Lombardo replied.

"Fencing, racking system, panels, things of that nature ... and the whole point of bringing all those materials together is to create a solar facility," Landry stated.

"Absolutely," Lombardo shot back.

"I'm going to read to you what the Johnston Zoning Ordinance's definition of a structure is — that's also in line with what the Enabling Act is," Landry told the witness. "It's a combination of materials to form a construction for a use. Is it your testimony that this project does not satisfy the definition of a structure?"

Lombardo paused. He spoke slowly and carefully.

"I would say, that it doesn't meet it in a typical sense that that ordinance is referring to ... The state has determined that is not a structure," Lombardo tried to explain. "I'm fully familiar with that but it doesn't apply in this case ... how they're aligned on the site and what it's actually doing. This is related to coverage of the site of impervious and those are not considered impervious."

"In your opinion?" Landry asked.

"In my opinion," Lombardo answered.

"Did you put that in your report?" the attorney queried.

"I testified to it, but I didn't put it in my report," Lombardo said.

Houses or Solar?

The construction of solar fields in residentially zoned Johnston neighborhoods has its proponents and fierce opponents.

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. argues solar fields are far less taxing on town coffers than residential development — houses packed with new residents require public services like police, fire, schools and freshly paved roads.

The opponents are mostly neighbors to the project and residents in other mostly rural Johnston neighborhoods where similar solar projects could be constructed if Green Development wins its bid.

The houses versus solar farm argument contains solid points on both sides. For a short while, Landry and Lombardo discussed the difference between the proposed solar farm and sample plans drawn up to consider a housing subdivision on the land instead.

"Would you agree that that max building coverage would apply to a residential build?" Landry asked Lombardo.

"It would apply to each individual lot owner; not as the entire subdivision," Lombardo answered.

"Respectfully, if we're to accept your definition of lot coverage, the applicant could go up to as much as 100 percent lot coverage?" Landry asked.

Lombardo disagreed.

"They're not coverage, they're not impervious," he argued. "I think they can cover as much of the property as they want."

"So it's really unlimited?" Landry continued his questioning.

"There's no percentage that I'm aware of," Lombardo replied.

Carte Blanche

Zoning laws restrict residential lot owners, allowing them to only cover 15 percent of any residential property with

structures.

"So is it your testimony that a use that has no lot coverage restrictions is less intrusive than a development that would be restricted to 15 percent?" Landry asked Lombardo.

"I don't think we're comparing the same thing," Lombardo answered. "To be honest with you."

An angry man in the crowd shouted at the top of his lungs: "STRUCTURE IS STRUCTURE!"

"If you built that 63-lot subdivision, you could cut every single tree down on every single lot and there would be more of that site without trees on it than this will be," Lombardo contended.

"But it would be limited to 15 percent?" Landry asked.

Lombardo replied simply: "No."

"Well that's what the ordinance says," Landry argued.

"No, no that says you can't put ... you can't cover the entire lot with a building," Lombardo testified. "It doesn't say you can't clear it."

"I understand that," Landry explained. "If you have a residential subdivision ... the entirety of that subdivision would be limited to 15 percent building coverage. Would it not?"

"No, each individual lot would be limited to 15 percent building coverage," Lombardo said.

"But it's still your testimony that a use that has unlimited lot coverage is less intrusive than a residential use?" Landry asked.

"It's not unlimited lot coverage," Lombardo said. "It's unlimited ability to put solar panels, which do not meet building coverage. They are not impervious."

"But it's your testimony that ... a solar development could (construct) a 100 percent lot coverage on this property?" Landry asked, wrapping up his cross-examination.

"Well, there's setbacks from the property line, there's wetland setbacks and a number of other things," Lombardo qualified. "Any land that's usable, that's not too steep or not regulated by wetlands they can put solar panels on all of that."

"So just to recap your testimony," Landry concluded. "This solar facility does not satisfy the definition of a structure?"

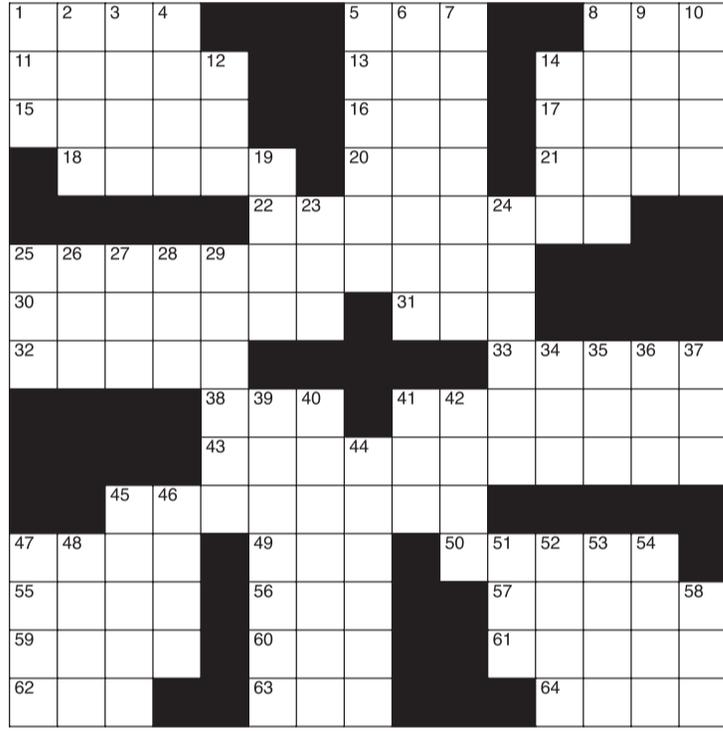
"I don't think it does," Lombardo said.

"That's your personal opinion?" Asked Landry.

Lombardo offered his final answer: "It is."

Editor's Note: Look for Part 3 next week, when the Johnston Sun Rise looks at the town's illicitly outdated Comprehensive Plan.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

1. Information
5. Seaport (abbr.)
8. Agricultural disease (abbr.)
11. Riding horses
13. Boxing's GOAT
14. Hurt or discomfort
15. A small sharp knife to trim vegetables
16. A beaver builds one
17. Horizontal passage into a mine
18. Self-immolation by fire rituals
20. Chain bar with lots of games (abbr.)
21. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
22. Agreeable
25. In an early way
30. In a way, struck
31. It's there in the morning
32. County in the S. Pacific
33. Central Florida city
38. Numbers cruncher
41. Mexican beers
43. Lawyers say you can indict one
45. Capital of South Australia
47. Wings
49. Drug used to treat HIV/AIDS

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to fish
2. Greek mythological figure
3. Scarlett's home
4. Assist
5. More doleful
6. Premeditated
7. Dish featuring minced food
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Eight
10. Unwelcome picnic guests
12. Human gene
14. Bucket
19. Make full

23. Dirt
24. Person cited as ideal example
25. A part of (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Very long period of time
28. Gas usage measurement
29. North American native people
34. It says "moo"
35. Folk singer Di Franco
36. Resinlike substance of certain insects
37. Residue
39. Grand homes
40. Popinjays
41. Man who behaves dishonorably
42. Figures
44. One who watches over children
45. Expressed pleasure
46. No longer living
47. Hebrew calendar month
48. Part of the ear
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Italian Island
54. Resist authority (slang)
58. Criticize

be kind anyway.

cherry hill manor nursing & rehabilitation center



Say you saw it in the Sun Rise

Opinion

EDITORIAL

When worlds collide

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. Such appears to finally be the case with New England's most beloved and winningest team, the Patriots.

Yes, after two decades of being perennial championship contenders — despite whatever cobbled together roster of afterthoughts, scrap heap acquisitions and late round draft picks Bill Belichick assembled around Tom Brady throughout those many years — it seems the clock has finally struck midnight and turned this once titanic force of terror back into a proverbial pumpkin.

After this past Sunday's most horrifying of stinkers (the worst home loss in franchise history, worse than anything even elder fans of the squad's most lovable loser years can recall), it may be hard to find hope as the team transitions into a period of blight and sadness not seen since before Gillette Stadium replaced Foxboro.

However, there may be one unexpected, saving grace for local football fans, particularly the younger ones who realistically might not have a singular memory from before the Pats were the envy of the rest of the pigskin world.

Ironically enough, that saving grace could come from the last person who actually put in a performance worthy of your hard-earned money at Gillette Stadium.

Yes, we're talking about Taylor Swift.

Just hear us out. Football is a sport in tremendous flux at the moment. As concerns over CTE and flag-happy referees upend the game that used to be all about refrigerator-sized humans trying to physically remove someone's consciousness from their body, it is time we recognize that reality and change the way we market the game to younger fans, who will become the torchbearers for it going into the future.

An arranged union, much like rulers of disparate kingdoms used to do in medieval times, between one of the game's most recognizable and talented stars, and one of the most popular recording artists in modern history, could provide exactly the kind of renewed interest in the sport necessary to see it through its growing pains and emerge stronger on the other side.

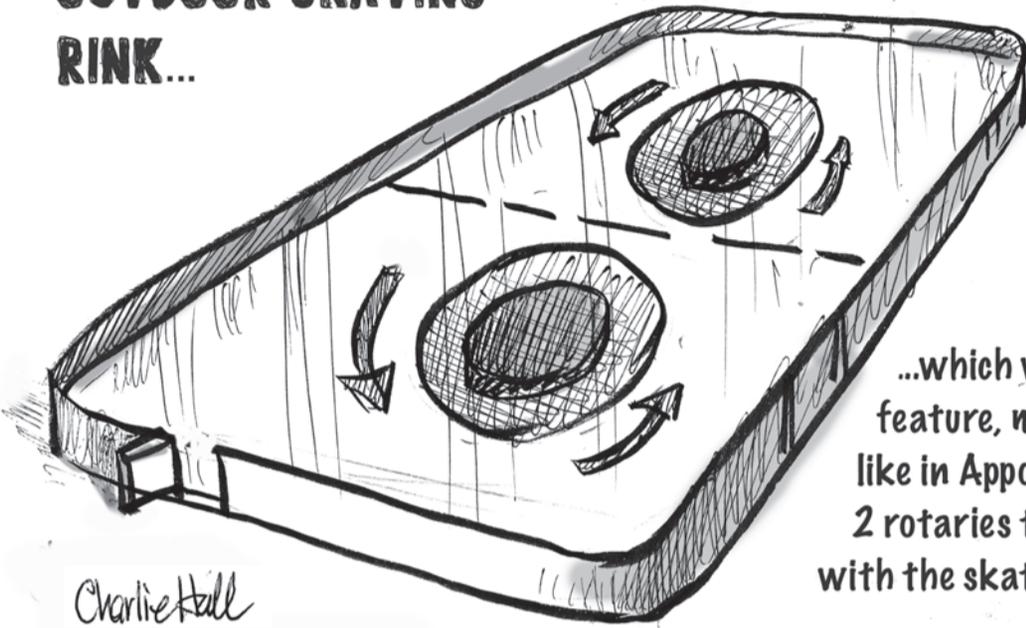
Finally, dads who put on a smile and honorably pretend to have fun while escorting their teenage daughters to a Taylor Swift concert at a stadium where they'd rather be watching football — and daughters who flee the living room every Sunday to avoid 10 hours of football — can share a common interest. It's good for football, and it's good for families.

Finally, teenagers who have never given watching football a chance can experience the immense talent and skill put on display each week (just not in New England at the moment, maybe invest in NFL Red Zone); even if it's just to catch a glimpse of their beloved Tay Tay going crazy in a booth for a few seconds.

So to all the cynics who think that the growing relationship between Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift is nothing more than some marketing gimmick, we say "Hush!" Just smile and enjoy the ride. And mark your calendars, because the Chiefs come to Gillette on Dec. 18.

At least Pats fans can have something to smile about this holiday season.

GREENWOOD CREDIT UNION WINS THE NAMING RIGHTS FOR WARWICK'S OUTDOOR SKATING RINK...



...which will feature, much like in Apponaug, 2 rotaries to help with the skating flow

GUEST OP

Exploring 'Mind Full' vs. 'Mindful'



By DR. HOLLY SCHIFF
Special to the Sun Rise

Most of us are mind full every day, lost in our thoughts and worrying about the future; but what if we decided to be more mindful? Mindfulness improves your mental health, but what is it? Mindfulness is paying attention on purpose, in the present moment, non-judgmentally. You are listening to and watching what naturally exists, focusing on the here and now; while intentionally increasing awareness of experience. You are also curious and objective about the experience and pay attention to what is unfolding moment to moment.

Mindfulness forces you to slow down, do one thing at a time, and notice all the nuances of movement. Try to use all your senses to really feel what it is that you're doing instead of multi-tasking and losing the experience of the present moment. For example, you can mindfully eat, fold laundry, or brush your teeth. This retrains our mind to settle

into the present moment.

With mindfulness meditation, we pay attention to our thoughts as they pass through our mind. We do not judge them or become involved with them. You simply observe your thoughts as they come in and out. This can be easily practiced alone, and it combines concentration with awareness. You can also use a script or a guided meditation audio to help you focus on an object or your breath while you are observing bodily sensations, thoughts and feelings. The most popular position to use while meditating is sitting since this provides a balance of focus and relaxation. Other positions are standing, lying down or walking. Meditating while walking is a way to bring a relaxed focus to the everyday activity of walking. You will feel the difference when you are actually paying attention to what is going on around you while taking a walk, rather than focusing on all the thoughts swirling around in your mind. Mindfully walk at a comfortable pace while focusing your attention on the environment around you and how your body feels as you are moving. The outdoors is also the perfect environment for this since the vast beauty of our world offers so many opportunities to be present and mindful.

Some benefits of mindfulness meditation are that it reduces stress and pain, helps alleviate and decrease anxiety, and it

enhances one's self-awareness and ability to be mindful in the moment. The best part? You can access meditation anywhere — there are so many different forms, most of which don't require any specialized equipment or space, and you can practice meditation with just a few minutes daily. It is simple, accessible and completely free.

When first starting mindfulness, you might have a hard time and may even get frustrated. It is something that takes a little bit of time and practice, but with consistency, you will start to feel the beneficial effects. It is like learning another language, so keep reminding yourself that it requires practice. Keep doing it and results will accrue!

Editor's Notes: Dr. Holly Schiff is a clinical psychologist licensed in Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island. She is a native New Yorker who now resides in Connecticut. She was awarded a Doctorate of Psychology in School and Community Psychology from Hofstra University. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Fordham University, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Sociology and Pre-Law advisory. While completing her undergraduate education, Dr. Schiff was accepted as a member of Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology. She went on to complete a Master of Arts in Psychology in Education degree from Columbia University, as well as a Master of Science in

School-Community Psychology, and an Advanced Certificate in School-Community Psychology from Hofstra University.

Her broad range of clinical experience encompasses psychotherapy in schools, outpatient clinics, and inpatient psychiatric hospitals. Dr. Schiff had the pleasure of learning in several prestigious settings in the Northeast including Silver Hill Hospital, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, and Rockland Psychiatric Center. Dr. Schiff conducts individual therapy, family therapy, parent guidance, and group therapy using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Trauma-Focused CBT, Relational Psychotherapy and Positive Psychology. Leveraging her dance training, she encourages the psychotherapeutic use of movement and dance to support mental health. Her expertise also includes administering and analyzing neuropsychological evaluations and psychoeducational assessments. Dr. Schiff collaborates with various treatment providers and schools as appropriate to offer the most comprehensive treatment approach.

When Holly isn't working, she likes to challenge herself with trivia, read true crime books, travel (usually to beachy destinations), and enjoy time with her family and cat, Bentley.

The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes guest opinions from doctors at South County Psychiatry, 47 Danielson Pike, North Scituate. Questions? Call them at 401-268-5333.

JOHNSTON Sun Rise

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Statue

(Continued from page 1)

Uniformed Johnston Police officers faced the pair of protesters. The Columbus Day unveiling of Johnston's new Christopher Columbus statue — Providence's loss — was about to begin.

Police peacefully backed the protesters up, back over the bridge. There they stood, at the bottlenecked entrance to the tiny fully-occupied island. They continued their Columbus assault, accusing each entrant to the island of supporting genocide, their shouts and slogans rivaling the event speakers and interacting with every passerby possible.

The Gizzarelli siblings were loud. But the residents gathered in the park also knew how to yell. One-by-one challengers stepped up to the sign-holding disruptors.

"You are not an Italian," Alan Conca yelled back at the elder Gizzarelli. "You're a communist!"

The word "communist" was a verbal hand grenade tossed at the pair of vocal objectors by more than one passing Columbus celebrant. There were lots of references to "woke" ideology, former U.S. President Donald J. Trump, and war brewing in Israel.

Food trucks packed the park. Access to Memorial Drive was backed up onto Hartford Avenue. By 10:45 a.m. Monday, Johnston Police at the park advised new arrivals to park at the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School.

Dose of History

Dr. Patrick T. Conley, Historian Laureate of Rhode Island, addressed the crowd packed like sardines on the tiny dry patch of land.

"It is symbolic that Johnston has placed Columbus on a small island securely surrounded by water," Conley told the crowd. "On Oct. 12, 1492, this intrepid navigator made his first landing on a small Bahamian Island, which he named San Salvador — or Holy Savior after Jesus — in gratitude for his small fleet's safe journey across the Atlantic Ocean."

The statue unveiled Monday in Johnston was removed from its Providence pedestal in 2020 and locked away in storage.

The 130-year-old likeness of Columbus was sculpted in the 1890s by the same French artist who sculpted the Statue of Liberty, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi. The original artwork was crafted in sterling silver and eventually melted down. A bronze facsimile of the statue was cast and erected in Columbus Park on Elmwood Avenue in Providence, where stood for more than a century, until it was removed in 2020.

Vandals and protesters frequented Columbus's Providence home. As a wave of controversial monuments fell across the nation, the Ocean State's capital city opted to uninstall the statue.

Former Providence Mayor Joseph R. Paolino Jr. bought it for \$50,000 from the city and kept it in storage. He eventually offered it to Johnston, and earlier this year, newly inaugurated Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. announced its new home in Memorial Park and the planned Columbus Day celebration.

Indigenous Vs. Italians

Long-running arguments over Columbus have been broiling in states like Rhode Island and Massachusetts, where progressive lawmakers and indigenous rights activists have recommended replacing the Columbus Day holiday with an Indigenous People's Day.

"History is history, and we cannot change the past," said Johnston State Rep. Deb Fellela. "Nor should we try.

We can only try to make things better for our communities we live in today. There is room to honor both days, Columbus Day and Indigenous People Day."

Ocean State critics of the suggested holiday name change argue that the switch is divisive and pits Rhode Islanders of Italian ancestry versus supporters of Native American causes and the continent's indigenous descendants.

"I have zero issue with people wanting to celebrate Indigenous People's Day," Polisena wrote via email recently. "My problem is the either/or mentality of people want to celebrate Indigenous People's Day and do away with Columbus Day and references to Columbus."

Polisena has promised taxpayers that security for the new statue won't cost taxpayers a dime. Joseph Gizzarelli loudly declared security at the monument could cost the town \$2 million annually. Polisena disagrees.

A small fence has been constructed around the statue and a video feed ties directly to the Johnston Police Department. Transport and installation of the statue has been donated to the town, according to Polisena. The police, however, do work for the taxpayers. Only time will tell if the monument's a drain on public services.

"Columbus Day is a day of pride for Italian-Americans, just as Indigenous People's Day should be prideful for Native Americans," Polisena explained. "Second, I refuse to judge people who lived over half a millennium ago based on modern day standards. Standards change over time."

Polisena traveled through time citing other historical atrocities.

"Societies, including Indigenous Americans, once enslaved one another, primarily those captured in battle," Polisena said. "The Norse felt compelled to raid and plunder. Children sometimes ruled kingdoms and empires. People were executed in public. Young girls were married off, as children, to adult men. All of these things are either abhorrent, immoral or just plain creepy in today's society, yet they occurred hundreds to thousands of years ago, because society wasn't evolved. Therefore, people in those time periods should not be judged by the standards of today."

House Minority Leader State Rep. Mike Chippendale, who represents District 40 (Coventry, Foster, Gloucester), said earlier this week that the citizens have much bigger issues to tackle than the Columbus debate.

"I have been exercising much less concern about issues like this," Chippendale said. "Many of my constituents can't pay their electric bills, medical bills, tuitions, afford to buy a house, or feel comfortable that their children will be educated in school — virtuous indignation over the name of a day is not something I have the time, energy nor inclination to invest in."

More Italian than Most

Johnston takes its Italian-American history seriously.

"My great grandfather, and namesake, Pasquale DeStasio, followed Columbus across the Atlantic in 1881 to settle in America," Conley said from the lectern in the middle of the island, the Columbus statue at his back. "He chose the greater New Haven area where I was born. It ranks third, behind Fairfield, New Jersey (50.3%) and Johnston, Rhode Island (49.5%) as the most Italian-American place in the United States."

The current mayor's father, former Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Sr., held his grandson following the ceremony.

"This is a great day for the town — a great day for the citizens of Johnston," said the elder Polisena. "You can't get rid of history just because you don't like it."



COLUMBUS SCHOLAR: Dr. Patrick T. Conley, Historian Laureate of Rhode Island and President of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame, addressed the overflow crowd. (Photo by Ron Cece)



BACK IN TOWN: At right, former Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Sr. holds his grandson following the Columbus Day ceremony. Look to Page 9 for more photos. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



TOWN DELEGATION: Johnstone Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. posed for a photo with the entire Johnstone Town Council – members Robert J. Civetti, Linda L. Folcarelli, Lauren Garzone, Alfred T. Carnevale, and President Robert V. Russo. (Photo by Ron Cece)

Obituaries

Edmond J. Duquette



Edmond J. Duquette, 84, of Johnston, RI, a retired businessman, died peacefully at home on October 3, his family by his side.

He was the beloved husband, best friend, and soulmate of Ethel Duquette; they had been married 56 years. He was born in New York City, the only son of Edmond V. and Geraldine (Schuler) Duquette. A graduate of BMC Durfee High School, he grew up in Fall River and then raised his family in Johnston.

Mr. Duquette was president of Duquette & Associates, Inc., a management consulting and executive search firm, until his retirement in 2002. Earlier, he held senior management positions in human resources and labor relations in the financial services and manufacturing industries, including the former Collyer Wire in Lincoln, RI. He was active in Toastmasters International for many years and served as President of the Rhode Island Chapter for two years in the early 70's. An Air Force veteran, he served from 1957 to 1961 including three years in France and Germany, as a technician for NATO's European communications system. From 1981 to 2001 he was associated with Bryant University as an adjunct instructor, developing and conducting programs in employment and human resource management and was active in numerous human resource organizations.



The most prepared and organized man you could ever meet, Ed was funny, a creative thinker, and possessed a zest for life. His favorite pastime was ballroom dancing with his wife. Dance brought him great purpose and joy, even in his later years when it required caution and some assistance.

He loved music, as well as classic movies, WWII history, the ocean (especially when viewing it from Block Island or Brenton Pt. Park in Newport), and dogs. A lifelong learner, Ed strove to understand others through respectful conversations, reading, and news gathering. He was a good friend to others, and he valued his relationships—old and new.

Besides his wife, Ed leaves devoted daughters, Lisa Duquette of New York, and Karen Duquette of Johnston, and grandson and namesake, Matthew Edmond, lovingly known to his Pepe as "Goombie".

His Funeral service were held on Friday, October 6th in the Anderson-Winfield Home at 6:30pm. Visitation was Friday, October 6th from 4pm - 6:30pm. Burial was private. In lieu of flowers donations in his memory may be made to the RISPCA.

His Funeral service were held on Friday, October 6th in the Anderson-Winfield Home at 6:30pm. Visitation was Friday, October 6th from 4pm - 6:30pm. Burial was private. In lieu of flowers donations in his memory may be made to the RISPCA.

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STATUE UNVEILED:

Above, the statue lived in Providence for 130 years. It was vandalized and removed and sat in storage before it was erected in Johnston's War Memorial Park. On Monday, Columbus Day, the historic Christopher Columbus statue was unveiled to the public. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

CEREMONY BEGINS:

At left, Johnston Director of Buildings and Grounds Christopher Correia lifted the blue tarp to begin the ceremony. (Photo by Ron Cece)



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

MELODY MARCHERS:
The JHS Marching Panther Band played music during Saturday's Homecoming Parade then made its annual appearance in Sunday's Columbus Day Parade on Providence's Federal Hill. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



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FANTASTIC FLOATS:
On the opposite page, all four class floats made their public debuts on Saturday. Clockwise from top left, "Only Room for One" was the Class of 2027's float theme that featured moving wheels of a train racing or a touchdown. "Ice Them Out" was the theme of the Class of 2025's Homecoming Float. "Panthers Pass Go" was the Class of 2026's theme that won First Place in Saturday's Homecoming Parade. "Destroy All Hope" was the theme of the Class of 2024's Homecoming Float. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

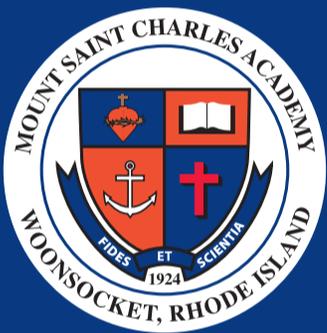
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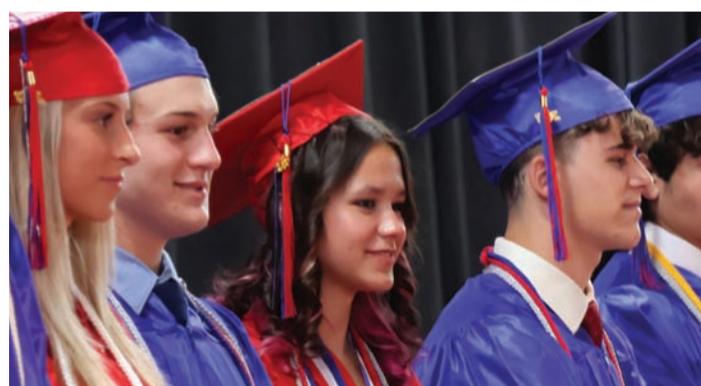
in scholarships earned to elite colleges, including Harvard, Berkeley, Johns Hopkins, and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

43 46 7000

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143

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Sports

Panthers get Homecoming win

By PETE FONTAINE

If there is one football game a high school or collegiate team MUST WIN it is Homecoming!

"Don't want to disappoint the ol' grads and alumni" is a statement often tied to all homecoming games and Saturday Head Coach Joe Acciaro's Johnston High School's Panthers upheld that theory with an impressive 28-0 whitewashing of Mount Hope's Huskies from Warren and Bristol inside Mayor Joseph M. Polisenia Stadium.

Thus, the Panthers treated a good-size Homecoming Day crowd to an impressive performance to remain undefeated in as many Rhode Island Interscholastic League games.

Even before the kickoff, the air on Cheery Hill was filled with Panthers Pride as the entire 2024 JHS squad piled onto the back end of a Northeast Auto Body flatbed wrecker-tow



NORTHEAST NICHE: Johnston High School's undefeated football Panthers began Saturday on the back of this Northeast Auto Body tow truck then went on to extend their unblemished record to 4-0 with a win over Mount Hope High's Huskies. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

WIN - PAGE 14

JHS volleyball focused on rebuilding

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston girls volleyball team is still searching for its first win of the season as it entered the week at 0-9 overall.

The Panthers graduated a large senior core last year and have been rebuilding their lineup from top to bottom. Growing pains were expected this fall on paper, so coach Greta Lalli has emphasized improving each day over focusing solely on the final score.

"This is a rebuilding year, we lost a lot of seniors. Our goal is making sure the kids are getting better as the season goes on. We're not putting pressure on them to win, we just want them to be better than they were in the previous game," Lalli said.

The team has been led by a trio of experienced stand-outs in juniors Noelle and Nicole Patenaude and senior Gisselly Nunez.



REBUILDING: Johnston's Raylin Santos returns a shot at a recent game. The Panthers are searching for their first win as they build toward the future this fall season. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

JHS - PAGE 13

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BOUNCE BACK: Samantha Marcotte returns a shot.

JHS

(Continued from page 12)

“(Noelle and Nicole) have been playing with me since they were freshmen. They are very hard workers. Gisselly is also very good and has been with me since rec and followed me all the way until her senior year, she’s pretty consistent,” Lalli said.

With six more matches remaining

this season, Lalli hopes that the team continues to look toward the future while also enjoying the final games of the fall.

“We’re looking for consistency. Keeping a positive attitude and playing consistently,” said Lalli. “I want them to gel with each other and work well together throughout the entire game. I just want them to be better each day, the focus isn’t on the win, it’s about having a good experience.”



TEAM LEADER: Nicole Patenaude makes a play.

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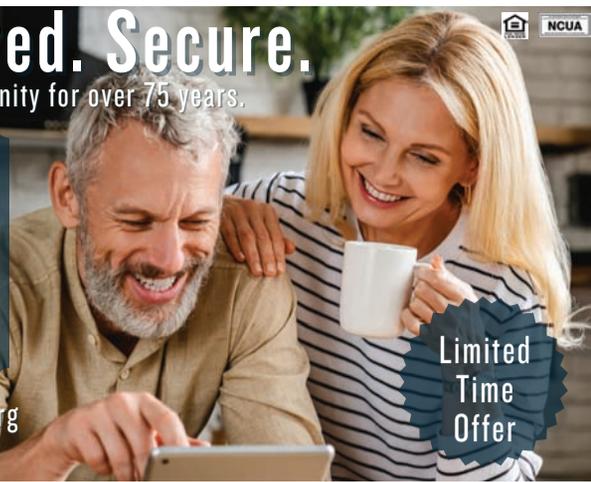
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FUTURE FORCE: Members of the Johnstons Panthers Football Association's Junior Pee Wee Division team took part in Saturday's JHS Homecoming Parade.



GRIDIRON GROUP: The Johnstons Youth Football Panthers Pee Wee Division team was well-represented in Saturday's JHS Homecoming Parade.

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SUPER STAFFERS: Jim McHale (left), who works for the Local 57 Operating Engineers, enjoys a lighter moment with Bob Deming, popular supervisor of Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Stadium.



HAULING IT IN: Michael Carlino grabs a pass. (Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)



ON THE RUN: Johnstons wide receiver Jahaziel Rodriguez picks up some yards last weekend. (Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

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■ **Win**

(Continued from page 12)

truck and cheered their way along the near record crowd

spectator gallery.

But the Blue and White didn't leave its super spirt at the parade, instead Acciardo's attack turned it up a notch and pummeled the visiting Huskies via a

stingy defense and prolific offense.

The Panthers will next square off against undefeated West Warwick this weekend.

Fall fishing just getting better

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Fall is a great time to fish, and it is getting better every day.

Last week the tuna bite for school tuna was outstanding. Reports of as many as 40 school tuna being caught and released by one vessel. Angler Dick Pastore said last week, "The Gully (east of Cox Ledge and south of Martha's Vineyard) was flush with bluefin tuna last Thursday. Multiple hook ups on large school to giants, suspect they were caught jigging and with chunks"

Tautog fishing exploded last week too with fish being caught in the mid to upper Bay at Rocky Point, Conimicut Light as well as in the lower Bay and out in front of Newport with many anglers fishing there and on structure along our coastal beaches from Pt. Judith, Narragansett to Watch Hill, Westerly.

Bonito, false albacore, striped bass and bluefish were all being caught off our coast and in our Bays and estuaries. Fishing the East and West Passages of Narragansett Bay was outstanding last week. Angler Joe Rochira of Warwick landed three striped bass on the east side of shipping channel in front of Barrington Beach with anglers landing as many as 30 bass in one outing south and north of Chepiwanoxet Point, Warwick in Greenwich Bay.

Arguably, the fishing this week and last has been as good as it gets. The warm water, with an enhanced warm water bait profile, has been keeping scup and black sea bass to larger animals in tight close to shore for us to catch, eat and/or release.

So stop by your local bait & tackle shop, ask them what is biting and go out and fish before it get too cold and windy.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass, bluefish, false albacore. "Striper fishing is improving now. Last night an angler caught a 52-inch fish from the Quonnie Breachway, Charlestown. Two weeks ago, I caught a 48-inch striper from the breachway. Anglers along the beaches are doing well too with boat angles catching both bass and false albacore. The albies are thick from Watch Hill, Westerly to Pt. Judith all along the coastal shore," said Parker Mandes of Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly.

Striped bass fishing in the bay continues to be one of the



STRIPED BASS IN THE BAY: Joe Rochira of Warwick with one of the three striped bass he caught this weekend trolling tube & worm on the east side of the shipping channel in front of Barrington Beach. (Submitted photo)

best fall runs in a long time. We caught three in 30 minutes fishing the channel pad in front of Barrington Beach this weekend with anglers in Greenwich Bay catching multiple bass of all sizes below, above and slot size keeper fish (28" to < 31").

"The bonito has been caught all the way up to the northern end of Prudence Island at Providence Point with bass of all sizes prolific both in the East and West Passages of the Bay with bluefish mixed in," said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick.

Capt. Tom Pelletier of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle North Kingston said, "The striped bass bite had slowed down a bit in the lower bay. However, the false albacore are still being caught in the lower Bay."

Summer flounder (fluke). "Believe it or not we have had two reports of very large fluke

being taken in deep water. This is unusual for this time of year," said Mandes of Watch Hill Outfitters.

"Tautog fishing has been very good for customers with many catch fish off Newport, Jamestown and from shore the East Wall of the Harbor of Refuge in Narragansett is producing fish for anglers," said Capt. Tom Pelletier of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle.

Giddings of the Tackle Box, said, "The bite for tautog is great in the Bay with fish being taken at Rocky Point, Warwick Light, Conimicut Point and just about everywhere in the mid and upper Bay."

"Tautog fishing continues to be great with anglers catching their limit. The fish are just starting to leave the shallows. No longer a good bite from the breachways," said Mandes of Watch Hill Outfitters.

Offshore. Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "The tuna bite went off this past week with a lot of bluefin being landed. Ocean conditions were as good as they get and a lot of boats were able to get out. Most of the bites coming from the jig and chunk."

Tuna fishing is the best it has been in years. Angler Richard Pastore said on the RISAA blog, "Very large blue fish between point Judith and Block Island this weekend. Sixteen-pound fish on a butterfly jig. Fish looked like a king salmon. On to sharks ledge. On jigs and clams on teasers we caught scup, mackerel (Atlantic and chub), black sea bass, false albacore, green and oceanic bonito and cod (three at 24 inches). Moved to the mountains - more of the same and one more cod. Water was smooth all day. A couple of whales between Point

Judith and Block Island."

"Freshwater fishing continues to be very strong for largemouth bass and pike for anglers at Gorton Pond and at Little Pond behind Warwick vets Highschool. Customers are trout fishing once again too since the State of Rhode Island stocked 25 waterways last week with brown and rainbow trout." Visit Designated Trout Waters Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (ri.gov) for an update on ponds stocked this fall.

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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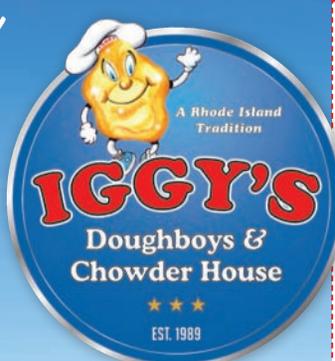
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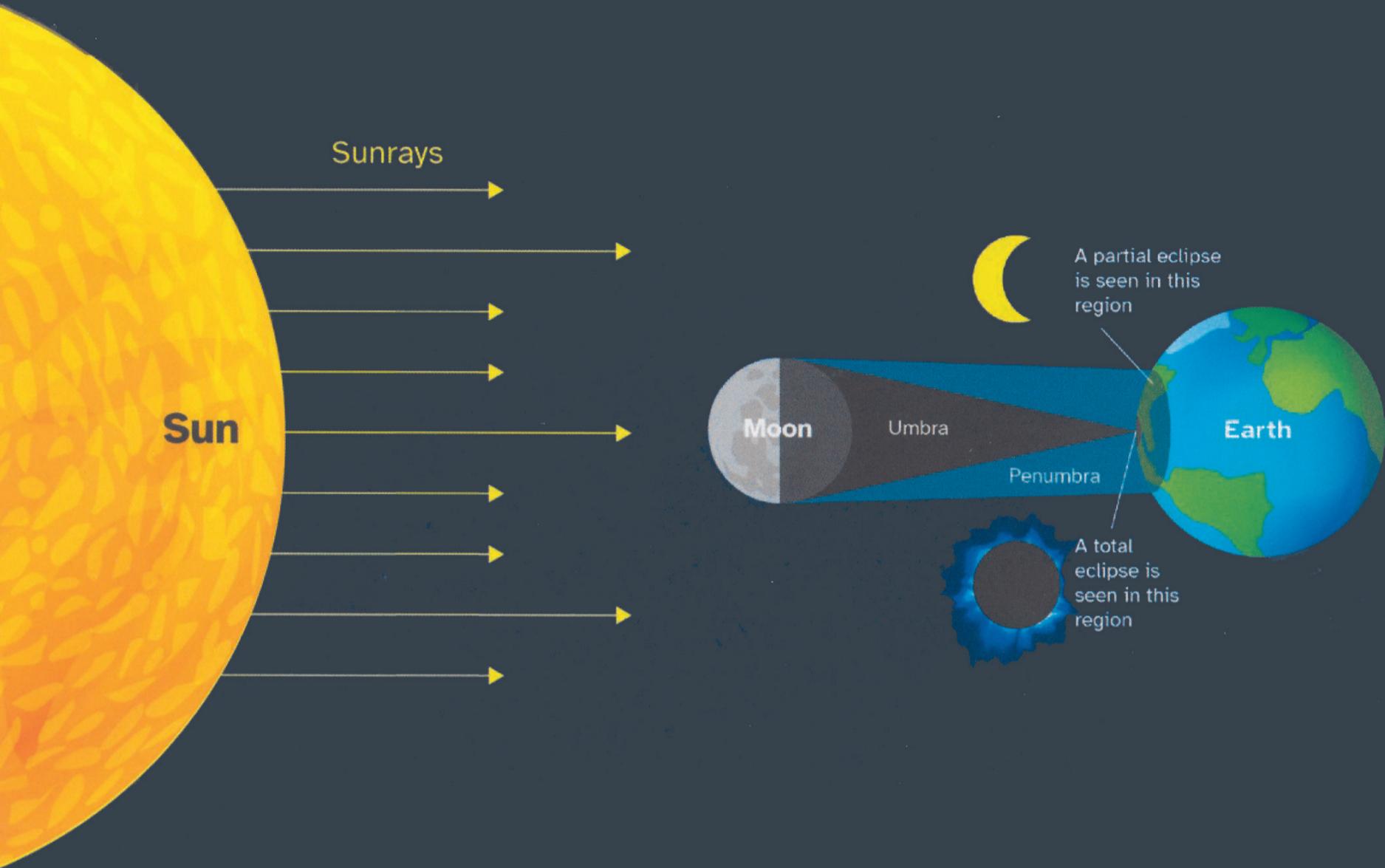
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"Diagram of Eclipse Shadows" by National Science Teaching Association Press, Solar Science courtesy of Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries

Covering one heavenly body with another

By ED KDONIAN

Stargazing during the day is something most people are taught not to do, but for some that's exactly what is in the plans for this Saturday, Oct. 14, from just after noon until about 2 p.m. Those in the know will don special eye protection and prepare to witness an astronomical event known to captivate and darken the day of those in observance.

An eclipse of the sun happens when our planet's biggest satellite, the moon, moves between the sun and Earth at just the right angle and distance to overlap the star's light and turn day to night. Without a doubt, hopefully, the sun is much larger than the moon but is also much farther away from the Earth. The layout of the three heavenly bodies makes for the perfect storm of conditions that allow a solar eclipse to be possible.

Not every eclipse is a total eclipse. Depending on the position of the Earth and moon there are two main types of eclipse possible.

"What it depends on is where exactly the moon is with respect to the land," said Francine Jackson, staff astronomer of the Ladd Observatory at Brown University. "For this one here this week it's called a path of annularity. You have to be on that specific region, which goes for thousands of miles in length but is only a few miles wide. Next April we'll have a path of totality where you have to be on that path to see the total eclipse."

This year's eclipse, viewable here in the United States, will offer the best view on its path from Eugene, Oregon, to San Antonio, Texas. Jackson, and Jim Hendrickson of the "Sky Scrapers," a group of amateur astronomers in Rhode Island, will be traveling to New Mexico where this weekend's eclipse can be viewed best. Due to its dependence on planetary position and alignment, different eclipses have different properties and can completely block the sun or leave a small amount of the star uncovered. This year's eclipse, when viewed from one of the locations on its direct path, will cover approximately 95% of the star as the moon passes in front of it.



"Sun...Moon...You!" by Michael Zeller courtesy of Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries



ADAM LEVIN

The URI Guitar Festival returns with performers, a workshop & a competition

By ROBERT DUGUAY

For the past eight years, a unique experience showcasing the stylistic versatility of the guitar has been taking place on the campus of the University of Rhode Island in Kingston and the surrounding areas in South County. Known as the URI Guitar Festival, it has brought a wide array of artists, which include the post-rock wizard Kaki King, fingerstyle phenom Andy McKee and blues and reggae singer-songwriter Corey Harris to name a few. This year's edition of the spectacle is taking place from October 18-22 and along with the music that'll be present throughout the four days, there's going to be a mandolin workshop and a Rising Stars' Competition featuring musicians who are in high school and others who are between the ages of 18-35. Kids who are between the ages of 6-16 have the opportunity to be trained in technique and other aspects of the guitar as well.

The person behind the URI Guitar Festival is Adam Levin, who has led the event as the Artistic Director since its inception in 2015. He also runs the classical guitar program at the University of Rhode Island while being a sought-after educator, performer and recording artist. In fact, his last four full-length albums have been on the top 10 of the Billboard Traditional Classical Albums Chart.

"The 2023 URI Guitar Festival is going to be an international hotspot for musical creativity," Levin says about this year's edition. "For eight years running, the festival has brought world-class artists to the campus of the University of Rhode Island with the goal of bringing together the community around the guitar and its plucked instrument relatives. We offer a series of seven concerts that feature different global music traditions and styles as well as artists with international renown. We'll start with three young hotshot guitarists from Costa Rica and Greece at the Courthouse Center for the Performing Arts [on 3481 Kingstown Road in West Kingston]. Adrian Montero is a Grad Assistant at URI, Jeisson Ramirez is the winner of the 2022 National Costa Rica Guitar Competition, and Filippos Manoloudis is the winner of the 2022 Rising Stars Virtual Guitar Competition."

"Thursday will feature Georgian blues guitarist, Jontavious Willis, who will bring his unique down-home blues flair to the festival," he adds. "Then we will hear from URI's very own jazz guitar faculty member and Grammy-nominee, Jay Azzolina, with his Jazz quartet which includes Dave Zinno, Sonny Barbato, and Rafael Barata. This will all occur at The Towers [on 35 Ocean Road] in Narragan-

sett. Then, we will travel to Italy for an evening that showcases the evolution of Italian music from the 16th century all the way to the present day. This will feature lutenist Elisa La Marca, 19th-century specialist Mauro Zanatta, and 10-string guitarist Nicolo Spera with each of them giving us a different portrait of Italian music."

Prior to the concert, musicologist Dr. Danilo Prefumo is going to be giving a lecture as well, so show up before the music starts at 7pm. The final day plans on concluding the festival in grand fashion with workshops, masterclasses and a French music showcase.

"Saturday afternoon at 4:30pm at St. Augustine's Church [on 15 Lower College Road in Kingston] will feature members from the newly created course titled 'Elite Mandolin', as well as French new music champion, Pierre Bibault," Levin describes the festival's last installment. "That evening, titled 'French Night', is at the URI Fine Arts Center and we will hear the world-premiere performance of composer-in-residence Mathias Duplessy's new work for The Great Neck Guitar Trio, called 'A Thousand Lives'. The trio and Duplessy will then team up to perform his guitar quartet. The second half will feature the wild, spontaneous Cavalcade Trio, which includes Duplessy on guitar, Jeremy Jouve on classical guitar and Amit Kavthekar on the tabla. This band will unite Eastern and Western musical traditions while highlighting three extraordinary artists."

Finishing it all off, Argentinian folk legend Jaun Falú will be taking the audience on a sonic voyage exploring the varied rhythms and styles of his home country. Then Luca Stricagnoli is going to be bringing forth his fingerstyle approach while doing renditions of various rock songs with a three-neck guitar.

"The URI Guitar Festival has brought South County and the University of Rhode Island to the world stage and assembled a one-of-a-kind lineup of artists who are enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge as well as creating music together," Levin says about the festival as a whole. "There is something for everyone, whether you are interested in the most iconic music of America such as rock, blues and jazz, or you want to explore the French, Italian, Greek, Argentinian, or Costa Rican cultures. As the Artistic Director, I am looking to create a sustainable platform for cultural and artistic exchange at one of the leading research institutions in the country."

For all the details pertaining to tickets, schedule, workshops, and all of the performers, log on to uriguitarfestival.org.

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West Warwick

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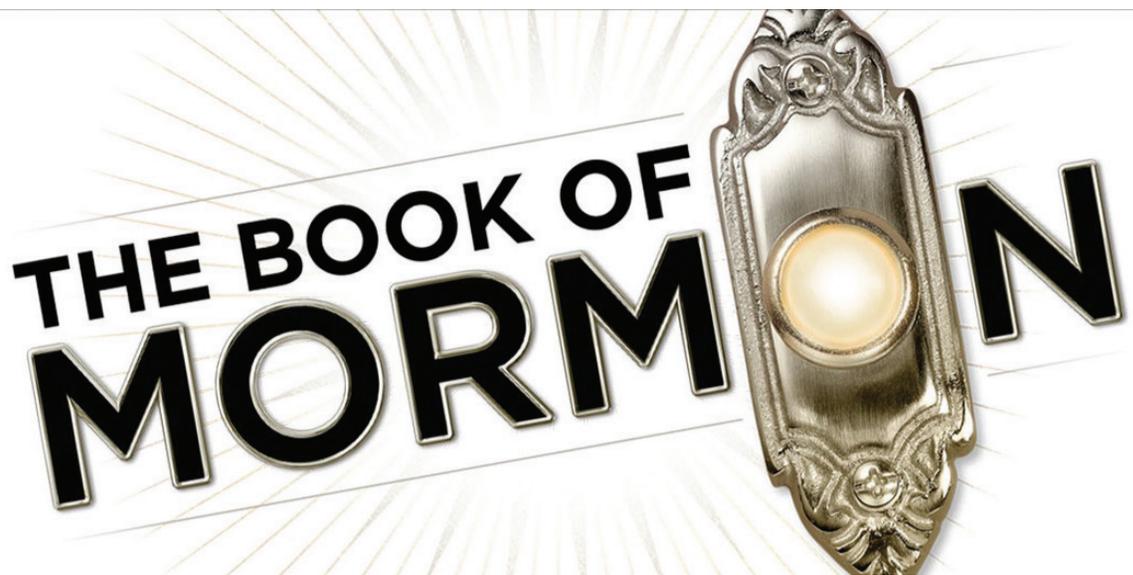
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Third time around for "Book of Mormon"

By DON FOWLER

Lamont Jay Whittaker just finished his 330th performance as Mafala Hatimbi Jr., village chief, in the award-winning musical, "The Book of Mormon".
"We opened a year ago and we're still going strong," he said from Texas, far from his birthplace in Miami, college in California, and current home in New York City. The show's booking at PPAC will be his first time in Rhode Island.
When I looked up his name on google, I found an English poet, a standup comedian and an older actor.
Lamont was surprised to learn of his namesakes, telling me about his other interests as a musical playwright and cabaret producer.

"I play the chief of the village visited by Mormon missionaries, with literally big shoes to fill."
"The show will make you laugh, but also make you think, and you will see yourself and others in it."
I suggested that the musical may offend some people with its R rated material and poke at religion.
"Book of Mormon" is a musical of its time," he said.
"It is about people finding their way. It is a journey that they, and the audience, did not expect to take. Many people are seeing it for the second and third time, and finding something new in it."
"Book of Mormon will be at the Providence Performing Arts Center October 31-November 5 as part of the Encore Series. Call 421-ARTS for reservations.

Eclipse (Continued from page 16)

"Rather than the moon covering the entire ball of the sun, the moon is just a little further away [from the Earth], so it's unable to totally block the sun," said Francine Jackson, staff astronomer of the LADD Observatory at Brown University. "So, when it gets into the middle of the sun it leaves a circle, or a ring, around the moon called an annulus, which is Latin for ring."
Those of us here in Rhode Island won't be lucky enough to witness the full majesty of the eclipse that states like New Mexico will, but that doesn't mean the event isn't worth stepping outside your front door. While the thousands-mile-long path of the eclipse will be visible across the United States, Rhode Island, and most of the country lucky enough to glimpse the event from outside its path, will only be getting a small taste of the eclipse.
Those gathering to view the event on Saturday will be able to see about 19% coverage of the sun by the moon. Don't worry though, we here in the Ocean State can look forward to a more impressive version of the event next April where we will see about 95% coverage of the sun, Jackson said.



PREPARED TO SHOOT: Photographer Steve Popiel is armed with camera and eclipse-safe glasses to record the partial solar eclipse this Saturday.

"You have to have some kind of protection," warned Jackson of those hoping to watch the eclipse while it is happening. "The easiest one, of course, is those eclipse glasses, but there are other things you can do. There's the old 'putting a box over your head with a pinhole in one end and it projects the sun on the other. Probably one of the better things is to go to places where people are gathering together."
Even a colander can be used as a means to track the event, Jackson explained with a laugh.
"Turn your back to the sun and put the colander so the light goes through and each individual hole in front of the sun," she clarified before warning that sunglasses do not make a safe replacement for the specialty viewing glasses available. "Looking at the sun through sun-

glasses you're messing up your eyes. The glasses are specifically darkened so that when you put them on all you can see is the sun. When you put them on you can't see a blessed thing otherwise."
If you're looking to watch the eclipse on Saturday you can join one of the viewing parties to be found around the state. Cranston Library is holding viewing parties at the Bain Track on Gansett Avenue complete with free eclipse viewing

glasses and an eclipse picnic at their William Hall Branch, 1825 Broad St., with both events beginning at 12:30 p.m.
Jackson also said there will be events held at Brown University, at the center of their campus in Providence, Roger Williams Park Museum, also in Providence, and Seagrave Memorial Observatory, in North Scituate, will all be holding events at the same time.

Get funky, it makes the day so much better

Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

October 5 was National Get Funky Day, which was announced on the radio as I was driving to work. They played a funky song, so I turned up the radio loud and started be-bopping to it. Before I knew it, my arms were waving in the air, keeping one hand on the steering wheel unless I was stopped at a red light, in which case both arms were flung into the air. Even my hips managed to bounce back and forth in the driver's seat. Anyone driving around me may have thought I was having a seizure, but my body was just seized by joy!

The impromptu dance brought me back through my younger years, dancing with Hubby at school dances, then the prom, then at our wedding, then at our children's weddings. Hubby would bop and bend his knees, moving his arms in time to the music. I would dance double pace, wriggling and jiggling clumsily around him like a wound-up doll. Suffice it to say that such moves would not currently be in my repertoire due to arthritis and back issues, so dancing in the driver's seat of my car was just right.

My mood for the day improved greatly, and I was energized with improved enthusiasm for life. The crisis of COVID has decreased and I no longer need to wear a mask. My nose twitched at the thought of the stuffy, confining mouth and nose covering I used to wear.

So many things have changed and improved for the better. The big, clunky computer I had used has improved to the size of my iPhone, a miraculous device that is so far advanced that I am still learning things daily. If I tap the back of my phone, a flashlight comes on. It tracks everywhere

I have been, a function Hubby loves to use on his to show me what he has been doing all day while I work. He delights in showing me how he can use the phone as a lever to see how level something is. Each of my friends and relatives has a different ring tone so I can tell who is calling by the sound. My favorite function is that it stops robo-calls, which is a joyous thing!

Another delightful service is online banking. Instead of writing a check, then writing out an envelope, getting a stamp and then putting it in the mailbox to pay bills, it is all done online. I can immediately see any deposits and move money around willy nilly. What fun!

Driving is so much easier now, with GPS navigation and back-up cameras. Now I know where I am going, and don't hit anything while I am backing up. There is cruise control, so I don't have to tire my foot out on long drives hitting the gas pedal, and a seat warmer so my bottom is balmy on a cold day.

Frozen meals have come a long way since the TV dinner with macaroni and cheese with Salisbury steak. Now I enjoy Healthy Choice Barbecue Seasoned Steak with Red Potatoes, Steak Portabella with perfectly cooked Brussels Sprouts, and Lemon Herb Chicken Piccata. The choices are endless, and I could eat a different frozen meal every day for the year. Of course, I still prefer Hubby's gourmet cooking. Eating something delicious always makes me happy.

The biggest positive change that has happened is that my five children are now adults. Like birds in a nest, they were fed their worms and then flew the coop. I no longer get a knot in the pit of my stomach if they do not come home from a date or have to rush to drive three children to three different places. I am free, and it is a delightful feeling!

For some odd reason, getting funky on October 5 energized me to appreciate the positive changes that have come through the years. I want to celebrate life, spread love and laughter. Please join me!



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By JENNIFER COATES

This was the world that existed when the Briarcliffe community opened the doors to its first senior living and rehabilitation residents & patients. This was just the beginning of a 60-year legacy of care, support, and compassion that has come to define the Briarcliffe name for the past six decades.

Many of today's Briarcliffe's residents and short-term rehab patients were just getting started in life in 1963 ~ this was the age that launched the moniker "baby boomers," but was also when the then young adults were getting married, starting families, buying their first homes, and beginning

The year was 1963 and for many, the world was full of possibilities. The first woman made it to space, Martin Luther King gave his iconic "I have a dream" speech and the United States Postal Service instituted the Zip Code system. The average cost of a house was only \$12,600.00 and the average cost of a car was \$3,200.00. But the country also went through some dark days during this era when civil rights protests rocked the south and the popular President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

what would become lifelong careers.

Fast forward to today and many of these same people would only remember these happy times ~ a time of new beginnings and hope for a bright future ~ days that are now looked back upon with fondness and joy.

The director, the staff, the caregivers and all the people who make the Briarcliffe community a big extended "family" try every day to honor the lives of those who pass through these doors today, sixty years later. Their commitment to excellence in care and to providing services which are designed to meet every need has not dimmed over these decades. In fact, Briarcliffe Manor has become one of the top ranked nursing homes in the country, achieving a five-star rating from the federal government's Center for Medicare & Medicaid for 13 years in a row!

As soon as one walks through the doors of any of the buildings on the

Briarcliffe campus ~ whether it is Briarcliffe Gardens and the Cottage Memory Care Assisted Living residence, the new Preserve at Briarcliffe Supportive Independent and Assisted Living residence or the Briarcliffe Manor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, one will immediately sense what sets them apart. Nothing here on this expansive campus is haphazard or unplanned. Visitors and residents alike experience a feeling of order, comfort, compassion and security here.

From the time the ground was first broken on Briarcliffe Manor all those many years ago, the primary mission here has been to provide the best care for all of Briarcliffe's residents.

As the President/CEO and owner of Briarcliffe, Akshay Talwar and his devoted staff invite you and your loved ones to visit the Briarcliffe campus. To schedule your personal tour, call 401-944-2450. For more information, you can also visit them at www.briarclifferi.com.

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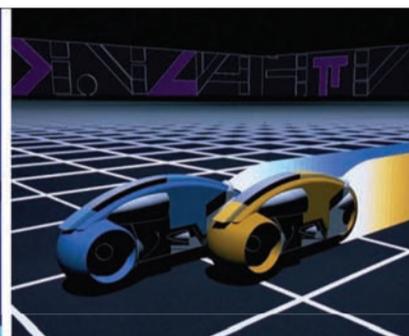
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TRON



By Travis Landry
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Back in the early 80s computer and video game technology was thriving, and while the graphics and hardware may look lame to the modern eye, it was groundbreaking at the time. The digital boom of the decade inspired countless elements of pop culture, including film, which in turn brought us *Tron*.

If you don't recall, *Tron* dropped in theaters in 1982 and starred Jeff Bridges as Kevin Flynn. He was your average disgruntled computer programmer with hacking goals who gets sucked into a computer mainframe. Produced by Walt Disney, it has the distinction of being one

of the first films to really utilize CGI. We take that for granted today since so many films and TV shows infuse CGI on the regular, but in 1982 it was a huge deal. *Tron* got great reviews, but only did okay at the box office. Fortunately, it gained a cult following of computer nerds, tech junkies, and gamers that made it the sci-fi legend it is today. In 2010 the sequel, *Tron: Legacy* was released and in 2012 the TV series *Tron: Uprising* made its debut. Maybe the franchise started off as low tech 1980s, but that's why *Tron* is loved. All that stuff in the plot is still cool and cutting edge - the graphics are just better now!

Anyways (surprise, surprise) *Tron* inspired plenty of video games and its very own toy line. In 1982 and perfectly timed for the release of the film, TOMY toys of Japan released four action figures (Tron, Flynn, Sark, and Warrior) and two light cycles. It might seem like a small offering compared to the franchises of today, but the limited production makes the *Tron* original toy line so much more desirable to collectors. TOMY was known for mechanical toys, but the action figures they produced for *Tron* were high quality, eye catching, and fun to play with. A win for parents, TOMY, and kids!

The fact that the original *Tron* toy line was so well loved and played with, combined with the fact that only six toys were ever created makes factory sealed, unused, mint-in-box examples nearly impossible to find. Nearly.



We were lucky enough to obtain four action figures and one light cycle from the collection of Andy Yanchus, the legendary model enthusiast and Marvel comic artist, which are up for auction October 18th. If you're a computer nerd, tech junkie, or gamer old enough to remember that epic feeling you had when you first saw *Tron* and played with the toys, now is your chance to bask in that 1980s low tech futuristic nostalgia!



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Young workers and retirement savings

Young adults newly introduced to the professional arena may not immediately be thinking of the future when their careers will come to a close. Retirement may seem like a distant goal when it's 50 years or more away. However, pushing off retirement savings because it is not viewed as a necessity could turn out to be a significant mistake.

According to Mass Mutual, the economic disruption caused by the global pandemic pushed retirement to the bottom of many workers' lists of financial priorities. That was especially so among young professionals. A 2019 survey found roughly half of millennial and Generation Z professionals believe they are not saving enough for retirement. Student loan burdens are another reason why certain people may delay saving for retirement until they are older.

Young workers need to get the facts about retirement. For example, The U.S. Social Security Administration says that Social Security taxes that people now pay into the Social Security Trust funds that used to pay benefits to current beneficiaries, not future ones. The Board of Trustees estimates that, in 2041, and based on current law, the Trust Funds will be depleted since people are living longer and the birth rate is low. The taxes being paid now will not be enough to pay the full benefit amounts scheduled for future retirees.

Young people can no longer rely on Social Security benefits to finance their retirements in the United States. Rather, young workers need to be proactive and take control of their own retirement savings.

- Experts advise following the general rule of saving 10 percent to 12 percent of your salary when you are in your 20s, including factoring in any employer match.

- Working for companies that offer defined-contribution plans like a 401(k) or 403(b) can make it easier for young profes-



sionals to begin saving for retirement.

- Setting aside a portion of your income early on in retirement savings ensures more years of savings and investments will benefit from decades of compounding.

- Those who contribute to a retirement plan may receive an immediate tax break because the contributions come out of paychecks before taxes are withheld. Many of these plans also offer the advantage of tax-deferred growth. This translates to not being required to pay taxes each year on capital gains, dividends or other yield distributions

if the money is not withdrawn before age 59½. Speak with a financial advisor to learn more about tax-advantaged accounts.

- T. Rowe Price says there are certain benchmarks that can help people save enough money for retirement. By age 30, you should have .5 times the amount of your salary. At age 35, that amount should increase to 1.5 times your salary. These numbers are based on an assumed retirement age of 65 and with a household income growth of 5 percent until age 45 and 3 percent thereafter.

- According to research from Qualtrics, young workers don't plan on working until they can receive full benefits from Social Security. Twenty-four percent plan to retire early, and 41 percent want to do so by the time they turn 50. That could spark more ambition among younger generations to save for retirement and to save more aggressively.

Even if retirement is many years in the future, young workers need to start saving for retirement early on to be able to retire comfortably. MM23CS18

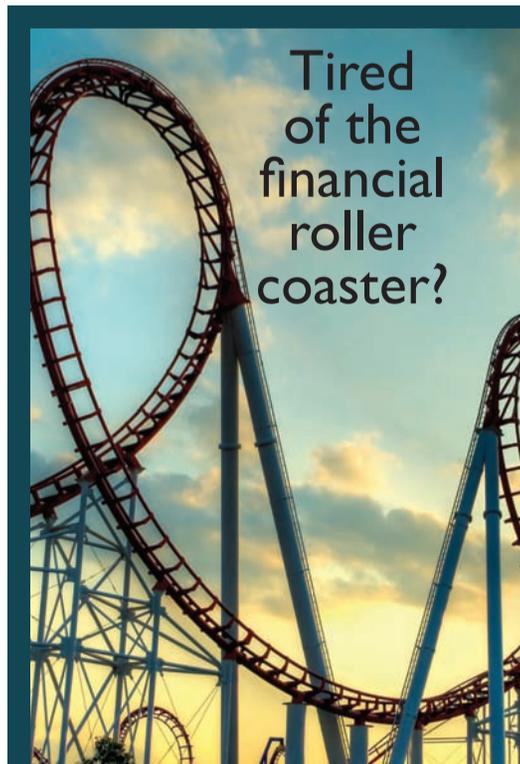
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