

# No suspects in Memorial Park abduction attempt

By RORY SCHULER

According to an alert 8-year-old camper, the jogger wet a cloth and approached her. Police say the man commanded the young girl, to “come here.” She refused, ran away and reported the incident. Now police are looking for the suspect

— a man in his late 20s to early 30s, around 6-feet-tall with olive-toned skin and black hair — accused of trying to abduct a summer camper in Johnston’s War Memorial Park last Friday. “An 8-year-old camper reported that while sitting on a park bench, a male jogging by approached her and removed a small brown bottle and a cloth from his

Crossbody bag,” Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira said Wednesday morning. “According to the camper, the male suspect proceeded to wet the cloth with the substance in the bottle and approached ... her while she was seated on a park bench.” Johnston Police issued a community alert after the incident, which occurred

around 3:35 p.m., Friday, Aug. 9. “Officers responded to Johnston War Memorial Park at 1583 Hartford Ave. following a report of an attempted child abduction,” according to the alert. “Police are currently seeking a person of interest.”

ABDUCTION - PAGE 6



**NO SWIMMING:** Most people already know, but you shouldn’t swim in the Woonasquatucket River in Johnston or North Providence. While the U.S. EPA approves of canoeing and kayaking in the river, as well as walking, running and biking along the banks, the agency recommends washing thoroughly after any contact with the water, sediment or soil. (Photos courtesy U.S. EPA)

## EPA: Don't swim in the Woony!

By GRETA SHUSTER  
Special to the SunRise

Seen warning signs posted along the Woonasquatucket River in Johnston or North Providence? Here’s why reading them is important. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency warns Johnston, North Providence and Providence residents

WOONY - PAGE 4

## Under the old law: Barking in Johnston could mean the death penalty

### Mayor proposes change to ‘archaic’ ordinance, softening penalties and defining ‘excessive’

By RORY SCHULER

Tanya Rocchio was surprised to see a Johnston Animal Control officer pull into her driveway.

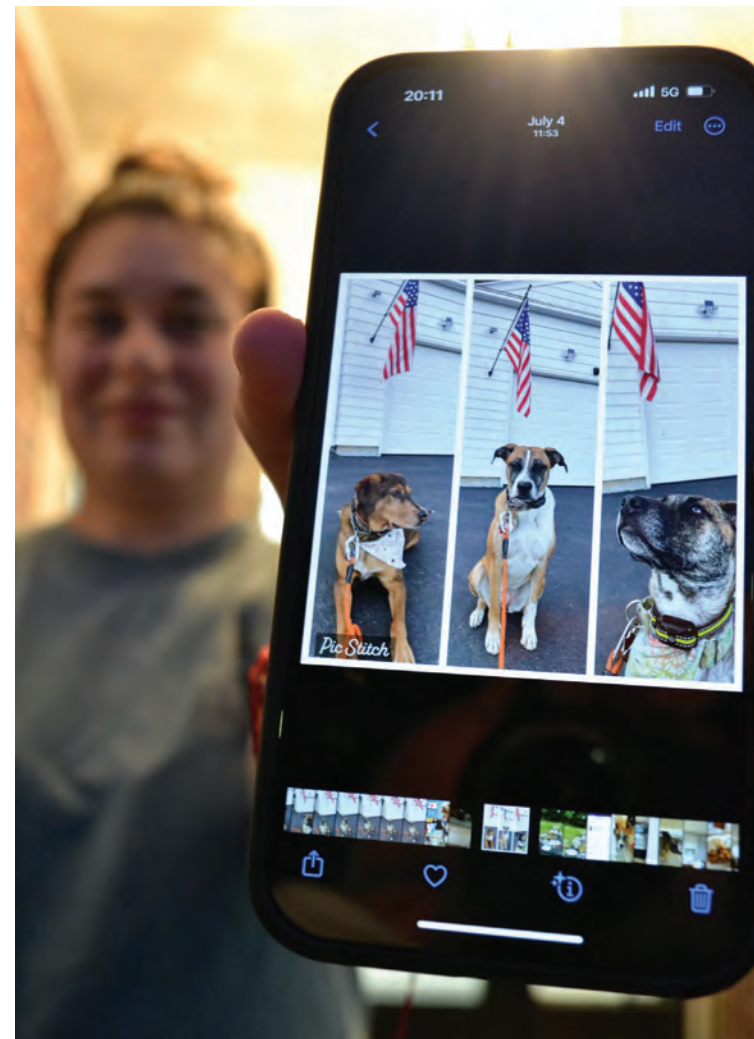
Her three dogs — Harper, Reagan and Luciano — were outside. They might have been barking. That’s what healthy, happy dogs tend to do. They bark to communicate.

While Johnston Animal Control only gave Rocchio a warning, she decided to look into the town’s dog barking laws and penalties. She discovered the town technically had the authority to remove and possibly destroy her animals if they barked “excessively.”

Her research scared her into contacting the mayor.

“The one that really concerned me as a dog owner is my dogs being removed from the home,” Rocchio said while standing outside the Johnston Municipal Courthouse following the Tuesday, Aug. 13 Town Council meeting, where an updated “Excessive Dog Barking Ordinance” received its first read. “And then reading it, and saying that they could be destroyed, or ... euthanized, was very scary to read. Just because, what is excessive? I don’t know what that is. Anyone from Johnston PD can come and use their discretion and say, ‘Oh that dog’s barking is excessive. We need to take your dog.’”

BARKING - PAGE 6



**MY THREE PUPS:** Tanya Rocchio lives on Memorial Avenue in Johnston. After animal control showed up to investigate barking complaints, she discovered the town had the authority to remove and possibly destroy her animals if they barked “excessively.” She said her three dogs – Harper, Reagan and Luciano – are more like family members than pets. So she reached out to the mayor. (SunRise photo by Rory Schuler)



Tori and Cathy Andreozzi

## Worlds change in an instant

### Maybe it's time we all sit down and talk

By BARBARA POLICHETTI  
Special to the SunRise

The world changed in an instant for Cathy Andreozzi on March 26, 2003, when she learned that her 12-year-daughter, Tori Lynn, had been struck by a drunk driver while walking to school in West Warwick.

Tori, an energetic girl who loved martial arts, suffered a traumatic brain injury. And although severely impaired, she lived, surrounded by love and care, until November 2022.

It’s a story that could have had a different ending and that is why Andreozzi, who now lives in Warwick, will be taking part in a community conversation scheduled for next Thursday, Aug. 22, at 6:30 p.m., at the Johnston High School Auditorium.

The program — entitled “A Conversation About Impaired Driving, The Law, And a Call to Action” — is a collaborative effort with the Johnston School Department, the Johnston Prevention Coalition and the foundation that Andreozzi founded in her daughter’s name.

In addition to Andreozzi, speakers will include Johnston Police Chief Mark Vieira, Johnston Fire Chief David Iannucilli, a representative of the attorney general’s office, and Patricia Sweet, director of Prevention Programs and the Southern Providence County Regional Prevention Task Force.

ANDREOZZI - PAGE 9





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# JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

## RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS

Around 9:45 a.m., July 27, Johnston Police Patrolman Nicholas Defelice was patrolling Hartford Avenue when he spotted a black Nissan Altima in front of a store, and the rear passenger break light was allegedly out.

He looked up the vehicle’s registration and found the plates “belonged on a (green) 2007 Volkswagen.”

The plates were also reported stolen by the Pawtucket Police Department.

Defelice followed the vehicle and watched it circle the parking lot “multiple times.”

“The vehicle then went to a BJ’s gas pump to avoid me,” Defelice wrote in the arrest report. “As a result, I parked my patrol vehicle to (observe) what the occupants were doing.”

The vehicle drove away from the pumps and dropped a passenger off at the plaza entrance. The vehicle then parked in the Price Rite parking lot, and the driver exited the vehicle.

Police later identified the driver as Terry Jones, 49, of 21 Searle St., Providence. He went into the store.

Around 10 a.m., Jones exited the store and walked east on Hartford Avenue, “abandoning the vehicle.”

Defelice detained Jones in front of the Bank Newport at 1423 Hartford Ave.

Jones provided police with a bill of sale for the vehicle and told police the plates were removed from another vehicle and placed on his new car. However, dispatch personnel confirmed that the plates were still listed as stolen.

Jones was arrested and charged with Receiving Stolen Goods, a misdemeanor. The vehicle was towed from the parking lot. He was arraigned around 2:30 p.m. and released on \$1,000 personal recognizance.

## NO LICENSE OR REGISTRATION

Around 6 p.m., July 24, Johnston Police Patrolman Elijah J. Bolarinho was on a fixed posted at 557 Killingly St. when he spotted a white Nissan Rogue pass by northbound with no front registration plate.

He initiated a motor vehicle stop and identified the driver as Craig S. Iannucci, 29, of 169 Rugby St., Providence.

Rhode Island Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) records showed the plates were registered to someone else and belonged on a 2010 red Nissan, according to the arrest report.

Police said Iannucci’s driver’s license was also suspended.

“It should be noted that this was Mr. Iannucci’s fourth/subsequent offense for driving with a suspended license,” Bolarinho wrote.

The vehicle was towed from the scene and the driver was placed under arrest. He was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters, processed and later released with a court summons. Iannucci was charged with Driving with a Suspended License (fourth or subsequent offense, a misdemeanor). He was also cited for Improper Use of Evidence of Registration or Certificate of Title, Display of Plates and Suspended Registration, according to police.

## DUI

Around 12:07 a.m., July 27, Johnston Police patrolmen at a fixed post spotted a vehicle traveling south on Atwood Avenue with “illegal installation of sunscreen material and at an excessive rate of speed.”

The vehicle also allegedly changed lanes without a signal, according to police.

Police initiated a traffic stop. They identified the driver as Joshua M.

Lemay, 28, of 18 Sheffield Ave., Coventry.

According to the arrest report, Lemay’s eyes were “severely bloodshot” and Johnston Police Patrolman Patrick Gendreau smelled “a moderate odor of alcohol emanating from the (vehicle) interior.”

According to police, Lemay’s speech was “mumbled,” he was “sweating profusely, and his cheeks were ... red.” Police say they spotted four opened and emptied nips on the vehicle. He allegedly told police they belonged to a friend.

Police asked Lemay to exit the vehicle and consent to a series of standardized field sobriety tests.

Following the tests, Lemay was arrested and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters.

Police searched the vehicle and say they found “11 emptied Grape 99 nips” and an “unopened full container of alcohol.”

Lemay was charged with DUI (first offense, blood alcohol content unknown). He was also charged with Speeding 1-10 MPH in Excess of Posted Limit, Unlawful installation of Windshield and Window-Owner, Open Container and Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test.

## SHOPLIFTING

On July 10, Johnston Police took custody of a suspect wanted in town for a misdemeanor Shoplifting charge. Police identified the suspect as Tara A. Petrini, 34, of 2 Glossop St., Providence.

Earlier in the month, around 3:40 p.m., July 1, Johnston Police Patrolman Thomas Santurri responded to Market Basket, 1300 Hartford Ave., for the report of a shoplifting incident.

A store manager told police that a woman walked through the store with “an extremely full cart” filled with “expensive items like Red Bull and other energy drinks,” Santurri wrote in the incident report.

The store manager watched the woman and stationed employees at the store exits. Petrini allegedly bounced between exits, but eventually attempted to leave without paying for the groceries, which were valued at \$968.54. A store employee stopped the cart and was able to “secure her hand bag.” She was seen walking east on Hartford Avenue. The case was forwarded to the Johnston Police Detective Division for further investigation.

Police identified Petrini via a document they found in the seized purse. They issued a warrant for Petrini’s arrest on a misdemeanor Shoplifting charge.

Johnston Police also note that Petrini was also wanted by both the Coventry and Providence Police departments for Shoplifting charges.

Police handed off custody of Petrini to Coventry Police personnel around 4:45 p.m., July 10.

## DOMESTIC SIMPLE ASSAULT

Around 9:50 a.m., Aug. 7, Cranston Police Officers arrested Nickoli Torrico, 41, of 218 Grosenor Ave., East Providence, for Domestic Simple Assault (“3rd/Greater” offense, according to Cranston Police). The arrest was the result of a call from Johnston Police “contacting us about an incident that occurred on Glenwood” Avenue, according to Cranston Police. Torrico was transported to Third District Court for arraignment.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** The preceding police log information has been taken from public record police incident and arrest reports provided by the Johnston Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies.

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MORE INFO





# He helped sew the senior center seed and watched it grow

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

In 1940, the Hy-Test Oil Company operated a one pump gas station in Providence and delivered kerosene and oil for heating homes.

The business, owned and operated by Peter Lombardi Sr., and his son Peter Jr., moved to Atwood Avenue in Johnston, in the area now called Crossroad Commons, which was built in 1990 by the Lombardis. In the early 1970s, the senior Lombardi helped organize the early versions of today's modern senior center, in property next to Saint Anthony's Church on Plainfield Street. The building needed heat, which was provided by Peter Jr. Services to seniors included health care, eye exams and food to needy seniors.

Their efforts were coordinated with the Knights of Columbus, and many additional services became available. Flash forward a number of years, and Peter Jr. was asked to assist in providing heat to a small building on Priscilla Lane, across from Saint Rocco's Church.

That building housed a group of seniors from Johnston who had established a nonprofit, in hopes of creating a Johnston Senior Center. Following in his father's footsteps, Peter Jr., joined the board of the nonprofit, and later served as chair. Their long-term goal was to find a suitable building and campus facility that would be the envy of every city and town.

That effort was led by this week's Johnston Senior Center Profile, Peter Lombardi Jr., who spearheaded the locating and building of the current Johnston Senior Center some 18 years ago, a facility that remains one of the state's most beautiful Centers housing many services to older adults. Even today, this 91-year-old, former prominent Johnston businessman, will visit the Center, have lunch, and is always making donations for the members' continued enjoyment. Many of our members here have wonderful stories and have played a role in helping to shape this town, of hard working, proud and principled families, whose legacies continue to be shared. Peter Lombardi Jr. will always be remembered as a man whose vision became a reality, for generations to enjoy.

**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 Spotlight," submitted by the senior center.

# Senior 'Spotlite'



**HE STARTED IT ALL:** This week's Johnston Senior Center 'Spotlite' shines on Peter Lombardi Jr., who spearheaded the locating and building of the current Johnston Senior Center about 18 years ago. (Photo courtesy of Richard J. DelFino Jr.)



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# JOHNSTON RESIDENTS

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■

Woony

(Continued from page 1)

to take caution around the Woonasquatucket River this summer as contamination in and around the water may pose health risks. Several signs posted along the river advise local residents to not eat the plants or wildlife that live in and around the river, swim or wade in the water or dig in the riverbanks.

“The warning signs are to remind [locals], and people who may not live along the river coming to visit, just about the safety around it,” said Charlotte Gray, community involvement coordinator for the EPA.

However, the EPA approves of canoeing and kayaking in the river, as well as walking, running and biking along the banks, but recommends washing thoroughly after any contact with the water, sediment or soil.

“There are safe ways to use the river. Boating is safe in the river, it’s mainly contact with the sediments and floodplain soil that we want people to avoid,” said EPA Remedial Project Manager Hoshaiah Barczynski.

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council often hosts community paddle excursions in canoes or kayaks at various locations along the river, which are approved by the EPA.

“I would say that we’re not getting indications that the river is often used,” said Gray. “I’ve done some door-to-door work and people are well aware not to go in the river. The mayors on both the Johnston and North Providence sides have made it clear that people are not going into the river.”

The contamination in the Woonasquatucket River stems from the Superfund site at the Centredale Manor apartment complex. The site consists of about 9 acres, extending south from the Centredale Manor down the Woonasquatucket River to the Lyman Mill Dam, according to the EPA.

From the 1940s-1970s, the site was home to Atlantic Chemical Co. and New England Container Company, Inc., who contaminated the site with dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls. During that time, chemicals were released directly into the ground, buried and emptied directly into the river.

“This is not an EPA-led cleanup,” said Barczynski. “It is a cleanup that is being performed by the responsible parties, the people who have been legally found to be liable for this contamination.”

Since cleanup efforts started in the fall of 2019, remediation of the source area at the Centredale Manor has been completed. The cleanup process mainly consisted of consolidating and capping contaminated soil with a cap that is appropriate for hazardous waste.

The cleanup effort has now moved downriver, focusing on targeted areas where there has been higher contamination. “We have not yet taken on the entire floodplain soil of the river because we are still figuring out the best way to contain and dispose of the soil,” Barczynski said. “In the meantime, we have controls in place to prevent exposure to people. We have fencing along the site where contamination is at unacceptable levels, and we have signs downriver to prevent people from using the river in unsafe ways.”

Barczynski hopes people will someday be able to swim in the river.

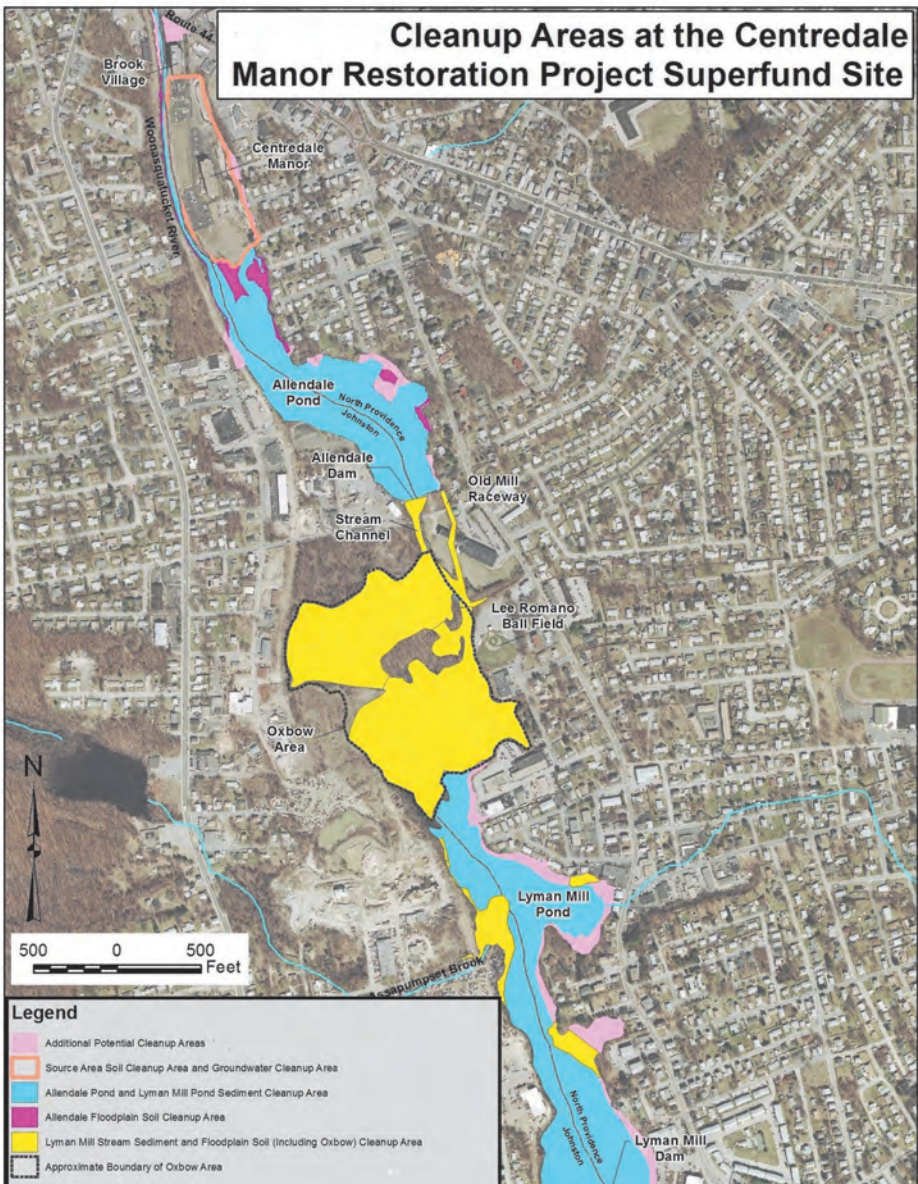
The EPA is currently completing their five-year review of the Centredale Manor site. The cleanup team predicts that it will be completed in the fall, when it will be posted on the EPA website for public viewing. For urgent questions surrounding usage of the river, contact the EPA toll-free hotline posted on the warning signs, 1-(888)-372-7341.

“We’ll keep the public informed,” said Gray. “We’re here, and we’re available.”

**Editor’s Note:** Greta Shuster is a Beacon Media editorial summer intern.



**THE WOONY:**  
Don’t swim in the Woonasquatucket River in Johnston or North Providence, warns the U.S. EPA. They provided this picturesque image of the Woony, as well as this map (at right) of the cleanup areas at the Centredale Manor restoration Superfund site. *(Photos courtesy U.S. EPA)*



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# I-295 section from Warwick to Cranston to close starting Aug. 16

On Friday night, Aug. 16, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) will begin an extended weekend closure affecting a short portion of Interstate 295 in Warwick, West Warwick and Cranston for the replacement of the Providence Street Bridge. A combination of full highway closures and lane closures are scheduled throughout that weekend and into the early work week, with all lanes restored by 6 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 20, according to a RIDOT press release.

“RIDOT is using accelerated bridge construction methods to replace this large structurally deficient bridge,” according to the state agency. “Over the course of the extended weekend, RIDOT will demolish the old bridge and move the new bridge into place.”

During full closures, I-295 will be closed between I-95 in Warwick and Route 37 in Cranston. When just lane closures are needed, they will occur at the Providence Street Bridge overpass, locat-

ed north of Exit 1B (Route 2). Motorists can expect congestion and are advised to provide additional travel time to follow the detours during closures.

**Closure Schedule:**

- Friday, Aug. 16: I-295 in both directions reduced to one lane at 7 p.m. and fully closed at 9 p.m. Providence Street above I-295 closed at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 17: One lane opens at 9 a.m. for I-295 South. All lanes for I-295 North and South reopen at 12 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 18: Both directions of I-295 close at 5 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 19: Both directions of I-295 reopen at 6 a.m. Single-lane closures are likely between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. and after 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 18: All lanes on I-295 and Providence Street above I-295 reopen by 6 a.m.

**Closure Details & Detour Info:**

- I-295 North: When full closures are scheduled, the beginning of I-295 North will be closed (I-95 North Exit 28A). Through traffic will follow a detour using I-95 North to Exit 31B (Route 37 West) to return to I-295 North. Since this closure prevents access to Exit 1A (Route 113) and Exit 1B (Route 2), RIDOT recommends local traffic use I-95 North Exit 28 to Route 113 to Route 2 or Route 5.
- I-295 South: When full closures are scheduled, detouring traffic will use Exit 3A to Route 37 East to reach I-95 South. Local traffic can use the Route 2 or Pontiac Avenue exits off Route 37 to detour. Additionally, I-95 South’s Exit 28A (I-295 North to Route 2 North only) and Exit 28C (Route 113 West) will remain open.

A detour map can also be found at: [www.ridot.net/DetourMaps](http://www.ridot.net/DetourMaps).

During the extended weekend, RIDOT will also close Providence Street at the bridge and set up local detours using Route 2 and East Avenue.

The Providence Street Bridge was built in 1968 and carries 10,500 vehicles per day, according to RIDOT. The entire project is expected to wrap up in spring 2025. “All construction projects are subject to changes in schedule and scope depending on needs, circumstances, findings and weather,” warns RIDOT.

“The replacement of the Providence Street Bridge is made possible by RhodeWorks and the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Improvement Act,” according to the RIDOT press release. “RIDOT is committed to bringing Rhode Island’s infrastructure into a state of good repair while respecting the environment and striving to improve it.”

**DETOUR MAP:**

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) provided this detour map, expected to go into effect Friday night, Aug. 16, when an extended weekend closure of a short portion of Interstate 295 in Warwick, West Warwick and Cranston for the replacement of the Providence Street Bridge. RIDOT expects all lanes will be restored by 6 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 20. (Map courtesy RIDOT)



## PROVIDENCE STREET BRIDGE CLOSED OVER I-295



On Friday night, August 16, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation will temporarily close a short section of I-295 from I-95 in Warwick to Route 37 in Cranston for the rapid replacement of the Providence Street Bridge. The closure extends into Saturday morning, August 17 and will be needed again during the Sunday, August 18 early evening and overnight hours. Lane closures are likely at all other times during this extended weekend operation. All lanes will be reopened by the morning rush hour on Tuesday, August 20.

Plan extra time for travel and get detour information at [www.ridot.net/news](http://www.ridot.net/news).



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■ Abduction

(Continued from page 1)

The suspect was “last seen wearing a white or gray tank top, black and reddish shorts, and carrying a large black water bottle and Crossbody bag,” police said.

Vieira called the incident “an attempted child abduction.”

“The juvenile camper alerted camp counselors by yelling for help at which time the male suspect ran into the men’s bathroom,” Vieira said. “He later exited the bathroom shirtless and subsequently fled from the area on foot towards Atwood Avenue. During the encounter, the suspect never made contact with the juvenile camper.”

Major changes have been happening in Memorial Park. Last year, town officials celebrated the installation of Providence’s former Christopher Columbus monument. A new splash pad is under construction and just last week, dignitaries gathered to unveil the Grieco Automotive Group Inclusive Playground.

Meanwhile, police are asking anyone who might have been “in the park at the time of the incident and/or have any additional information” to “please contact Detective Michael Andreozzi at 401-757-3140.”

“We appreciate the public’s assistance,” Johnston Police posted on social media.

According to Vieira, the case remains open.

“Johnston Police Detectives are currently investigating to identify a suspect and the case is ongoing,” Vieira said Wednesday morning, Aug. 14. “We are following up on all leads to include any potential video surveillance in the area that could have captured an image of the suspect.”

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. his administration is focused on bolstering security at the park.

“With all that’s been invested in Johnston Memorial recently, we’ve been working on installing cameras in the park for the past few months,” Polisena said Wednesday. “With this alleged indecent, we will now go forward with an emergency procurement to install cameras. Security cameras will act as both a deterrent and help identify any alleged suspicious activity. Hopefully this gives residents a peace of mind.”

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**NEW AND IMPROVED LAW:** Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. heard Tanya Rocchio’s concerns and agreed. He has proposed major changes to the town’s dog barking ordinance, and on Tuesday he addressed Johnston Town Council during the new law’s first reading. *(SunRise photo by Rory Schuler)*

■ Barking

(Continued from page 1)

The old law sent shivers through the lifelong dog-lover.

Rocchio’s dogs are more like family members than pets. The Memorial Avenue resident couldn’t imagine losing them because of an occasional barking annoyance.

“I did reach out to the mayor to express my concerns with the ordinance after looking at it,” she said.

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. heard Rocchio’s concerns and agreed.

“So our current dog barking ordinance is vague in the sense of it prohibits ‘excessive barking,’” Polisena explained. “I had a constituent call who said her neighbors were complaining about her dog barking but she thought it was normal barking and more importantly, she saw the prospective penalties of removal or destruction of the dog.”

The original 1979 ordinance called for the town’s police chief, deputy chief or other officer to “investigate any complaint” of “any dog ... barking, howling or in any other manner is disturbing the public peace or the quiet of any person, whomsoever...”

If the investigating officer “finds such complaint to be true” a written notice is to be served. Follow-

ing the notice, dog owners have just 24 hours “to remove and keep such dog from the premises where such dog has been creating such disturbance.”

And if they don’t, the town can “destroy such dog, under a penalty of \$5 for every day during which such owner or keeper shall refuse or neglect to remove or destroy such dog.”

Tuesday night, before Town Council, Polisena called the current ordinance outdated and archaic. He turned to artificial intelligence (AI) to help craft a more timely law.

“I wanted to be able to quantify as best as possible what excessive barking means so I used a template from generative AI and in that template quantified excessive barking to mean continuous for 10 minutes or intermittent for 30 minutes, but one or both occurring at least three times in a 24-hour period,” Polisena explained later. “Moreover, the penalties are changed as well.”

If the new barking ordinance is approved, the first violation will trigger a written warning. The second violation will be a \$50 fine. And the “third and subsequent violation is \$100 per violation,” Polisena said.

“This makes it easier for both complainants and dog owners to deal with these quality-of-life issues as they pop up,” Polisena explained.

The new ordinance lays out an appeal process and includes exceptions for guard dogs, “barking in response to other legitimate threats or disturbances,” and “dogs participating in a certified working dog program (e.g., search and rescue, police K-9 units).” The amended law also hands investigative responsibility to the Johnston Animal Control officer, rather than the police chief.

“We, dog owners, do need to be considerate,” Rocchio said. “But it needs to be fair to everyone ... People think of their dogs differently now. I see my dogs as family members.”


The ordinance has the support of Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira

“I’m in support of the proposed ordinance which clearly defines what constitutes a violation relative to ‘excessive barking’ by canines,” Vieira said. “Additionally, this proposed ordinance provides penalties that are more appropriate for a violation of this nature in contrast to violators being served with an order to remove or destroy their canine. The ordinance would also make it easier for our Animal Control Officers to address this quality of life issue.”

A full public hearing on the ordinance is expected next month, during Town Council’s regular September meeting.


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# Opinion

## EDITORIAL

# Why winning isn't everything

The world around us is a competitive place. Imprinted within our intrinsic human nature, within our very DNA, is an unmistakable need to compete and emerge victorious over those around us. Survival of the fittest is the unavoidable law of the natural world around us, and the billions of species of plants and animals we see around us are dwarfed by the vast numbers of predecessors who entered that competition and failed to come out on top.

Our modern society as we know it is a complicated mural of these competitions occurring all around us – races for political office, races for power within corporate board rooms, and races to see who can amass the most money, personal possessions, and influence among their peers.

Thankfully, we have various outlets to channel this competitive nature so that things don't devolve into Mad Max style dystopia all around us; whether it be through video games, talent shows, friendly wagers among co-workers, or the huge world of competitive sports.

The Olympics, which just concluded with a pulse-pounding closing ceremony this week, represent the absolute pinnacle of recreational competition for our species – pitting athletes against one another from countries that may never otherwise interact with one another, in sports that range from having international appeal to those that people might discover exist for the very first time while watching the games.

Make no mistake, every athlete who makes it to this apex level of competition wants to win and wants to be recognized as the best in their craft. But perhaps the most important lesson society should take from the Olympics comes not from the overall count of who wins the most medals, but instead from those who come in second, third, or don't even wind up on the podium.

The Olympics bring together people from all over the world, promoting cultural exchange and understanding that might never occur otherwise, at least not on such a grand scale. They inspire countless millions to follow their own dreams of rising above their station in life and reaching for something higher. The mere presence of an athlete at the Olympics coming from someone's native homeland can be enough to encourage many others to aspire to that level of greatness; win or lose.

The games were created to push the limits of human beings and their capabilities, not to see which collective groupings of people, based on often arbitrary, manmade, borders, can bring home the most trophies. It is a worthy pursuit that has continued to expand the limits on what we think is physically possible, indicated by world records that are smashed every four years.

In a world so dominated by the declaration of winners and losers, the haves and the have nots, it is somewhat refreshing that in the most prestigious of competitive affairs, we see such heartwarming displays of sportsmanship between people from wholly different cultures, each as competitive as the next, but who see the value in fostering an environment where the spirit of competition itself is more important than who ultimately receives the glory of victory.



John Howell, Publisher Emeritus

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## GUEST OPINION

# Big things happening at Rhode Island Energy

**By GREG CORNETT**

By now you've heard the news that Rhode Island Energy (RIE) is part of the PPL Corporation (NYSE:PPL) family of companies and transitioning from National Grid. You're probably wondering what it means, what changes to expect and how it might affect you and your neighbors. Big things are happening at RIE, but our commitment to Rhode Island only grows stronger.

On Aug. 19, we roll out new customer and work management systems. This is a significant milestone, and it will mean changes for customers – such as our website, bill design and the introduction of our expanded, local customer service team. At the same time, RIE remains at its core your local energy company, headquartered in Providence.

Many things will not change. Important values at RIE will be stronger than ever. We will continue to be a customer-focused organization connecting nearly 800,000 of our neighbors with safe and reliable energy solutions. While our name is relatively new, our company traces its roots back more than a century to the Narragansett Electric Company and is proud of our legacy of service to Rhode Island. We're dedicated to the Ocean State.

We're part of Rhode Island from Westerly to Woonsocket and Burrillville to Little Compton. Our 1,300 local team members are your neighbors, friends and family. They will continue delivering safe and reliable gas and electric service throughout Rhode Island. In 2023 alone, these dedicated employees

delivered the best electric reliability performance and gas response of any energy company in state history.

This transition has given RIE the opportunity to examine the way we do things. From our website to our bill design to the way we communicate, customers will see enhancements. The new RIE website ([www.RIEnergy.com](http://www.RIEnergy.com)) will provide you with a more streamlined experience. For example, customers can now quickly see where they can make a payment, report an outage or start and stop service. You can manage communication preferences for your account, billing and storm-related notifications. The new RIE website is your hub to learn more about the changes and a place you can rely on when it's necessary to stay up to date on storm response activity. It's important to note that customers will not pay for these changes.

The team at RIE has put a lot of thought into how we can better serve our customers. This thinking extends to a new bill design. We're making visual enhancements to our bills and worked so they provide useful information for our customers. Charges are broken out distinctly, with the payment amount and due dates more prominent. And we've enhanced the way for you to contact us, with the convenience of one number to call. This information will be easily found on our website and shared through letters, emails, bills and other RIE platforms.

As an RIE customer we do need to ask that you take some simple steps on your end. First, on Aug. 19th, plan to update your account

password. As our billing system changes, it is important that each customer reviews their billing preferences so payment processing continues as expected. Customers who pay online should log in and see what changes apply to them. The website will give personalized guidance. From Aug. 15 until Aug. 19, however, our primary website and contact center will be unavailable for business transactions. During that period, our microsite ([www.RIEnergy.com/changes](http://www.RIEnergy.com/changes)) will be available, our social media channels will be active and our emergency lines will be staffed to respond to customer calls without delay.

Throughout the rollout process, RIE will communicate and engage with customers using direct mail, advertising, webinars and a new local contact center staffed by RIE. We're here to assist you with this transition and handle all service requests. Our contact center will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is available 24/7 for any gas or electric emergencies.

Successful implementation of the new customer and work management systems is a substantial undertaking touching every aspect of our company. The extraordinarily complex change does not impact rates and is guided by our customer-first focus at every step.

Rhode Island and its people are very important to us. Our mission starts with safety and reliability, but our commitment goes beyond delivering essential energy services. We are helping our communities grow and thrive each day.

**Editor's Note:** *Greg Cornett is President of Rhode Island Energy.*





# Magaziner to introduce bill raising penalties for wage theft

By ADAM ZANGARI

Rep. Seth Magaziner said he couldn’t believe that these bad actors think they can get away with it,” Magaziner said. “There’s a fundamental unfairness where if you go and steal a TV from the store, you are going to jail, but if you steal money out of a worker’s pocket, you get a slap on the wrist.”

Wage theft occurs when an employer intentionally does not pay an employee legally required wages. Under current federal law, Magaziner said, the maximum amount an employer can be fined for committing wage theft is \$10,000, no matter how much they steal.

While the bill has yet to be introduced since the House is currently on recess, Magaziner said that he

has had discussions with fellow congress members about the bill, and currently has 20 cosponsors.

Magaziner said that the bill was largely modeled after a state-level bill that was signed into law in 2023, making Rhode Island the first state in the nation to consider wage theft a felony crime.

Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha, who attended the press conference, said that incidents of wage theft in Rhode Island, including the construction of Barrington Middle School and RISE Prep Mayoral Academy in Woonsocket, had shown the scope of the problem and made getting the state-level bill through the General Assembly a top priority for him.

“Over \$150,000 in wages were stolen from more than a dozen workers [that built RISE],” Neronha said. “That is the nature and the scope of the problem.”

Making wage theft a felony, Neronha said, would be important for prosecuting perpetrators, noting that in his 15 years as a U.S. attorney, his office never took on a misdemeanor case.

Joining Magaziner and Neronha are local labor leaders, with 27 different labor organizations already endorsing the Don’t STEAL Act, Magaziner said.

Rhode Island AFL-CIO President George Nee made the case that the bill would also help businesses that aren’t committing wage theft and taxpayers that will see a slightly relieved burden as employees who aren’t a victim of wage theft pay slightly more in taxes.

“This bill is pro-labor... but it’s also pro-business,” Nee said. “The overwhelming majority of businesses play by the rules, and when this happens, and unscrupulous and immoral and illegal companies operate this way, they hurt other businesses — the guys that are playing by the rules, that are paying their taxes, that are paying their workers. They’re being taken advantage of as much as the worker is being taken advantage of.”

Magaziner does not expect the bill to move through Congress quickly, with Neronha noting that it took multiple years to pass Rhode Island’s wage theft bill.

He and Neronha hope, though, that the bill can become law and make a difference for mistreated workers.

“The victims of wage theft tend to be workers with the least amount of voice,” Neronha said. “There is an opportunity here for Congress to do what is right for Americans.”

## LEGAL NOTICES

<p><b>Town of Johnston Planning Board Rescheduled REGULAR MEETING AGENDA</b></p> <p>Tuesday, August 20th, 2024 6:00 P.M. Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI 02919</p> <p>I. CALL TO ORDER &amp; ROLL CALL</p> <p>II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>III. OLD BUSINESS PB 24-06 – Western Meadows. 198 Shun Pike. AP 33 Lot 63. Applicant response to Board questions and Board discussion and vote on a Comprehensive Permit Application in accordance with RIGL 45-53 – The Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Act. The development will contain 32 housing</p>	<p>units where 16 units will be deed restricted to low- and moderate-income households and the balance will be market rate units. The parcel contains 7.9 +/- acres and is zoned R-40. Applicant – Trinity Properties of RI, LLC. NOTE: The Public Hearing was closed at the July meeting.</p> <p>IV. NEW BUSINESS PB 24-22 – 29 Pleasant Street. AP 4 Lot 103. A Public meeting on a proposed Minor Subdivision and Unified Development Review to create 3 undersized lots in an R-15 Zone. Owner and Applicant Rhonda Sasa.</p> <p>PB24-26 – 1114 Central Avenue. AP 43-164. A Public meeting on a proposed Minor Subdivision and Unified Development Review to create 2 lots in an R-40 Zone. Owner and Applicant 20 Jones</p>	<p>LLC.</p> <p>V. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN</p> <p>VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT &amp; SPECIAL ITEMS</p> <p>VII. ADJOURNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at <a href="https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri">https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri</a> or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.</li><li>Items not heard by 9:00 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.</li><li>Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.</li></ul> <p>8/15, 8/22, 8/28/24</p>	<p><b>JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW REGULAR MEETING AGENDA</b> Thursday, August 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Avenue</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its regular meeting on August 29, 2024 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext. 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through “Relay Rhode Island” at 1-800-745-</p>	<p>6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:</p> <p>I. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>II. Minutes from Previous Meetings</p> <p>Old Business: File 2022-2 – Petition of Johnston Asphalt LLC, <b>Applicant for 100 Allendale Avenue, AP 36 Lot 77, zoned Industrial. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit Section 340-75 for Installation of Two Hot Mix Asphalt Storage Silos.</b></p> <p>III. New Business: <b>Petition of Karissa Kane, Stacy Behan and Kristina Behan Owner/ Applicant for 2674 Hartford Avenue, Ap 46 Lot 32, Zoned B2. Applicants is Petition: Use Variance.</b></p>	<p><b>Indoor children’s play area with offices on 2nd floor.</b></p> <p>V. Adjournment</p> <p>Per order of the Zoning Board of Review Thomas Lopardo, Chairman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Zoning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at <a href="https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri">https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri</a> or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Department of Development and Public Services, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.</li><li>Items not heard by 10:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or special meeting at the discretion of Board.</li><li>Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.</li></ul> <p>8/15, 8/22/24</p>
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# ■ Andreozzi

(Continued from page 1)

“There are some things in life you can’t prevent, but there are things you can,” Andreozzi said. “You can change things with the decisions you make.”

She said that she draws strength from telling Tori’s story in the hope that lives will be saved as awareness and education helps people make better decisions.

“It’s all about education and collaboration,” said Sweet, whose work comes under the umbrella of the Tri-County Community Action Agency. “I would encourage people to attend. We want to get people together so we can prevent tragedies.”

Sweet said that the coalition works with parents, students, law enforcement agencies, school officials and more, to be as effective as possible.

Johnston School Superintendent Bernard DiLullo, Jr. said he is hoping for a large turnout and that this a good time for the community discussion since families are just starting to think about their children returning to school. He noted that the School Department remains active throughout the year trying to make sure that youngsters are aware of the dangers of substance abuse. There are substance abuse counselors at the high school and junior high school, he said, and the School Department works actively with Sweet and the prevention coalition.

“The over-arching theme is community intervention to make everyone safe,” he said. “We are committed to doing the right thing for our kids and the more education we can give on the dangers they may face, the more we can help everyone stay safe.”

“Our kids are our future,” he said. “We don’t want anything to happen to them.”

Said Andreozzi, “Bad choices do not discriminate. My daughter left for school through the back door and was never able to come back exactly as she was when she left.”

“The accident happened at 2:10 in the afternoon... is something that never had to happen.”

She added, “Tori was a little girl who I always knew would do something important in this world, and by having these types of meetings and her foundation we feel like she is. She is still making a difference.”


**Editor’s Note:** Barbara Polichetti is a Cranston resident, freelance writer and frequent contributor to the Cranston Herald and Johnston Sun Rise.

**For more information on the Tori Lynn Andreozzi Foundation, visit <https://torilynnfoundation.org>.**

**For more information on the Regional Prevention Coalition, visit <https://www.tricountyri.org/services/regional-prevention-coalition/>.**



**HER WORLD:**  
In 2003, Tori Andreozzi, an energetic girl who loved martial arts, suffered a traumatic brain injury when struck by a drunken driver while walking to school in West Warwick. She’ll be participating in a community conversation scheduled for next Thursday, Aug. 22, at 6:30 p.m., at the Johnston High School Auditorium. The details are below. (Courtesy photo)



*Tori Lynn Andreozzi*  
FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

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**Thursday, August 22, 2024**  
6:30 p.m.

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**Moderators & Guest Speakers include:**

- ❖ **Dr. Bernard DiLullo** – Superintendent, Johnston Public Schools
- ❖ **Cathy Andreozzi** – Founder, Tori Lynn Andreozzi Foundation
- ❖ **Stephen Dambruch** – Chief, Criminal Division, RI Office of the Attorney General
- ❖ **Gabrielle Abbate** - Chief, Office of Highway Safety
- ❖ **Chief Mark Viera** – Johnston Police Department
- ❖ **Chief David Iannuccilli** – Johnston Fire Department
- ❖ **Patricia Sweet** – Director of Region I, Prevention Coalition, Tri-County Community Action Agency

Resources in prevention, treatment, and highway safety will be present.



# Obituaries

## Ralph J. Wendoloski

Ralph J. Wendoloski, age 67, passed away unexpectedly Monday, August 12, 2024, after a day of enjoying one of his favorite pastimes... playing golf. He was the beloved husband and best friend of Suzanne (Robberson) Wendoloski to whom he shared 42 years of marriage. Born in Warwick, he was the son of the late John Wendoloski and Beatrice M. (Hamilton) Becker. He was the devoted father of Nathan J. Wendoloski and Jason N. Wendoloski (wife, Stephanie O'Donnell) and the cherished 'Pappy' of Isla and Rhys.



Ralph was a man who loved life and lived it to the fullest. In his younger years he was a commercial shell fisherman in Narragansett Bay where he was known as 'The Waz.' He was a longtime welder for General Dynamics, after which he became an Oil Delivery Man. He loved playing cribbage with his wife, listening to music and watching his favorite sports teams whether it be the New York Yankees, Boston Celtics, Boston Bruins and New England Patriots. He shared his love for sports as a basketball coach and soccer coach for the Warwick Boys & Girls Club. He took great pride in his yard, especially his vegetable gardens that were also filled with his favorite flowers, Dahlias. In the last few years, he had taken up the sport of golf and often played at Harbor Lights Golf Course where he also worked as a Ranger. More than anything he loved spending time with his grandchildren and his Friday night dinners out with his wife and their friends.

A Visitation will be held Friday, August 16, 2024, from 4-7pm in the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Chapel, 2435 Warwick Ave., Warwick. Golf attire encouraged.

## Shaun P. Hazard

Shaun P. Hazard, passed away Wednesday at home with those he loved surrounding him. Born in Warwick, son of Rosey (Peman-tell) Serabian and the late Eugene Hazard, he lived with his partner and husband of 16 years, Ryan T. Bannister in Providence and then Johnston.



An avid lover of board and video games and sharing that love with friends by inviting them into his home for meals and game nights, he was happiest when surrounded by those he loved. From tea parties to dinner parties and brunches to picnics, he loved hosting friends and family for gatherings.

A software engineer by trade, a lifelong learner, a voracious reader, and a Free Mason in his spare time, he never turned down the chance to gain knowledge, engage in conversation, and challenge his friends to debate.

He is survived by his husband Ryan, his partner Dean Batteson of Johnston, his mother Rosey, stepfather Nishan Serabian of Preston (CT), sister Lindsay Serabian of East Providence, and many close friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Youth Pride Rhode Island in his name. Arrangements by the Stapleton Family Funeral Home.

# 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](http://johnstonsunrise.net).

Should you desire our services, kindly inform your funeral director, or call (401) 732-3100 or email [Obits@rhodybeat.com](mailto: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



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9/7: **Maven's Delicatessen-Pawtucket**  
9/21: **St Mary's Feast Society in Cranston**  
**with Frank Santorelli from The Sopranos**  
9/29: **Chelo's-Warwick**  
10/5: **River Falls-Woonsocket**  
10/11: **Bella Restaurant-Burrillville**

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2. RI ADVANTAGE: applies to Rhode Island residents attending school in any state and non-Rhode Island residents attending a school in Rhode Island.



**BACK IN TIME:** In this undated photo from the Solitro family, the four sons of founder Michael Solitro – from left to right, Larry, Michael II, Armando, and George – work hard in the bakery. Together, they carried on the business. (Photo courtesy the Solitro family)

# One last bite for the road

## Solitro's set to close Cranston bakery after nearly 75 years

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**  
Special to the **SunRise**

"We'll miss you."  
That is the way almost every customer concluded their conversations last week as they left Solitro's Bakery on Cranston Street, carrying stacks of waxy white boxes tied with string.

The bakery, family owned and operated for nearly 75 years, is closing its doors on Aug. 18, putting an end to a sweet tradition of handmade breads, cakes and pastries that have made the business a much-loved area institution.

"We always had something from Solitro's," said Bruce Soscia who changed the timing of a trip back to Rhode Island from Florida last week so he could go to Solitro's one last time. He brought his daughter and granddaughter and ordered some of the favorites that he has selected for years from the bakery's glass display cases.

"We had to get the pizza strips and the big bakery cookies," he said. "Solitro's has always been part of this community."

"It was just time," said owner Ellie (Solitro) Pennacchini. She's ready for retirement and the rest of the family is ready to move on as well.

"We make everything by hand and that's a lot of hard work," she said.

The bakery was started by Pennacchini's grandfather, Michael L. Solitro, in 1950, when he opened for business in a smaller building, across from the current location. He came to this country from Vieste, Italy, and it did not take long for the bakery to become popular.

He passed along his recipes and his talent to his four sons — Lawrence, Michael, Armando and George — who continued to build the business.

They worked together for decades, punctuating long days at the ovens and baking tables with laughter, spirited conversations and, sometimes, a little wine. Their children grew up in the bakery, learning the business from the ground up.

Pennacchini, who always loved being in the kitchen, said she decided to buy the bakery in 2001 to take some of the strain off her father, while ensuring he could still work there. It still remained very much a family affair, with her five siblings, and nieces and nephews helping to keep the bakery running — learning everything from how to work the counter to making fine, flaky Danish pastries.

If you want to do it right, running a bakery is a tough business, Pennacchini and her sisters said, noting that the bakers typically started their days before dawn, and there are few holidays. Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter only increase customer demand.

Very little has changed over the years, she said. Most of the items they sell have been on their menu for decades and are Italian specialties or old-fashioned confections that are hard to find elsewhere. The selections range from Eccles cakes (a puffy hand cake with a sweet

currant filling) to colorful Russian tea cakes soaked in rum-flavored syrup and topped with bright pink frosting.

Their Italian specialties include the delicate Sfogliatelle — a shell-shaped pastry made of layers of paper-thin crust and filled with a firm, rich custard. And then there is the bakery's signature Zuppa inglese cakes which are always in demand for special occasions. Covered in clouds of whipped cream, the cakes consist of layers of sponge cake which are separated by rich chocolate and vanilla custard fillings.

Pennacchini knows how to make every item, keeping a loose-leaf binder with her grandfather's recipes on her baker's bench. "This is my gold," she said, flipping through the pages. "I grew up here and learned by watching ... dad and my uncles."

The family plans on selling the building, but not the Solitro name. Pennacchini said they have been heartened by so many people stopping by for one last visit and one last chance to get their favorite pastries.

"I'll miss it, especially all the customers — they are like family to us," she said. "But it's time to move on."

**Editor's Note:** Barbara Polichetti is a Cranston resident, freelance writer and frequent contributor to the Johnston Sun Rise.



**SISTER ACT:** Owner Ellie Solitro Pennacchini (far left) with three of her sisters who all work or help out at the bakery. From left to right: Francesca, Paula and Diane. Below, the building on Cranston Street in Knightsville will be sold, but not the family name. (Sun-Rise photos by Barbara Polichetti)





# ELECTION 2024

## Karin Gorman running for RI state Senate on ‘common sense challenge to the status quo’

Submitted by  
the Candidate

Republican, Karin Gorman, has announced her candidacy for Rhode Island State Senate in District 25 representing the town of Johnston. Like former President Donald J. Trump, Gorman is running on a common sense platform to bring leadership, competence and courage to the Rhode Island Senate as well as advocating for transparency and accountability of our government functions and decisions. Gorman vowed to use her experience of over 40 years in the certified public accounting field to be a fiscal watchdog of the expenditures of the people’s money.

Gorman declared: “We need good government reforms such as the Office of Inspector General to oversee waste, fraud and abuse involving our taxpayer dollars. This year the powers that be decided that Rhode Island does not need one, I strenuously disagree. The Washington Bridge is a complete embarrassment caused by years of lack of leadership and has negatively impacted the lives of many Rhode Islanders. We have businesses that have still not recovered or have closed their doors, like our beloved “original” Brewed Awakenings, from the unnecessary forced shutdowns of Covid by our state government. The taxpayers are going to suffer yet another blow due to the outrageous cost of building one of the most expensive minor-league soccer stadiums in the country. This project will weigh heavily on the wallets of ALL taxpayers. As for the Windsor Avenue section of town, state democrats have brought the solar farm project back from the dead. I will stand in firm opposition to this project, and I will be your voice loud and clear for the people of Johnston.” She continued: “The tax-



Karin Gorman  
(Submitted photo)

payers in Johnston deserve better. We need to have common sense, competent leadership, and the courage to change the status quo at the State House.”

Karin Gorman works as a Para-Professional in a Certified Public Accounting firm and has a small business of her own helping many small businesses with their bookkeeping & consulting needs.

Karin has been the Director of Rhode Islanders for Immigration Law Enforcement since its founding in 2008, where her activities included testifying at state house hearings against driver’s licenses for illegal aliens & in-state tuition for illegal aliens. American citizens and le-

gal residents in need should be the beneficiaries of taxpayer dollars. Gorman has resided in Johnston since 2005 where she lives with her husband, two giant Great Danes and a Chihuahua named Olive. She was an active member of her family founded “Emmanuel Baptist Church,” the first Italian Baptist Church in Rhode Island until its closing in February of 2023. She is currently looking for a new church home. Karin States “I will never forget that the seat belongs to the people and that I am placed here to represent them and their best interest. I humbly ask for your support and it all starts with your vote on Nov. 5.”

## Gas prices cooling, but tensions, storm ‘could flip script’

Gasoline prices continue to slide in the waning weeks of summer on cooling demand and rising domestic production. But markets are keeping close watch on renewed tropical storm activity in the Atlantic and increasing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

Last week, demand for gasoline reached 8.9 million barrels a day, a drop of nearly 300,000 barrels a day compared to the prior week, according to the latest report from the Energy Information Administration.

Meanwhile, inventories, which had been shrinking for two weeks straight, rebounded as refiners added 1.3 million barrels to the national stockpile.

The supply and demand picture mitigates the impact of crude oil prices, which rose sharply last week in anticipation of escalating conflict in the Middle East.

Crude prices were also buoyed by the formation of a new tropical disturbance in the Atlantic, which is now likely to become Hurricane Ernesto and could threaten the United States later this week according to a release from AAA Northeast.

The average gas price in Rhode Island is down five cents from last week, averaging \$3.35 per gallon. Monday’s price was 13 cents lower than a month ago and 40 cents lower than a year ago. Rhode Island’s average gas price is nine cents lower than the national average.

“By all accounts, as the summer driving season enters its final laps, gas prices are falling on seasonal trends,” said Jillian Young, director of public relations, AAA Northeast. “But tensions in the Middle East and renewed tropical storm action could flip the script.”



Tori Lynn Andreozzi

FOUNDATION

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Matt Tsanos, Principal, Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School

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THE LAW, AND A CALL TO ACTION

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Highway Safety, Victim Impact, Medical Perspective, Legal Aspects,  
Law Enforcement, Prevention and Community Resources






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ATTENTION JOHNSTON VOTERS

VOTING INFORMATION

STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION-TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2024

EARLY IN PERSON VOTING WILL BE AVAILABLE STARTING AUGUST 21ST, 2024 IN THE JOHNSTON LAND TRUST BUILDING LOCATED AT 509 GREENVILLE AVENUE MONDAY-THURSDAY 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM AND FRIDAYS 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: EARLY VOTING WILL NO LONGER BE HELD AT THE JOHNSTON TOWN HALL! \*\*\*

THE LAST DAY FOR EARLY VOTING IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH FROM 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM.

THE SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2024 STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION IN JOHNSTON WILL BE AT THE FOLLOWING POLLING LOCATIONS ONLY:

PRECINCT 1601	WINSOR HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM, 100 THERESA ST.
PRECINCT 1602	SIMMONS VILLAGE COMMUNITY HALL, 339 SIMMONSVILLE AVE.
PRECINCT 1603	RAINONE GYMNASIUM, 45 MILL ST.
PRECINCT 1604	N.A. FERRI MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM, 10 MEMORIAL AVE.
PRECINCT 1605	IUOE LOCAL 57, 857 CENTRAL AVE.
PRECINCT 1606	N.A. FERRI MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 10 MEMORIAL AVE.
PRECINCT 1607	AIME J. FORAND COMMUNITY HALL, 8 FORAND CIRCLE
PRECINCT 1608	N.A. FERRI MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 10 MEMORIAL AVE.
PRECINCT 1609	GRANITEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 6 COLLINS AVE.
PRECINCT 1610	SARAH DYER BARNES SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 24 BARNES AVE.
PRECINCT 1611	JOHNSTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 345 CHERRY HILL RD.
PRECINCT 1612	BROWN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 14 BROWN AVE.

The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

You can view your House District, Voting Location District, District Map and/or a sample **Statewide Primary Election Ballot** by visiting [vote.sos.ri.gov](https://vote.sos.ri.gov)

CONTACT THE JOHNSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS FOR ANY QUESTIONS

401-553-8856

CTRAVISONO@JOHNSTON-RI.US



Defenders of Animals is set to host its 30th Annual Homeless Animals Day.

# Victory Day Anniversary Celebration

The Graniteville WWII Veterans Memorial Foundation will hold its 24th anniversary celebration at its annual Victory Day event on Saturday, Aug. 17. The memorial service starts at 10 a.m. with the placement of the wreath and flowers at the Graniteville war monuments site located on Putnam Avenue, Johnston (corner of Mathewson St. and Putnam Ave. next to the fire station). The procession continues to the Johnston Historical Society Museum for the remainder of the event followed by light refreshments. For more information, call Laura at (401) 658-2234.

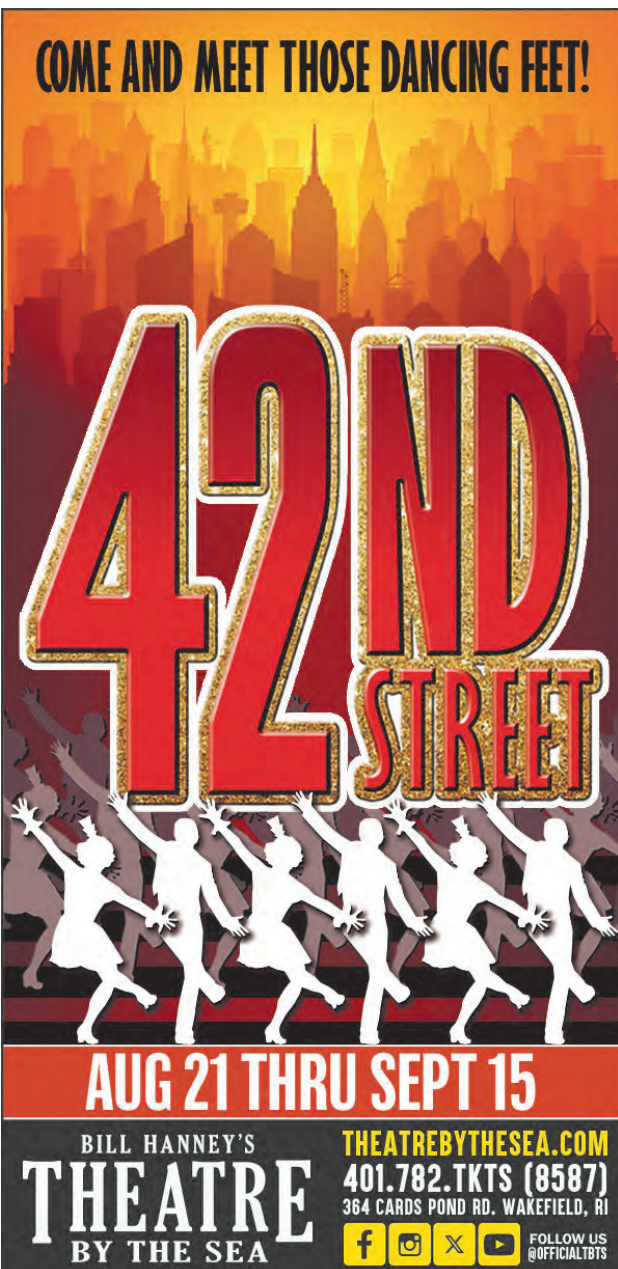
# FACT Fundraiser

You can support a great cause and help an organization raise funds for scholarships that will be awarded to Rhode Island students who will pursue careers in law enforcement, criminal justice, or social services. Attend the FACT Scholarship Fundraiser from 1-7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, at Hill's Tavern & Grill, 417 Putnam Pike, Glocester. Enjoy delicious food, drinks, outdoor games, and live entertainment while making a difference in the lives of students. Don't miss out on this opportunity to give back and have a great time with friends and family. Kids under 12 are FREE. You can register online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

# Moosup Valley Music Series

The Moosup Valley Music Series is being held on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Moosup Valley Church, 81 Moosup Valley Rd., Foster. Rain or shine. Bring chairs and a picnic supper. Featured performers: local musicians, Jim Van Gieson on guitar, and Mary King & Ed Sweeney on the dulcimer, banjo, harp, and more. For more info: Laurie 401-623-0320.

## Homeless Animals Day



## Christian Gathering in the Park

The Believers United in Christ event will take place at Johnston Memorial Park on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to participate in a day of worship, prayer and praise. All churches are welcome to join in on the day and showcase their ministries and outreach programs.

Rev. David Butera estimates several hundred people will attend. Highlights include: "Living Scripture Theater," the Women's Adult and Teen Challenge Choir, pianist Larry Wilson, singers Sarah and Dahlia, and worship music by Eric Lee Brumley. Speakers for the day include: Rev. Jose Ferreras, Rev. Richard K. Leahey and Mike Quilty as Master of Ceremonies. Food trucks

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**2024**

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will also be on-site.

Rev. Butera said, most importantly, the team will offer a time of prayer for state and local representatives, first responders, and school committees — both in English and Spanish.

"At 12 p.m., all leaders who are present in this celebration will be asked to join us on stage," he said. "Spiritual leaders will lead in prayer, seeking the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in your decisions as you lead and represent the residents of Rhode Island. We will be asking for His presence in our school committees and school administrators' hearts as they guide our children in becoming upright citizens helping to propel our state in the future."

Spiritual leaders will also be seeking God's divine protection over our first responders.

According to Rev. Butera, several colleagues from a men's fellowship Bible study that meet on Saturday mornings prayed together and wanted to bring a united Christian event to the community and came up with the idea and named the event Believers United in Christ. The core team includes Charlie Benson, Mike Quilty, Felix Marinelli, Jr., and Michelle Bellagamba. They agreed that Johnston Memorial Park was the best venue to hold this event as a central location for the surrounding communities. Wesley Pennington, retired State Police and Director of Mothers Against Drug Driving (MADD), is also supporting this event. Members of the core team belong to many different churches, which support numerous ministries and outreach programs.

"The incentive for this event is for the power of God to move within the churches as they humble themselves as a body of believers seeking God's sovereign power to heal our nation," Rev. Butera noted. "This comes straight out of the Bible. 2nd Chronicles 7:14. This is the backbone behind the vision for this event."

## Walk with Cops

Transportation for Walk with Cops at Johnston Memorial Park is available on the following dates, from the Johnston Senior Center: Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, and Sept. 25.

Join members of the Johnston Police Department on a leisurely walk with friends and officers around War Memorial Park.

## restock their pantry!

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island needs your help. Their food pantry needs a major restocking. See a list of needed nonperishable items in the photo.

Like many people, OSDRI's clients have been faced with some real obstacles these past couple of years. With your help, they pledge to always be there to give a hand up for veterans and their families in need.



SUNRISE SCOOPS

Scoops (Continued from page 12)

Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at OSDRI's main office, 1010 Hartford Ave., Johnston. If you have any questions or would like more information, call the OSDRI office at 401-383-4730.

NAMI-RI Offers Family Support Groups

The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones who are struggling with their mental health. The groups are led by trained facilitators who also have lived experience as family members themselves. The group meetings last about 1.5 hours, and everyone who participates in the meeting gets a chance to share. The other members of the group try to offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their own experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at [namirhodeisland.org](http://namirhodeisland.org) or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

First Thursday at 6 p.m. IN PERSON ONLY at the Rochambeau Library in the Community Room, Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope Street, Providence (NEW-starts Aug.)

Second Tues. at 5 p.m. IN PERSON ONLY at the Middletown Public Library in the Community Room. Middletown Library, 700 West Main Road, Middletown.

Third Tues. at 6:30 p.m. MEETS VIA ZOOM ONLY Please call 401-331-3060 or email [info@namirhodeisland.org](mailto:info@namirhodeisland.org) for the Zoom link

Fourth Wed. at 6 p.m. IN PERSON ONLY at the Hope Valley Grange, #71116 Main Street, Hope Valley.

Volunteer with NAMI-RI

The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) is currently seeking volunteers to facilitate our family programs in 2024. Free training is required and available for interested persons who have a loved one struggling with mental health issues. Together with our grassroots volunteers, we work every day to provide help and hope to millions of Americans. Volunteers are essential to the work that we do at NAMI Rhode Island, and we are always seeking enthusiastic people to help us achieve our mission. For more information about our family programs and volunteer training, email [beth@namirhodeisland.org](mailto:beth@namirhodeisland.org), call the NAMI-RI office 401-331-3060 or visit our website at [namirhodeisland.org](http://namirhodeisland.org).

Soul of '71 Scholarship Fund

In 2021, the Johnston High School Class of 1971 established The Soul of 1971 Scholarship Fund at The Rhode Island Foundation. The Class of '71 is the first class in the history of the Johnston School System to establish a permanent Fund. The Fund currently stands at \$23,031. Scholarships have been awarded in 2022 and 2023 to deserving JHS seniors. For additional information or to donate, contact Harold J. Hemberger at [hembergerharold@gmail.com](mailto:hembergerharold@gmail.com). All funds on deposit are managed by The Rhode Island Foundation.

July 27 & Aug. 31 Johnston Food Truck Nights

Join the crowd at Memorial Park for delicious food, local beer and wine from Trinity Brewhouse, and live music, according to a post on the town's social media accounts. The event promises a "family-friendly" event with no admission fee. The next events will start at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday July 27 and Aug. 31.

Editor's Note: Send submissions to Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at [rorys@rhodybeat.com](mailto:rorys@rhodybeat.com) or Front Desk Coordinator Ida Zecco at [idaz@rhodybeat.com](mailto:idaz@rhodybeat.com). Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and non-profit events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.

Johnston Senior Center Highlights

- Weekly Fun
- Monday – Arts and Crafts
- Tuesday – Quilting, High Lo Jack
- Wednesday – Poker
- Thursday – Mar Jong
- Thursday & Friday – Bingo

Class Reunions

Sept. 7, Classical High School Reunion Class of 1974 will hold its 50th class reunion on Sat., Sept. 7, at The Dune's Club, 137 Boston Neck Rd., Narragansett, from 3 to 8 p.m. \$100 pp. Join classmates and even some teachers and catch up! Food, drink, camaraderie. Summer cocktail party attire required. For more information, email [ClassicalHS50@gmail.com](mailto:ClassicalHS50@gmail.com).

Sept. 7, Cranston High School East Class of 1971 will be holding a 71st Birthday Party on Sat., Sept. 7, from 6 to 10 p.m., at Chelo's, 2225 Post Road, Warwick. There will be food, drink, music, dancing, and lots of conversing and connecting! Music by Michael Pennacchia. Tickets: \$55.00 pp. Check's payable to "CHSE 1971," c/o: Pat Giarrusso, 11 Bow and Arrow Trail S, Wakefield, RI, 02879. Please RSVP by July 20. For questions, please contact Dan Barry [dbarry@drbassociates.net](mailto:dbarry@drbassociates.net), Pat Giarrusso [giarrussopat@gmail.com](mailto:giarrussopat@gmail.com) or Ernie Rheame [elrheame@juno.com](mailto:elrheame@juno.com).

Sept. 14, Cranston High School East Class of 1964 Reunion will be holding its 60th reunion on Sat., Sept. 14, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. at the Prata Club, 29 Walnut Grove Ave., Cranston. Music by Ron Giorgio. Menu: Chicken Francaise/NY Sirloin/Honey Mustard Salmon. Tickets: \$65 pp. Check's payable to Lucille Lonardo, 129 Colwell St., Cranston, RI 02920. Please RSVP your choice of dinner to Marie Spolidoro Monti (401-944-9646) or Cheryl Mangasarian Klein (401-575-0659). Seating is limited.

Sept. 20, 21 & 22, Johnston High School Class of 1974 Reunion will be a three-day event. Friday, Sept. 20, will be a Meet & Greet at the Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston. Tour JHS, food, drink & reminiscing. Saturday, Sept. 21, will be a barbecue and welcoming classes of '72, '73 and '75, at Yawgoo Bakes, 160 Yawgoo Valley Rd., Exeter, from 3:30 – 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, will be a dinner at The Towers, at 35 Ocean Rd., Narragansett, from f 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. For information & tickets, please go to the Facebook page: JHS Class of 74 50th & Golden Reunion.

Sept. 21, The North Providence High School Reunion Class of 1958 will be holding its 66th reunion on Sat., Sept. 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Twin Oaks Restaurant, 100 Sabra St., Cranston. Price is \$30 pp. For more information, please contact Camille: 401-270-3123.

Sept. 28, Pilgrim High School Reunion Class of 1974 will hold its 50th reunion on Sat., Sept. 28, at the Quonset O Club, 200 Lt. James Brown Rd., North Kingston, at 6 p.m. Please contact Jack at [bosjpb1bender@gmail.com](mailto:bosjpb1bender@gmail.com) or Sue at [srice311@gmail.com](mailto:srice311@gmail.com) for further information. Registration deadline: Sept. 14.

Sept. 28, Central High School Class of 1974 will hold its 50th Reunion on Sat., Sept. 28, at the Santa Maria di Prata Society Hall, 29 Walnut Grove Ave., Cranston, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. The reunion will feature a cocktail hour, a sit-down meal with meal choice, and music by DJ Kevin Varella. Tickets are \$72.00 pp. Send checks to: CHS Class of 1974, c/o Elaine Whited, 13 Nelson St., Johnston, RI 02919. Deadline is Wed., Sept. 4, 2024. The committee is actively looking to contact classmates and teachers. Email contact information, lost classmates and/or teachers to [CHSProv-Classof1974@gmail.com](mailto:CHSProv-Classof1974@gmail.com) or call Elaine at 401-595-8012 for more information or questions. Keep up with reunion news on the class Facebook page: Central's Class of 1974.

Sept. 28, North Kingstown High School Class of 1964 will hold its 60th reunion, Sat., Sept. 28, at the home of Maureen Bailey, 425 Ten Rod Road, North Kingston, from 4 to 9 p.m. with cocktails and dinner. \$25 pp. RSVP by Mon. Aug. 19 by contacting Jean Wrigley Northup at [jnorthup4@verizon.net](mailto:jnorthup4@verizon.net).

Oct. 4, Pilgrim High School 55th Reunion Class of 1969 will be held on Friday, Oct. 4, at the Edgewood Yacht Club, 1 Shaw Drive, Cranston, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Luncheon buffet and cash bar is \$55pp. Casual dress. Checks payable to "Pilgrim High School Class of 1969," and mail to Ernest Valliere, 143 Sprague Ave., Warwick, RI 02889 or Venmo to @Ernest-Valliere. Deadline for payment is Fri., Aug. 30.

Nov. 30, Warwick Veterans Memorial High School 50th Reunion, The Class of 1974 will hold its 50th Reunion on Sat., Nov. 30, at the Quonset "O" Club, 200 Lt. James Brown Rd., North Kingstown. The Reunion Committee is actively seeking to contact classmates. Please email current addresses as soon as possible in order to receive an invitation to: [wvmhs7450@gmail.com](mailto:wvmhs7450@gmail.com). Go Hurricanes!"



# HAPPY SUMMER!

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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-9pm; Sat. & Sun. 7am-8pm

By JENNIFER COATES

There is going to come a time when you can no longer avoid it. That pile of laundry in the corner, growing every day while you find excuses to ignore it. But it is not going away, and eventually, it will overtake your room or leave you without a single clean garment to wear.

Laundry is like that – it is never-ending. Now, there is a possibility for escape! Why labor ONE MORE MINUTE this steamy summer tackling the inevitable chore of endless laundry when you have the willing and able hands of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry to rescue you?

For an incredible .89/pound, Kaushal will wash, soften, dry, and even fold your laundry – all in one day – all at this user-friendly, clean and efficient laundromat in Johnston. Besides the convenience of this great service, this incredible price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! The math is simple enough – ten pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off in the morning and ready to go by day's end – all for less than \$9.00. Fifteen pounds of dirty clothes dropped off on the way to work and ready to go by dinner – all for under \$14.00. 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



**Come to Jain's Laundry, a familiar sight on Route 44 in Johnston, for all your laundry & wash/dry/fold services this summer ~ and all year round!**

machines are available here for only \$2.25 per load. State-of-the-art dryers are installed which are incredibly efficient, rotating both clockwise and counterclockwise to prevent the bunching and twisting that can make drying uneven in conventional dryers.

Vending machines are also on-site if you need to restock your supply of detergent, softener or laundry bags. There is never a need to wait because there are rows and rows of machines ready to go at any given time. Everything you need is right here at Jain's Laundry.

There is plenty of parking and a friendly, helpful staff

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

Jain's Laundry is found in the Plaza 44 shopping plaza on 39 Putnam Pike. It is 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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# RhodyLife

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024

WARWICK BEACON | CRANSTON HERALD

RHODYBEAT.COM

## Missed the live show... but Woodstock still resonates today

By MIKE LEVESQUE

I never made it to the Woodstock festival, billed as “Three Days of Peace and Music.”

Something I regret today.

Still in our early teens, my friends, “the Arctic boys,” were planning to attend, but decided against it when we heard that they closed the New York State Thruway due to massive traffic jams caused by people trying to get to the concert in upstate New York.

It turned out to be one of the defining points of my generation.

Our nation was going through a tumultuous time due to opposition to the Vietnam war. Protests were raging throughout college campuses.

But Michael Lang and his three partners were determined to make this concert something that the country had never seen.

The performers that they booked were an assemblage of musical groups and performers that were, if you lived in that era, breathtaking.

Now all Lang and company needed was a place to hold this “Music and Art Fair.”

They finally found it in a 600-acre farm in the small town of Bethel, New York owned by dairy farmer Max Yasgur.



Max Yasgur, owned dairy farm that became the site of Woodstock Music and Arts Fair.

■ WOODSTOCK - PAGE 22



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# Sports

## Paris leads Scorpions to title

JHS  
standout  
ready for  
senior year

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Dean Paris is preparing for his final high school go-around and will be riding a wave of momentum after enjoying a big summer baseball season with the New England Scorpions.

The Scorpions had a strong season in the Perfect Game League and concluded the season by winning the annual URI tournament by going a perfect 6-0. Paris was the team's starting catcher and was named to the league's All-State team. He caught the final out and was pivotal at the dish for the showcase team, which has grown into one of the premier travel ball programs in the region.

"It was really exciting because we're a great team



■ PARIS - PAGE 17

**BACKSTOP:** Dean Paris makes a stop this past season with the New England Scorpions. *(Submitted photos)*



**ON THE MOUND:** Gershkoff starting pitcher Dylan Bowry deals against Upper Deck in the opening round of the playoffs. *(Photo by Alex Sponseller)*

## Gershkoff seniors fall in opening round

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Gershkoff Auto Body senior American Legion baseball team wrapped up its summer season after falling to eventual champ Upper Deck in two games in the opening round of the playoffs.

Gershkoff fell behind 3-0 in Game 1 but worked its

way to just a 3-2 deficit in the fifth inning. Upper Deck would add some late insurance and also hold off a seventh-inning comeback bid by Gershkoff to get the win.

Adam Stoloff drove in a pair of runs for Gershkoff

■ GERSHKOFF - PAGE 17

## Gals' impact exceeds the field

The CLCF-CWLL Gals softball team's run ended in the Little League World Series, putting a bow on one of the great achievements in Rhode Island sports history.

That may seem hyperbolic to say, but it's not. It's certainly in the conversation for the most significant run that I have covered here.

This team was so important to so many people and for so many reasons. In terms of community, it really did bring the Cranston community together for a few weeks. Between the local games, to the regionals in Connecticut, to the send off gatherings and fundraisers, to the welcome home ceremony on Monday afternoon, Cranston and the state of Rhode Island came together to celebrate the girls.

In a world that is so divisive, sports are one of the few remaining things that keep people together, unified. With so much going on in the real world, it is teams like this one that help you escape for a brief moment and enjoy the

### My pitch



by  
ALEX  
SPONSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEXS@  
RHODYBEAT.COM

lighter things. That's why sports are so special, especially at the youth level.

I've said this many times in the past, but that is what I enjoy about covering youth sports. It's athletics in their purest form. Kids playing the game because they love it and they enjoy being with their teammates, coaches and parents. Winning is not important. Having fun and trying hard is. Don't get me wrong, there is something exhilarating when watching a professional, college or even high school game with stakes attached, but the summer is always a great time to sit back, relax and

■ PITCH - PAGE 18



## ■ Paris

(Continued from page 16)

because we're a great team and we had to face a lot of other great teams and great players. To finish the season winning that tournament, to win every game and dominate, it was a great feeling," said Paris, who was also proud to be the team's lone representative from Johnston. "It's nice to be known for being from Johnston. Everyone knows that Johnston is a huge part of my life."

Paris' baseball career began with Johnston Little League's Orioles team, coached by Bob Civetti and Anthony Diorio. He has been with the high school Panthers the past three seasons and also plays football. He is an all-division player and team captain for each sport.

Although Paris is considering making a push toward playing each sport at the college level, his first

love is baseball and he will be focusing on gaining college eyes as he enters his senior year while making his family proud.

"I went through a lot of great experiences this summer (that will help me). It's important to me because my family depends on me a lot and thinks that I'm going to go somewhere. I've just got to make it happen and make a name for myself," said Paris.

Paris is also thankful to have been a member of the Scorpions during the summer and believes that the program not only elevates its players' performance on the field, but allows them to network to college programs.

"The Scorpions are great because throughout the tournaments I have people that film my at bats, my (fielding), then they send it to the owner and he sends it out to other people. If you perform well, you're going to be seen," Paris said.



MAKING THE PLAY: Jack Fontaine plays first base.

## ■ Gershkoff

(Continued from page 16)

while Ryan Zarrella knocked in another. Alex Ceseretti tossed a complete game, allowing four runs and picking up one strikeout.

Upper Deck cruised to a 13-0 shut-out the next game to clinch the series win.

It was a rebuilding year for the Gershkoff seniors and the team took its lumps, finishing with just two wins overall. Although the going was rough at times, manager Steve Piscopiello looks forward to the future with this team, which is set to return the majority of its lineup next summer.

"We were shorthanded this season and the kids that did come to play were younger. They really gave it

their all. We did the best we could and it was a learning experience for the future," said Piscopiello.

Gershkoff had a great summer overall, as it fielded four teams and saw its younger clubs win some big tournaments along the way. The key to the rebuild will be retaining as many kids as possible while also keeping East and West united, along with Johnston, according to Piscopiello.

"We need to keep building, we need the kids coming in as seniors or first-year undergrads to buy in and give us some experience. One of the things we preached was playing the game the right way. In the playoffs, we played hard. I always say that if you play hard, good things will happen. This team never gave up and I give them a lot of credit for that. If we had nine guys there, we would compete, and that's all we could ask."



LAST RIDE: Dean Paris last baseball season with the Johnston Panthers.

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■ Pitch

(Continued from page 16)

remember why we are sports fans.

This team also made a statement for the state of Rhode Island. The Ocean State continues to prove itself more and more in the national sports scene, and teams like this one are why.

When it comes to softball, like most sports, Rhode Island is a small state with a small pool of talent to draw from. It’s simple math.

However, we have seen teams compete and some, like this one, break through and make noise on the national stage. The math may be simple, but it doesn’t add up.

The only explanation is the hard work and dedication from the play-

ers, to the coaches, to the families.

It has become so cliché to see Rhode Islanders have success and attribute it to hard work, but again, look at the numbers. We are all born human. It comes down to hard work and systems. When it comes to softball, Rhode Island has climbed to the top of the hill in recent years and this group is evidence of that.

You have to tip your cap to the CLCF-CWLL program, as the 10-U All-Stars also won their state championship and reached the regional final. This program is deep from top to bottom and is going nowhere. I believe it is fair to say that this league will be the New England favorite for the next several years. Something special is going on down there at Brayton Park, and this crazy summer of success may just be the

tipping point.

I also believe that this team opened eyes to how fun softball is to watch. Baseball grabs all the headlines in the summer and I will admit up front that I am guilty of sometimes failing to strike an appropriate balance.

The media feeds off of each other. When one outlet breaks news or uncovers a story worth telling, other outlets catch on. In the social media world we live in, those stories usually catch on quick.

This is the most attention that I have ever seen a softball team receive, and for good reason obviously. I have a feeling that this team’s run to the World Series has put everyone on notice that softball is not only alive and well in Rhode Island, but it is thriving. This team proved

that Rhode Island is officially a hotbed for softball from the youth level up.

You see the results all the way up to the high school level. More Rhode Islanders are reaching college programs than ever, especially Division I and II programs. The CCRI softball team just reached its World Series in the spring and was made up entirely of locals. There’s no denying or ignoring how far the state has come in the sport.

It will be fun to watch CLCF-CWLL grow in the coming years. The feeder system is in place, now it is just about the follow through.

Congratulations to all the players, coaches, administrators and families from the CLCF-CWLL teams. This summer was a huge one.

Real Estate Transactions

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY					WARWICK				
104 Knotty Oak Rd	Sec Of Veterans Affairs	Ives, Gabriel and Ives, Mikayla	7/25	\$319,900	1 Willow Glen Cir Lot 53	Trujillo, Crystal	Tillinghast, Jo-El B and Jimenez, Jarren J	7/26	\$307,000
11 Hide Away	Southworth, Gary E	Murray, Gwendolyn A	7/23	\$110,000	1011 Williamsburg Cir Lot 1011	Espinosa, Laurie G	Rohrbaugh, Mary L	7/26	\$299,000
12 Sycamore Dr	Dimαιο, Daniel	Whalen, Andrew H	7/25	\$525,000	107 Knowles Dr	Salvucci, Angela and Spaziano Jr, Michael	Arsenio, Sandra and Arsenio, Mario	7/22	\$415,000
2 Holmes Rd	Randall, Robert J and Randall, Ann M	Jat Properties LLC	7/22	\$210,000	1166 Narragansett Pkwy	Duffy, Kenneth J and Duffy, Julia A	Norman, Sean E and Adames, Dellilah	7/24	\$230,000
240 Knotty Oak Rd	T3 LLC	Landolfi, Christopher R	7/23	\$281,250	132 Uncas St	Armstrong, Bradley and Phothisane, Lothida	Beauchemin, Ashley	7/22	\$345,000
2806 Village Green Cir Lot 2806	Obrien, Marguerite	Swanson, Patricia A	7/25	\$410,000	166 Tennyson Rd	Walser Hldg LLC	Skrzypiec, John and Cunningham, Siobhan	7/26	\$340,000
46 Sharon Dr	Mitchell, Raymond and Mitchell, Linda	Rw Radebach T and Radebach Jr, Richard W	7/26	\$610,000	169 Coburn St	Thomas Macgregor T and Mccaffrey, Michael J	Mohanraj, Sandhya	7/26	\$270,000
6 Colby Dr	Carr, Peter	Perez, Evelyn and Perez, Madelyn	7/26	\$385,000	175 Haswill St	Flanagan, Letitia R	Woods, Nathanw and Woods, Katherine	7/22	\$310,000
6 Glenview Ct	Citizens Bank Na	West Bay Hm Solutions LLC	7/23	\$335,000	198 Lucas Rd	Swanson, Patricia A	Porter, Andrew M and Porter, Shannah M	7/25	\$430,000
707 Gibson Hill Rd	Perry Jr John Est and Gent, Chelsea E	Morin, Zacharie and Morin, Victoria	7/24	\$300,000	20 Wildrose Ct	Savastano, John E and Savastano, Michelle	Rosalie P Antignano T and Antignano, Rosalie P	7/26	\$900,000
71 Wright Way	Fabie, Ronie and Fabie, Renee	Mcneil, Catherine A	7/26	\$162,000	228 Alvin St	Rwr Re Invest Grp LLC	Beaulieu, Gregory J and Beaulieu, Taryn L	7/26	\$460,000
74 Tiffany Rd	Wilcox, Cassie	Cleary, Arthur G	7/22	\$748,900	245 Morse Ave	Morse Margaret L Est and Dailey, Janice L	Braitsch, Matthew K	7/22	\$300,000
85 Mile Rd	Meadows, Edward H and Perkins, Thomas A	Thompson 2nd, John H and Thompson, Lori D	7/26	\$600,000	26 Way Ave	Skerry, Heather and Polion, Justin	Harlow, Scott T and Toher, Lauren N	7/24	\$329,900
92 Wisteria Dr	Factor, Casey T and Factor, Shanna K	Greco, Victoria L and Maggiocomo, Marcus B	7/26	\$485,000	271 Stillwater Dr	Refinement LLC	Salvucci, Angela and Spaziano Jr, Michael	7/22	\$560,000
95 Boston St	Pacesetter Consulting LLC	Polion, Justin and Skerry, Heather	7/24	\$482,000	30 Belt St	Jasonapril LLC	Simeone, Cara	7/24	\$380,000
CRANSTON					35 Montana Ave	Citizens Bank	Vanikiotis, John	7/24	\$250,000
106 Vallette St	Maiorano, Michael	Riley, Joy E and Riley, Michael J	7/23	\$270,000	351 New London Ave Lot 202	Kresge, Deborah A	Quinter, Pamela A	7/23	\$310,000
1136 Park Ave	Barney, Michael R	Carbo, Marcos Z	7/24	\$535,000	3524 W Shore Rd Lot 806	Grayson, Tyler and Grayson, Mary-Ellen	Lambrese, Courtney	7/26	\$229,900
1131 Fordson Ave Lot 4	Gonzalez, Tomas	Tracy, Kerri	7/24	\$260,000	38 Carnation Dr	Patricia J McCormick Irt and McCormick, Matthew R	Tedeschi, Kimberly S	7/22	\$385,000
19 Doylston Dr	Almonte, Brooks A and Almonte, Brad A	Caprio, Mark W and Caprio, Lauren K	7/23	\$517,000	46 Sunny Cove Dr	Dutra, Maria G and Faragalli, Lori A	Dalfonso Jr, Robert	7/26	\$282,000
314 Norwood Ave	Carol G Barton T and Barton, Carol G	Coletti, Donald B and Wagoner, Brandon D	7/26	\$1,250,000	48 Lockhaven Rd	Walker, Kehinde A	Oconnor, Jessica and Ventura, Ricardo	7/26	\$410,000
32 Equestrian Way Lot 5	Moses, Lawrence D and Moses, Elizabeth L	Calcione, Andrew	7/24	\$1,100,000	48 Norfolk Rd	Ford, Mary T	Desimone, Lisa	7/26	\$325,000
749 Dyer Ave	Buco, Laura L	72 Rity LLC	7/22	\$325,000	481 Chestnut St	Messineo, Steven and Messineo, Erin	Baez, Cesar A and Delosantos, Johannells	7/22	\$385,000
85 Crest Dr	Gary M Machowski Lt and Machowski, Gary M	Byron Devcomm Inc	7/24	\$805,000	5 Harris Ave	Henley, Dorothy A	Tierney, Mary	7/24	\$450,000
EAST GREENWICH					528 Warwick Ave	Iacobbo, Dawn M and Iacobbo, Alaura M	Xxl Invest LLC	7/26	\$330,000
2 Tipping Rock Dr	Esper, Richard E and Esper, Audra F	Lamanno, Timothy R and Lamanno, Kelley C	7/26	\$1,549,000	54 Polk Rd	Potvin, Nicole and Maiato, Matthew	Schaller, Paula	7/23	\$445,000
40 Spring Valley Dr	Mcgowan, William J and Mcgowan, Donna K	Li, Yongguo	7/23	\$735,000	72 Dahlia St	Georgeson, Brian and Ranstrom, Elizabeth	Morris, Ryan and Concordia, Emmaline	7/26	\$420,000
43 Phillips Rd	Cunkelman, Benjamin P	Hillyer, Shira	7/22	\$549,000	72 Huron St	Zanni, Raymond	Harrop, Keith	7/23	\$310,000
555 Middle Rd	Dawn H Appleby T and Appleby, Reid S	Smith, Jeremy D and Smith, Jill P	7/23	\$800,000	84 Cindy Ln	Mastrobuono, Carol A	Deandrade, Christopher	7/26	\$438,000
560 Middle Rd	Smith, Jeremy D and Smith, Jill P	Dwyer, Kristin H	7/22	\$1,325,000	84 Scranton Ave	Federal Hm Loan Mtg Corp	Vanikiotis, John	7/26	\$350,000
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125 Widow Sweets Rd	Jeannie Burkhard Lt and Burkhard, Jean L	Mcdonough, Carolyn and Calcagno, Giovanni	7/26	\$646,000	91 Harvard Ave	Mitchell, Robert W	Elevator Prop Inc	7/22	\$220,000
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16 Park St	Alpha Holdings LLC	Ms & V Trucking LLC	7/24	\$265,000	103 Phenix Ave	Read Sr, John W and Read, Arlene A	Greene, Sarah E	7/24	\$375,000
24 Moswansicut Dr	Gadigian, Richard	Lopez, Rubelcy	7/30	\$420,000	12 Walker St	Nunes, John C and Conard, Rosanne C	Quiroa, Viceldo W	7/24	\$225,000
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					37 Washington St Lot 3	Washington Cap Invs LLC	Jackson, Vanessa L	6/17	\$314,900
					43 Shady Hill Dr	Jackson-Henderson, Tiffany	Sullivan, Catherine	7/29	\$415,000
					5 Village Ct Lot 5	Lemus, Dina L	Liu, Xiau J and Zheng, Long	7/30	\$195,000
					6 Carder St	Poole, Ira and Schell, Rachel	Lopez, Reynaldo and Lopez, Janette	7/26	\$500,000
					65 Penix Ave Lot 69	Lebron, Nathanael	Dumas, Charles R	7/26	\$590,000
					8 Guertin St	Del-Rosario, Sarah S and Del-Rosario, Jorge	Bateson, Andrew S	7/29	\$332,000
					9 Lori Ct	Blanchette, Cyrille A and Blanchette, Helen M	Scott, Brandon	7/24	\$460,000

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# Cable installation could impact boating, fishing

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

If you power boat, sail or fish in the lower West Passage of Narragansett Bay you should know there will be cable laying construction going on from Quonset Point to Beavertail, September to December 2024.

A safety workshop and information session by the Better Bay Alliance and Ørsted is scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 7 p.m. at the Cold Spring Community Center, 30 Beach Street, North Kingstown. To register visit Narragansett Bay Community Series: Revolution Wind Construction Update Tickets, Thu, Aug 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite.

### What cable is being laid?

Two submarine cables will be buried under the seafloor in the lower West Passage of Narragansett Bay as part of the Revolution Wind project. Cables will be laid side by side in two separate construction operations. The cables will be buried four to six feet under the sea floor, but when not possible to bury them due to crossing an existing cable or debris from the old Jamestown Bridge, matts will be laid down over the debris or existing cable with additional matts laid on top of the new cables. Post construction surveys will take place to make sure cables are buried and protected properly.

### What boating or fishing could construction impact?

Mainers transiting or fishing (particularly for tautog) in the lower West Passage could be impacted. Areas impacted include the General Rock ledge area, rock clusters between Wickford and Fox Island, fishing at Plum Beach Light and over debris from the old Jamestown Bridge. The cable laying barge, support tugs and survey vessels are mobile and continuously moving, so best to check the Mariner Brief daily or look at a Mariner Traffic AIS Application.

Areas I believe that will not impact

tautog fishing include mussel beds along the west side of Jamestown and south, fishing close to Beavertail Point, in front of Bonnet Cliffs, the Whale Rock area and rock clusters off Narragansett at Narrow River.

### Are there safety and research/monitoring plans in place for the project?

David Lussier, President of the Better Bay Alliance (BBA), a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing boating safety in Rhode Island Waters, said “The Better Bay Alliance is not in any partnership with Ørsted, and we are not an endorsing or supporting organization, but rather simply an interested party that wants the boating public to fully understand what their plans are so that boating safety in our waters remains a priority for all users of our waterways.”

The Better Bay Alliance has developed LIVE CHART, an online program on their website, which illustrates specific areas and schedules for the cable laying project, so stakeholders remain informed. LIVE CHART is free and easily accessible at [www.betterbayalliance.org](http://www.betterbayalliance.org).

John Mansolillo, Marine Affairs Manager for Ørsted, said, “Our major concern is mariner safety, and we aim to alert mariners as to where and when we are working, as well as follow mandated construction safety guidelines for the project. This includes a safety zone around construction vessels from the Coast Guard.”

Highlights of the Project Safety plan include updates on Live Chart from the Better Bay Alliance, project updates weekly via posted and emailed Mariner Briefings, the use of Automated Identification Systems (AIS) via VHF radio, Securite calls when appropriate, scout and safety vessel in project area, and properly lit construction vessels.

To safely transit and fish in the area anglers can do a little pre trip planning as to where construction vessels are working, travel at a safe speed, have proper lookout, practice prudent sea-

manship and communicate with work and safety vessels in the area.

Highlights of the research and monitoring plan mandated by the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) on the project include pre and post lobster and crab surveys, quahog density studies, eel grass survey, bolder relocation survey and pre and post cable installation surveys.

### NOAA makes progress on improving angler data

NOAA Fisheries and their Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) shared progress on two recreational fishing data collection initiatives, the Fishing Effort Survey study and the collaborative initiative to re-envision the partnership to collect data between NOAA, regional Councils, states and anglers.

The Fishing Effort Study (FES) is entering the eighth month of survey administration and is producing improved data quality in alignment with the prior pilot study. The initial pilot study showed NOAA Fisheries was overestimating recreational harvest levels by as much as 30 percent on many fish species.

NOAA also continues to re-evaluate their recreational fishing data collection partnership approaches. The goal is to transition to a new, collaboratively developed vision for the state-federal partnership in 2026 — one that better meets regionally specific data needs for sustainable, adaptive fisheries management.

### Where’s the bite?

Freshwater. Anglers have been catching fish at cooler times, early morning, sunset or at night. With cooler weather anglers are hopeful that the large and small mouth bass bite will do nothing but get better.

Striped bass, bluefish, bonito. Steven Orefice of Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly, said, “Striped bass fishing on Westerly reefs and at the Southwest Ledge at Block Island has been hit or miss. But

things have improved. This week we had some nice bluefish on the surface too.”

“This cooler weather will be great for striped bass fishing out in front and in the Bay where we have Atlantic menhaden schools in greater abundance now. The bonito bite this week was good out in front of Newport,” said Brian Combra of Sam’s Bait & Tackle, Middletown.

Tom Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle, Warwick, said, “The striped bass and bluefish bite in the Bay is very slow but we have some kayak customers that are still doing well fishing the Newport Bridge area and out in front on Brenton Reef in Newport.”

Fluke (summer flounder), black sea bass and scup. Combra of Sam’s, said, the fluke bite has picked up in the Newport Bridge area with anglers catching keepers.”

“Fluke fishing is still slow with shorts being caught with an occasional keeper. Those catching keepers are in lower water, the 30 to 40 foot range. We do have more keeper black sea bass being caught,” said Orefice of Watch Hill Outfitters. Kevin Fetzer of East Greenwich and his fishing partner Joe Klinger of South Kingstown hooked up with a 21-inch, a 22-inch, a big fluke that got away at the boat and five nice sized scup in the West Passage near Austin Hollow last week.

Bluefin tuna. “Tuna reports last week were good. The bite is coming from jig and troll. with the weather window this week looking promising we hope the bite holds up so more boats can get out to try their luck,” said Declan O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle

*Dave Monti holds a head captain’s 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](mailto:dmontifish@verison.net) or visit [www.noflukefishing.com](http://www.noflukefishing.com).*

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Rockwell Amusement will be providing the midway rides at Washington County Fair as they have for 40 years. (Photo courtesy of washingtoncountyfair-ri.com)

# Washington County Fair kicks off

By ASHLEY MARIANI

The Washington County Fair in Richmond kicks off on Wednesday, Aug. 14 with five days of games and contests, carnival rides, live music and more.

The fair, located on 78 Richmond Townhouse Road, opens its gates at 8 a.m. each day, while most activities and vendors begin at 10 a.m.

Families can participate in everything from tractor and animal pulls, magic shows and cornhole tournaments.

Special events for children under 13 include a mini pie eating contest on Thursday, a potato sack race on Friday and a pedal tractor pull on Saturday.

Midway rides open at 12 p.m. daily. Tickets can be purchased at the Rockwell Amusement booths for \$1.50

each.

Music includes performances from The Jukebox Heroes on Wednesday, Maddie & Tae on Thursday, George Birge on Friday and Bre Hopkins on Saturday.

Free parking is available at three designated fair lots. The Beaver River Offsite Lot opens at 4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 12 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Shuttles to the fair will be available from the Beaver River lot.

The fair closes at 11 p.m. from Wednesday to Saturday and 8 p.m. on Sunday.

General admission tickets, which include access to all daily concerts, animal shows and tractor pulls, are \$12 per day. Children 10 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.washingtoncountyfair-ri.com/p/tickets>.

# Lessons learned from Mother Theresa

At the age of 12, a Catholic Albanian girl, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, devoted herself to God. She entered a nunnery, received an education, and was sent to Calcutta in India to be a teacher. She helped the poor while living among them and she founded a new sisterhood, Missionaries of Charity. Teresa, her given name in India, arranged for homes for orphans, nursing homes for lepers and hospices for the terminally ill in Calcutta, and this organization eventually engaged in aid work in other parts of the world. In 1937, she took her Final Vows to a life of poverty, chastity and obedience. She took on the title of «Mother» upon making her final vows and thus became known as Mother Teresa. In 2016, the Pope canonized her, and she became Saint Mother Theresa. Her efforts helped millions of people who were suffering from disease, poverty, homelessness and starvation.

I admire her because she treated everyone with love and compassion, and supported them regardless of their race, disabili-

## Life Matters



with  
LINDA  
PETERSEN

ty, religious beliefs or social status. She was also seen smiling a lot, because «Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to the person, a beautiful thing.»

I can do THAT! I can do a beautiful thing! In fact, I do it quite often, even though it uglifies my face with a crinkled-up nose, squinty eyes and age-weary teeth. (Taking pictures when I was a child, my mom would ask me NOT to smile lest I «ruin» the picture with my smile.) Still, I go out and about in the world, smiling my silly face off to friends and strangers alike.

Another lesson I learned from Mother Theresa was «People are unrealistic, illogical and self-centered. Love them anyway.» Similar to the rec-

ommendation to «Love thy neighbor,» this trait can be soooooo difficult to emanate because people can be soooooo difficult. It is an activity that does not cost anything, except one's pride, I would suspect. When one of my adult children hurts my feelings, I carry it with me in my heart. Forgiving the deed is very difficult, but, unfortunately, I am not able to forget.

Another mantra of Mother Theresa is «If you can't feed a hundred people, feed just one.» That can easily be done by donating the money for one meal (\$10) to One Less Worry, Loaves and Fishes RI, Judy's Kindness Kitchen or any charity food distribution program. If one hundred of us do that, then we have shown that we CAN feed 100, one at a time.

Mother Theresa said something that really touched my soul. «I believe in God. Not because my parents told me to, not because a church told me to. But I have experienced how awesome He is.» I also believe in God because of his awesomeness. From a young age, I was raised by an angelic moth-

er who experienced several spiritually affirming episodes, including a bright light visit from God, who hugged her and told her to accept her newborn severely disabled infant. After that visit, she took on the challenge of parenting such a child with love and a smile, expanding that love and carefree attitude to others.

My mother would take me to «church» on a mountaintop in New Hampshire, on a beach in Florida, or by a free-flowing brook in Virginia as we traveled around the country. How could I sit atop a mountain, where the glorious world stretches out before me in breathtaking detail, and not believe in God? Sitting there as a child, enveloped by the warmth from the sun, feeling the gentle breeze that rustles the leaves and stirs up the faint scent of pine in the air, I gazed down at the beauty of the world below. A sense of deep peace stirred in my soul.

I am so very fortunate to be able to experience the joy of living just by smiling. I learned it from Mother Theresa!

# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥️Adoptable♥️Loveable



Photo credit: Friends of Homeless Animals

## Lil Foot

Puppies!! If you have been thinking of adopting a puppy the Friends of Homeless currently has a litter of four adorable pups! This is one of the boys, his name is Lil Foot! They are all this cute and all are a golden color with the cutest faces! These puppies are mixed breed and expected to be medium size when fully grown. Lil Foot and his littermates are all playful, happy pups who have been living with a foster family as well as children and other dogs. If you are interested in meeting them, please call their foster Mom Regina at 401-644-8173 and leave a message. You can also visit their website for more information at [www.fohari.org](http://www.fohari.org) They will all be excited to meet you!

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at [animaltalk1920@gmail.com](mailto:animaltalk1920@gmail.com)

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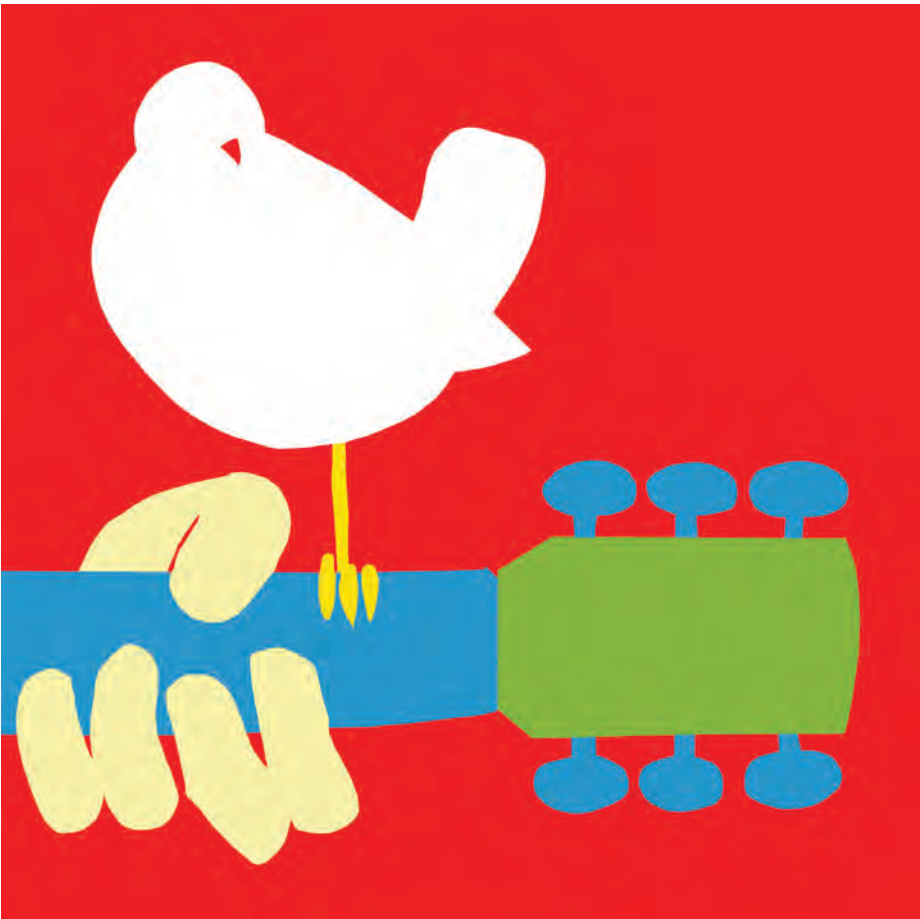
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The monument commemorating the site includes a 3D reproduction of the artwork from the original poster.



The rolling fields of Max Yasgur's 600-acre farm in Bethel, New York, was home to half a million people during The Woodstock Music and Art Fair.



The original Yasgur Farm house.

## ■ Woodstock

(Continued from page 15)

When Max cut the deal with Michael Lang to lease his land for a reported \$10,000, they both felt that the concert, and the dream, would certainly become a reality.

But it was not without some setbacks, and the very real possibility that the concert would not take place at all.

### Efforts to stop the festival

The townspeople, learning that the mega-concert was being planned, were understandably uneasy.

They worried about what such a mass of people would do to their small town.

They worried about what the noise and commotion would do to their livestock.

They worried about whether the roads could handle the traffic and equipment.

And they worried if the concert goes (often referred to as “anti-war hippies”) would be respectful of their small-town values.

Some were so riled up that they started a movement to have the Zoning Board forbid the concert.

A few crackpots even threatened to burn down Max’s farm. Another group took a different track. They wanted to see how much money they could make with such an influx of people.

While some residents started charging for water, Max Yasgur became an instant hero by handing out water for free and giving away all the milk he had in the barn.

When the dust settled, and the developers were certain that the concert would indeed happen, “The Woodstock Music and Art Fair” was scheduled for the weekend of Aug. 15-17, 1969.

The lineup included mega-groups Jefferson Airplane, The Grateful Dead, Blood, Sweat & Tears, The Who, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young and Jimi Hendrix. There were 32 acts in all.

In those days, with no internet or social media, word usually spread slowly across the country about a concert of significance. In this case, word spread quickly through college campuses and other music venues.

By Wednesday, Aug. 13, 60,000 people were camped out at “Woodstock.”

But the time the concert began on Aug. 15, half a million people descended upon Max Yasgur’s farm.

Most hiked miles to get there as the New York State Thruway, as mentioned, was closed.

They faced food shortages, water shortages, scarce restroom facilities, pouring rain and of course the availability of all kinds of drugs.

By the time Jimi Hendrix closed the concert on Monday, Aug. 18 at 8:30 a.m. (due to torrential rain delays), those half-million young people showed the world that they could gather in peace, love and

music without major incident.

They also respected the town that hosted them, due to the overpowering nature of Max Yasgur.

When others slammed their door, Max opened his home.

When town leaders wanted to change the zoning laws to prohibit the concert, Max fought them tooth and nail.

Probably one of the most dynamic speeches in modern American history came the day the Zoning Board was to meet to discuss changing the law and killing the concert.

When it was his turn to speak, dairy farmer Max Yasgur said this:

“I hear you are considering changing the zoning law to prevent this festival. I hear you don’t like the look of these kids who are working at the site. I hear you don’t like their lifestyle. I hear you don’t like that they are against the war and they say so very loudly ... I don’t particularly like the looks of some of these kids either. I don’t particularly like their lifestyle, especially the drugs and free love. And I don’t like what some of them are saying about our government.

However, I know my American history. Tens of thousands of Americans in uniform gave their lives in war after war just so these kids would have the freedom to do exactly what they are doing. That’s what this country is all about and I am not going to let you throw them out of our town just because you don’t like their dress or their hair or the way they live or what they believe. This is America and they are going to have their festival!”

Woodstock, in my humble opinion, was the moment my generation became awakened and aware. We became tuned-in to the world around us and became a generational community.

### Making it to Woodstock, finally

I finally made it to Woodstock during the summer of 2020.

It was during Covid when we were all looking for something to do. A pleasant three-plus-hour drive to Bethel.

I have to tell you that it was a mystical experience to walk the field that is now world-renowned.

It is preserved for all to see, and a short distance from the Yasgur homestead and barn.

They even added a modern Performing Arts Center above the famous hill. It has Woodstock memorabilia and shows a continuous loop of the concert, and hosts performances and cultural events.

Max Yasgur died of a heart attack on Feb. 9, 1973 in Marathon, Florida.

There is a generation of “kids” like me that will never forget him.

Peace, Max.

*Still somewhat of a hippie, Mike Levesque, a Warwick resident and former West Warwick mayor, writes the Meeting with Mike column that appears in these pages.*





TOADSTOOL  
(Submitted photo by Kayla Chin)

# ToadStool honors a fallen friend with ‘Good Grief’

By ROBERT DUGUAY

When a family member, friend or loved one passes on, there are numerous ways to honor their existence. There’s the old-fashioned route of a wake and a funeral, but there’s also a mural, a monument or even a song. For Coventry native Mike Jencks, he decided to do the latter and then some under his hip hop moniker ToadStool. The result of this endeavor is “Good Grief,” which was self-released back on June 14. It’s his third album to come out so far this year, with “Smother” having come out in February and “Swampcrawlr” following that up in April, and it’s a testament to how committed and consistent Jencks is when it comes to his craft.

The catalyst for “Good Grief” came about after the passing of one of Jencks’ good friends a few months ago. After dealing with the emotions that come after suffering a personal loss, he decided to transition them into his music.

“This album was made in three weeks, from start to finish, after my homie Peter passed away,” he describes the making of the full-length release in the liner notes. “I wanted to honor him by throwing myself into an art piece...he would’ve dug that. Peter Fortin forever.”

Much like his previous two albums, there’s an array of jazz samples and killer beats flowing underneath the lyrics. Jencks’ delivery is charismatic and genuine, there isn’t any nonsense being conveyed and every word he spits car-

ries substantial weight. I’ll also say that this record seems to have Jencks going back to his creative foundation after creating more abstract material with his other recordings. There’s a classic hip hop structure with the rhymes and instrumentation forging a cohesive dynamic. This is a characteristic that both the purist and idealist of the timeless style can appreciate.

It’s especially true in a wide range of tracks. “I’ve Been Trying” begins in melancholy fashion with a cut up piano sample making the introduction, along with a voice clip, before the beat hits. Starting up in a similar fashion is “What’s The Damage?” but with a horn kicking things off and weaving in and out as the song goes along. “Coke Cans” has a sweet bass line I absolutely love that has everything else bouncing off of it. Other highlights from “Good Grief” include “...Tomorrow’s Lunch,” “Poison Mist” and “Go To Church.”

To give “Good Grief” a listen, log onto the ToadStool’s Bandcamp page at xxx-toadstoolxxx.bandcamp.com. While you’re at it, check out Jenck’s band Toad and The Stooligans at toadandthestooligans.bandcamp.com as well. Both pages are chock full of fantastic music that’ll keep the ears occupied if they have time to spare. For future announcements, follow ToadStool on Facebook at facebook.com/LLStoolJ. In the meantime, dive into an excellent album that pays tribute to a person who meant a lot to a talented artist.

# Trinity Repertory opens season with raunchy comedy Sept. 5

Trinity Repertory Company begins its 61st season with “POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive” by Selina Fillinger.

This raunchy comedy runs September 5 – 22 and October 10 – 27, 2024 in Trinity Rep’s Dowling Theater. Tickets are available for purchase in person at the Ticket Office on 201 Washington St., online at trinityrep.com/POTUS, or by calling (401) 351-4242.

“There is no more suitable time than this very moment for Selina Fillinger’s biting and hilarious comedy, as it pulls back the curtain on the women working behind the scenes at the White House,” director Curt Columbus said in a release. “It’s a raucous, bawdy ride that will leave you thinking while you laugh.”

“POTUS” runs on its own Sept. 5-22, then in rotating repertory with “Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – APT 2B” by Kate Hamill Oct. 10-27. While the plays differ in comedic style and story, both humor-

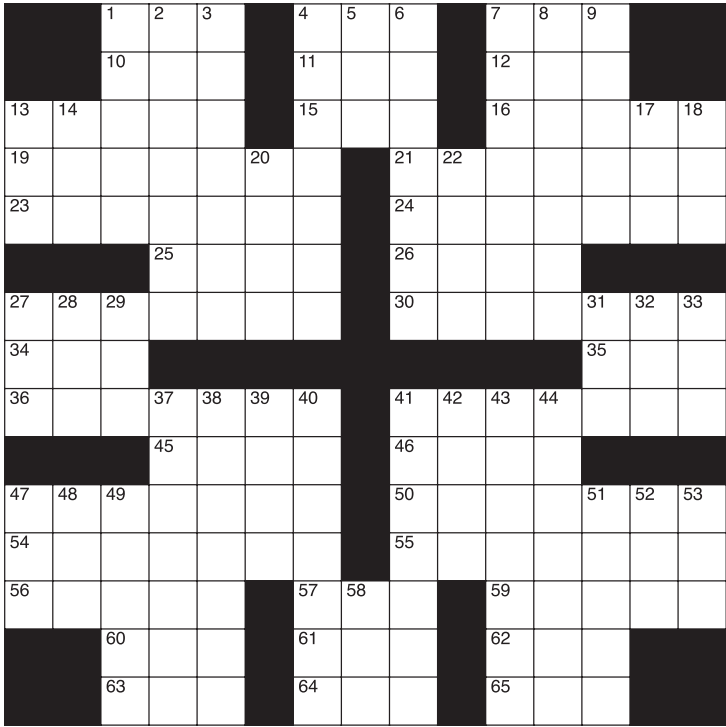
ous pieces center on women’s voices.

**About “POTUS”**

Many of us are dreading the 2024 election, regardless of political beliefs. Why not look your fears dead in the eye and laugh at them with “POTUS”? When a presidential PR nightmare evolves into a global catastrophe, it’s up to seven women in the commander-in-chief’s inner circle to do damage control. That is if they don’t drive each other off the rails first through a chaotic cocktail of increasingly absurd antics. Delightfully raunchy and uproariously funny, “POTUS” is a naughty political farce that’ll have you rolling in the aisles! “POTUS” opened on Broadway in 2022 and earned three Tony Award nominations. It has since been produced frequently across the United States.

Trinity Rep’s production will be the play’s Rhode Island premiere.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Major American automaker (abbr.)
- 4. Pressure measurement
- 7. Two-year-old sheep
- 10. Indigenous person from Laos or Thailand
- 11. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 12. Actress de Armas
- 13. Not moving
- 15. Cool!
- 16. Bog arum genus
- 19. Perceptible by touch
- 21. Type of test
- 23. Monetary units
- 24. Collection of various things
- 25. Sum of five and one
- 26. Type of sword
- 27. Hates
- 30. Immobile
- 34. Pie \_\_\_ mode
- 35. Moved quickly
- 36. Passenger’s place on a motorbike
- 41. A way through
- 45. Former US Secretary of Education Duncan
- 46. Leader

CLUES DOWN

- 47. Flowing
- 50. Greetings
- 54. Remedy
- 55. Soft lightweight fabric
- 56. Building material
- 57. Sea bream
- 59. A way to cause to be swollen
- 60. One and only
- 61. People get one in summer
- 62. Wreath
- 63. Thus far
- 64. They \_\_\_
- 65. Sea eagle
- 17. Written account
- 18. Consumed
- 20. Something the first shall be
- 22. No (slang)
- 27. Gov’t lawyers
- 28. Peyton’s little brother
- 29. Small amount
- 31. Investment vehicle
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Head pain
- 38. Popular sport in England and India
- 39. King Charles’s sister
- 40. Boat race
- 41. About fish
- 42. Maidservant
- 43. Able to be marketed
- 44. Tinier
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Paddle
- 49 Oneness
- 51. Bitter chemical
- 52. Not around
- 53. Very fast airplane
- 58. Swiss river

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