



**GENTLE GIANT:** Arnold, a 1-year and 7-months-old English Mastiff, is a trained and certified therapy dog. He's the Johnston Public Schools' first official therapy dog, following a unanimous vote by the Johnston School Committee on Tuesday night. (*Johnston Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler*)

## Meet Arnold Barnes Elementary School's newest staff member

By RORY SCHULER

His bowtie was slightly askew, but the School Committee still voted unanimously on his approval.

Arnold, a 1-year and 7-months-old English Mastiff, is a trained and certified therapy dog.

On Tuesday night, Arnold met the Johnston School Committee.

His steps long and steady, "Arnie" took a lap and sat quietly in the front of the room. It was a long meeting, and the vote to approve or deny the proposed therapy dog program at Barnes Elementary topped the final page of a three-page agenda.

Christine Reed, a Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) at Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School is Arnold's handler and owner. She and Michelle Smith, a Barnes Special Educator, spoke to the School Committee, presenting a body of evidence showing the benefits of service animals.

"Arnie enjoys hiking, playing tug, splashing in puddles, watching over his chicken 'sisters,' getting pets from humans, showing off his tricks, and most of all — napping," according to his handler. "Arnie is gentle, friendly, enthusiastic, obedient, and easy going."

The School Committee considered an eight-page draft proposal for a Therapy Dog Policy for Johnston Public Schools.

## St. Rocco's will never forget, ever

By BARBARA  
POLICHETTI  
Special to the SunRise

Last Wednesday, the weather was achingly similar to what it was exactly 23 years earlier — a warm September day with bright blue skies.

And it was on Sept. 11, 2001, that the peace of the nation was shattered by a terrorist attack during which four hijacked jetliners went down, including two that struck and crumbled the towers of New York's World Trade Center.

Nearly 3,000 people died — many of them firefighters and police officers who fought mightily to save lives.

It is now a day of remembrances, and St. Rocco's School on the Johnston/Cranston border made it clear that its community will never forget the tragedy and, in particular, beloved parent Renee Newell, who was a passenger on one of the planes that struck the Trade Center.

Students, faculty and city leaders gathered on the front lawn of the school Wednesday to bow their heads while Johnston Fire Department Battalion Chief Tom McCormick lowered the school's flag to half-mast.

St. Rocco's Pastor, the Reverend Angelo Carusi, offered prayers, and the school choir led the singing of the National Anthem.

■ ROCCO - PAGE 7



**THE PLEDGE:** Johnston Fire Battalion Chief Tom McCormick places his hand over his heart during the Pledge of Allegiance. (*Johnston SunRise Photo by Barbara Polichetti*)



**WHO ARE THE BOCCE CHAMPS?**  
Turn to Page 3 for all  
the details.



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**POTW:** This week's Panther of the Week is Kinya Glenn. Kinya is a senior at Johnston High and was nominated by the Social Studies Department Chair, Mr. Erik Bryson. Mr. Bryson said, "Kinya is the 2024-2025 Johnston High School Civic Liaison Leader, and she works with the Rhode Island Secretary State Office." Kinya is also in the top 20 in the senior class, as well as a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Kindness Crew, Yearbook Committee, and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). (Photos submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School Principal)

**Editor's Note:** This is the newest installment of an ongoing weekly series highlighting Johnston's amazing students. Staff at Johnston High School will be nominating students and submitting a caption and a photo for publication. You'll find each week's winning Panther on Page 2 of the Johnston Sun Rise.





**THE TOURNEY:** A bracket full of teams competed in the inaugural Johnston Senior Center Bocce Tournament on the Citizens Bank campus in Johnston. (Sun-Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



# Aiming to kiss the pallino

## Johnston Senior Center holds inaugural bocce tournament on the Citizens Bank campus

By RORY SCHULER

**T**hey bowled in the shadow of the Citizens Bank clock tower as Scout the robotic watchdog stood guard.

Senior citizens from across the region gathered on the sprawling Citizens campus in Johnston for the inaugural Johnston Senior Center Bocce Tournament.

Competitors included five teams from the Johnston Senior Center, and teams from the Johnston Fire Department, the Johnston Rec Department, Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, The Bridge at Cherry Hill and two teams from Citizens Bank.

The winning team, Johnston Senior Center Team 1, included members Doreen Balmforth, Ralph Votta, Janice Desjardins and John Signore Jr. The final match, or championship game, was played between them and Morgan Health & Rehabilitation Center.

The Sept. 6 tournament gave more than 100 participants the opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of bocce, refreshments and community.

"This is one of just many programs the Citizens' Johnston Campus will hold this year — ensuring community members and organizations have a place to participate in field sports, gather, and celebrate," according to a press release from Citizens Bank.



**THE COMPETITION:** Competitors included five teams from the Johnston Senior Center, and teams from the Johnston Fire Department, the Johnston Rec Department, Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, The Bridge at Cherry Hill and two teams from Citizens Bank.



BOCCE - PAGE 5

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Only Mondays and Tuesdays at 8:00 AM  
Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM  
Sundays at 8:30AM and 10:30AM

## St. Robert Bellarmine Church

1804 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919  
(401) 232-5600

Only Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:00 AM  
Saturday Vigil at 5:15 PM  
Sundays at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

As has been the case, Mass will not be celebrated at either parish on Thursdays.

Schedules for Thanksgiving, the Immaculate Conception, Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God to be announced.

Schedule changes that will go into effect on Sundays after January 1, 2025 will be published at a later date. Mass intentions for Sundays in 2025 are not yet being scheduled.

The Mass Intentions scheduled for Wednesdays through Our Lady of Grace Church will be combined with the Mass intentions offered on Wednesdays at St. Robert Bellarmine Church.

The Mass intentions scheduled for Mondays and Tuesdays through St. Robert Bellarmine Church will be combined with the Mass intentions offered on those days at Our Lady of Grace Church.

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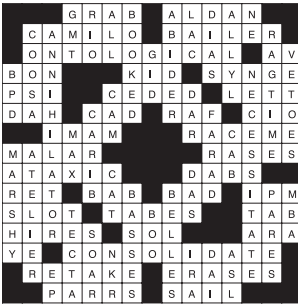
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**BIG AND SWEET:** Arnold stretches out at the feet of Christine Reed, a Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) at Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School. She and Michelle Smith, a fellow Special Educator urged the School Committee to pass a draft proposal for a Therapy Dog Policy for Johnston Public Schools. (*Johnston Sun Rise photoS by Rory Schuler*)

## Dog

(Continued from page 1)

"A therapy dog has the designated purpose to provide therapeutic support and comfort in a medical or educational setting," the policy begins. "All such therapy dogs shall be individually trained and certified to provide such therapeutic support and comfort and maintain all requirements established local and state law, and as required by the Johnston Public School Department when interacting within Johnston Public School property."

Unlike service dogs, which are automatically permitted on school grounds, therapy animals required their own policy. And within the policy, all the pros and cons are clearly defined.

"Although therapy animals can play a vital role in someone's well-being, therapy animals do not have any legal rights under either federal or state law to access the types of public areas that service dogs may access," the policy explains. "A therapy animal handler does not have the same public access rights as service dog users, because the handler does not have a disability that the animal is individually trained to mitigate."

Although Arnold will be the first official therapy animal in the Johnston school system, the new policy ensures other schools have a framework to follow.

The policy, which was ultimately approved unanimously by the Johnston School Committee, dictates that all therapy animals must have "a handler" who has successfully completed "an accepted pet-assisted therapy training."

Handlers will be required to be "present, and in close proximity" to the therapy dog whenever it's on school property. And handlers "must employ the use of a harness, leash, or tether on the therapy dog on school property."

Handlers will be required to thoroughly clean up after the animals, carry insurance, and maintain records of temperament and vaccination certifications.

Dogs will need to be at least 1 year old, "and demonstrate a stable temperament, a friendly, easy-going personality, and strong basic obedience."

Therapy dog training will consist of a 4-week "intensive training class to learn/reinforce specific skills and commands," according to a slide presentation delivered by Reed and Smith.

The dogs will require a temperament test prior to evaluation, a Therapy Dog International evaluation, the dog and handler team must pass 13 criteria measuring obedience skills and temperament, and the submittal of an annual application (with an annual renewal).

In return, Reed and Smith promise therapy dogs like Arnold will "increase social emotional wellness for students and staff; enhance social skills; increase empathy, encourage communication; increase engagement (in social and educational tasks); create a sense of belonging; improve motivation; assist with improving attendance; improve cognitive development, reading, executive functioning, memory, problem solving, etc.; improve attention and motivation; improve confidence."

The audience applauded the committee's unanimous approval of the policy. And Arnold, the size of a skinny pony, stretched out long at his handler's feet and delivered his giant brown eyes.

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**THE WINNERS:** The winning team included members Doreen Balmforth, Ralph Votta, Janice Desjardins and John Signore Jr. (Photo courtesy the Johnston Senior Center)



**WATCH DOG:** Scout, a robotic security dog, watched some of the competitive gameplay. (SunRise photo by Rory Schuler)

## ■ Bocce

(Continued from page 3)

“We’re happy with the town and we’re thrilled to do this kind of stuff,” said Mike Knipper, executive vice president of property and procurement for Citizens Bank.

Knipper and Scout made their rounds, circling a pair of pristine bocce courts and chatting with players and spectators.

“There’s some history between us and the Johnston Senior Center,” Knipper said. “When we did the first press conference to announce that we were moving to Johnston, we did it in the Johnston Senior Center ... I guess that was 2016. We’ve had a tremendous experience here in town. But the campus was built to be integrated with the community.”

He said the public is “absolutely” invited to enjoy the campus.

“We said, from day one,” Knipper explained over the laughter of the bocce crowd. “You’ll notice, the reason why there’s no security guard station when you drive in, is because of just exactly that. The only thing we control, is we don’t let people on the baseball field unless it’s booked ... This is 100% open.”

This likely won’t be the senior center’s final visit to the campus.

“We hope this will become a tradition,

not just for tournaments,” Knipper said. “When the staff came to us and said they’d like to have a tournament, we jumped on it.”



**MAYOR’S CUP:** The first place team winners were awarded the Mayoral Cup. The final match, or championship game, was played between Johnston Senior Center Team 1 and Morgan Health & Rehabilitation Center. (Photo courtesy the Johnston Senior Center)

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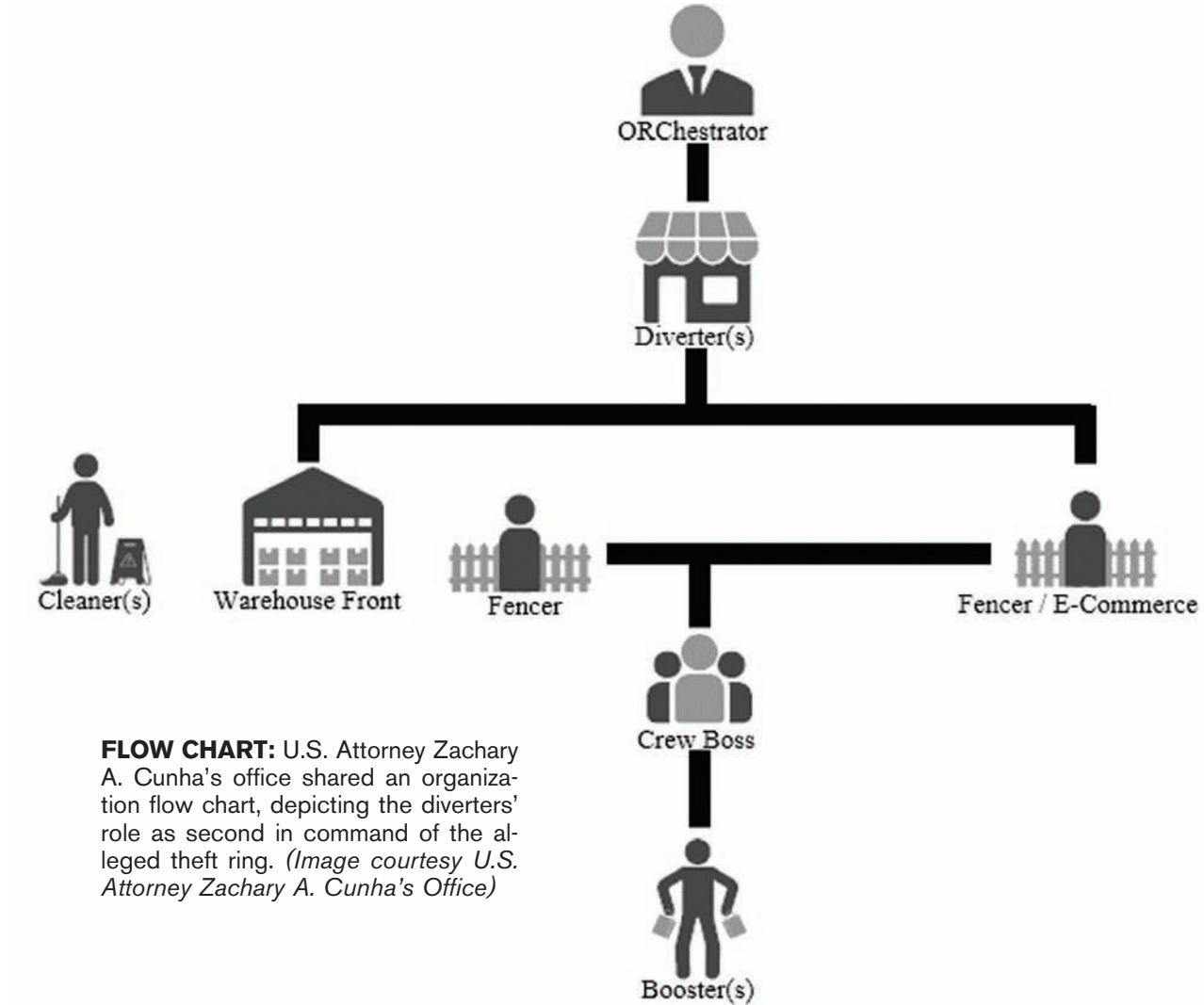
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# 60,000 ‘stolen’ items seized

## ‘Diverters’ from Warwick and Cranston charged in ‘large-scale’ theft ring

By RORY SCHULER

First, “the Boosters” swipe a load of high-demand groceries from a big box store or local pharmacy chain. Then the tags and security devices are stripped and the stolen items are passed up the chain for sales and distribution by “Diverters,” who act as wholesalers.

Two alleged Rhode Island “Diverters” are now in custody and facing federal charges.

Law enforcement seized around 60,000 “stolen items” worth about \$1.6 million and charged two men, from Cranston and Warwick, for their alleged connection to a “Rhode Island-based organized retail crime theft” ring responsible for raking in “roughly \$12.3 million” in sales.

Federal prosecutors have charged Norman L. Cipriano, 52, of Warwick, and Patrick M. Vigneau, 59, of Cranston, with “interstate transportation of stolen goods, conspiracy to commit interstate transportation of stolen goods, money laundering, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from unlawful activity,” according to the office of U.S. Attorney Zachary A. Cunha.

“The scale of the retail theft network whose alleged leaders we have charged today is staggering,” Cunha said earlier this week. “In addition to imposing higher prices on legitimate retail consumers, theft rings like this one put unsuspecting customers at risk from damaged, expired, or adulterated goods, and impose un-

told economic costs.”

### The Diverters

According to Cunha, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Rhode Island, Cipriano and Vigneau served as “high-level wholesalers known within organized theft rings as Diverters.”

“Diverters often set up shell companies, own warehouses where stolen merchandise is shipped, and act as suppliers for small to mid-size retail chains,” according to prosecutors. “These organizations frequently utilize e-commerce marketplaces to promote and offer their goods and use unregulated third-party processors such as PayPal in order to avoid detection.”

Cunha’s office shared an organization flow chart, depicting the diverters’ role as second in command of the alleged theft ring.

His office described the seized goods as “primarily over-the-counter pharmaceutical products and cosmetics.” The theft ring allegedly “targeted retailers nationwide, and then resold the stolen goods in bulk to other retailers and private citizens,” according to prosecutors. Multiple search warrants have been executed in Warwick, Cranston, and Pawtucket by “agents and task force officers from the United States Postal Inspection Service, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Warwick Police Department.”

**THE STOCK:** Federal and local law enforcement agencies executed search warrants and seized around 60,000 “stolen items” worth about \$1.6 million. Federal prosecutors have charged two men, from Cranston and Warwick, for their alleged connection to a “Rhode Island-based organized retail crime theft” ring responsible for raking in “roughly \$12.3 million” in sales. (Photo courtesy U.S. Attorney Zachary A. Cunha's Office)







**LOST BUT NOT FORGOTTEN:** Beloved parent Renee Newell was one of the thousands who perished in the terrorist attack. A tree planted in her honor stands in a quiet alcove between the school and the church.



**ALL QUIET:** Students were solemn during the remembrance ceremony.



**BANNERS PLACED:** Students place small American flags on the front lawn of the school.

## Rocco

(Continued from page 1)

Dignitaries in attendance included Police Chief Mark A. Viera, McCormick, and Lt. General Reggie Centracchio, Adjutant General of Rhode Island, Emeritus of the Rhode Island National Guard. During the ceremony, students took turns stepping up to the microphone to offer hopes for the future, and thoughts of peace and healing.

Speakers remembered Newell, whose son, Matthew, was a fourth-grader at St. Rocco's when tragedy struck. An employee of American Airlines, Newell, 37, of Cranston, was on board one of the airliners that crashed into the Trade Center.

The crowd was reminded of the tree that has been planted in Newell's memory. It stands between the school and St. Rocco's Church, and students were encouraged to stop and visit it — to sit on the small bench beneath its branches, and to remember.

**Editor's Note:** Barbara Polichetti, a Cranston resident, is a regular contributor to the Cranston Herald and Johnston SunRise. Contact Polichetti at [bpolichetti@gmail.com](mailto:bpolichetti@gmail.com).



**COMMUNITY LEADERS:** Dignitaries included Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. (far left), Police Chief Mark Viera (second from right), and Lt. General Reggie Centracchio, Adjutant General of Rhode Island, Emeritus of the Rhode Island National Guard (far right). (Johnston SunRise Photos by Barbara Polichetti)



# I-95 SOUTH OVER ELMWOOD AVE WEEKEND CLOSURES



The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) will replace the I-95 bridge southbound over Elmwood Avenue on the weekend of September 20 using rapid bridge construction. During this operation, I-95 southbound at Elmwood Avenue will be reduced to two lanes and northbound will be reduced to 3 lanes. The bridge replacement will start at 8 p.m. Friday night and re-open at 5 a.m. on Monday morning for the morning commute. Travelers are advised to expect delays and plan alternate routes. More information and detour maps can be found at: [www.ridot.net](http://www.ridot.net).



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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♡ Adoptable ♡ Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

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Historic PowWow photos from the University of Illinois archives.



## Johnston Farm was site of Native American Powwows

At most of the meetings of the Council of Algonquin Indians – the fundraisers, the weddings, the funerals and the celebrations – the Native Americans sat aside those who they referred to as their “Paleface friends.” Alice Thompson Smith – a Democratic politician, social worker and president of the Rhode Island Historical Society – was the first white woman ever inducted into the Algonquin Tribe. Having contributed greatly to the welfare of Native Americans throughout Rhode Island, she was honored by being named Morning Star, Honorary Squaw Sachem.

Not long after, Smith was inducted into the Wampanoag Tribe during a ceremony at their tree-

### Back in the Day



by  
KELLY  
SULLIVAN

day powwow in August of 1930 at the old Indian Church in Mashpee. The 50-year-old woman stood among the over 70 Natives who were in attendance as Lorenzo Hammond, also known as Chief Small Bear, conducted the church service. Westerly native and Tribal member William Wilcox, also known as Chief Pine Tree, then performed a ceremonial

dance. A beauty contest and 10-mile youth road race were also part of the event which was officiated by Chief of the Tribe, Leroy Perry, also known as Yellow Feather.

On Sept. 7, 1931, the seventh annual Algonquin powwow took place on the large estate of Frank Willard Tillinghast in Johnston. Seventy-two-year-old Tillinghast was an attorney with the firm Tillinghast, Morrissey & Flynn and part owner of Tillinghast, Stiles & Company, merchants of cotton and worsted yarns. That year’s powwow included a fundraiser to help meet the Tribe’s financial needs necessary to construct a residential facility for poor or orphaned Native American children. Rhode Island Senator Jesse Houghton Metcalf donated a large tent to provide shade over the more than 100 attendees who partook of the event’s dinner. The previous year, Metcalf had been inducted into the Tribe and given the name of Strong Heart, Honorary Chief.

Alice Thompson Smith presided over the exercises during the 1931 powwow while Chief Rainbow explained to all present the importance of the facility they hoped to build. A tribute was paid to the recently deceased Alfred C.A. Perry, also known as Chief Sachem Strong Horse, before Tillinghast stood before the crowd to reassert his commitment to doing whatever he could to benefit the Na-

tives.

“The white man never kept his covenant with the Indians,” Tillinghast spoke. “Half a mile from my farm is a great stone known as Indian Rock, beyond which the white man covenanted not to pass. But a few years after they had signed the agreement, they pushed westward as far as Scituate.”

On Sept. 4, 1932, Tillinghast again opened his estate for the Council of Algonquin Indians’ annual powwow. Metcalf gave the principal address before 33-year-old Rhode Island Senator Charles Thomas Toomey was admitted by official ceremony into council membership. The smoking of the peace pipe followed.

In the years to come, powwows would be located at various places throughout Rhode Island including Shannock, Providence and North Kingstown and would include sacred events such as invoking the Great Spirit and sharing a peace pipe. They would also include athletic events, strong arm stunts, medicine man feats and war dances. They always ended with everyone sitting down to a sumptuous dinner.

Tillinghast died in 1948. History will always hold his Johnston farm as a place where Natives and their Paleface friends came together for communication and camaraderie in heartfelt respect and joy.

Kelly Sullivan is a Rhode Island columnist, lecturer and author.

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lecturer, & columnist

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08/23/2021  
13:28:55



**IN THE ACT:**  
On Aug. 23, 2021, Norman L. Cipriano, 52, of Warwick, and Patrick M. Vigneau, 59, of Cranston, “were observed loading boxes” into Cipriano’s silver Nissan Rogue. (shown in this prosecution photo). (Photo courtesy U.S. Attorney Zachary A. Cunha’s Office)

## ■ Theft Ring

(Continued from page 6)

Prosecutors say they seized enough “stolen goods to fill three fully loaded 24-foot box trucks,” and have also “moved to freeze several bank and e-commerce accounts,” as well as “more than two dozen boxes in transit via UPS.”

“The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is committed to dismantling organized retail theft,” said Ketty Larco-Ward, inspector in charge of the Boston Division for the Postal Inspection Service. “These criminals use the U.S. Mail to ship the stolen items to unsuspecting customers who assume they are purchasing legitimate goods from a reputable online seller. The impact of this type of crime is more than just using the mail for illegal gain. This crime has significant negative impact on businesses, retailers, and public safety. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service along with our law enforcement partners, will continue to pursue criminals who victimize postal customers and bring them to justice.”

Special Agent in Charge Michael J. Krol called the “scale of this alleged theft organization ... simply as-

tonishing.”

“Special agents and officers seized tens of thousands of stolen items valued at over \$1.6 million, but this represents only a snapshot of this alleged scheme,” said Krol, who heads Homeland Security Investigations in New England. “HSI is proud to work alongside our federal, local, and private industry partners to unravel this organization. Organized retail theft is not a victimless crime and when theft groups undermine international commerce and the supply chain, we all pay.”

### The Investigation

Cranston Police played a small role in the bust, just prior to Vigneau’s arrest.

“My department’s only involvement was to assist with the execution of the Federal search warrant in Cranston,” said Cranston Police Chief Col. Michael J. Winquist. “We did not participate in the preceding investigation.”

Warwick Police collaborated with federal investigators throughout the process.

“The Warwick Police Department is dedicated to collaborating with our state and local partners to fight organized retail theft,” said Warwick Police Chief Col. Bradford Connor. “This investigation highlights the various schemes aimed at defrauding businesses and citizens. The joint efforts of the United States Postal

Inspection Service, Homeland Security Investigations, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office were crucial in bringing these individuals to justice and dismantling this organized crime ring.”

Cunha said “Chief Connor’s department was instrumental in this investigation.”

### Theft Ring Hierarchy

Court documents describe a theft ring’s alleged chain of command.

“Crew Bosses” allegedly provide lists of items to swipe from retail stores to the individuals on the lowest rung of the ladder called “Boosters.” The “Boosters” steal “high-demand, high-priced products” and then turn them over to “Fencers,” described by prosecutors as “middlemen who work between the Boosters/Crew Bosses and other individuals involved in the organization.”

“At the lowest level, individuals or groups known as boosters, are recruited to engage in the actual retail theft — shoplifting items to be passed on to the organization,” Cunha explained. “These are the folks that actually steal things from store shelves. In an organization like this, that theft isn’t random. The boosters will target specific items at the direction of a crew boss, who tells them what to steal, and pays them for their work, often in cash or cryptocurrency.”

The “Fencers” move the items to “Cleansers,” who are paid to strip retail and anti-theft stickers and devices from the stolen items. After “cleansing,” the items are shipped off to “Diverters,” like Cipriano and Vigneau.

“Diverters act as wholesalers, salespeople, or coordinators of secondary sales, oftentimes selling the stolen goods to small to mid-sized retail chains that in turn sell the products to consumers,” according to prosecutors. “In this matter, it is alleged that stolen and cleaned merchandise was turned over to Cipriano and Vigneau in their roles as Diverters. The defendants, allegedly operating under the names of various shell companies, and working with others, sold large volumes of stolen merchandise via e-commerce sites such as eBay, Walmart, and Amazon.”

Court records show that both Cipriano and Vigneau have criminal histories.

In 2005, Cipriano was convicted of conspiracy and receiving stolen goods in Rhode Island state court, and served six years. Then, in August 2013, he was also convicted of trafficking counterfeit goods in federal court and sentenced to 50 months in federal prison, according to court records.

In 1998, Vigneau was convicted by a federal jury of engaging in a continuing enterprise, possession with intent to distribute marijuana and conspiring to commit money laundering. He was released from federal prison in 2020, according to prosecutors, and was serving a term of federal supervised release at the time of his arrest.

“Based on an extensive, three-year investigation into this ring, federal agents last week executed multiple search warrants at locations in Pawtucket, Warwick, and Cranston,” Cunha said on Monday. “Those warrants uncovered vast quantities of stolen goods — again, primarily cosmetics and over the counter drugs, as you can see in the photograph from the Warwick location and likewise in Cranston.”

Cunha thanked a long list of law enforcement agencies for their help, as well as loss prevention personnel from Walmart, Stop & Shop, CVS, Home Depot, United Parcel Service, Amazon, and eBay.



## ATTENTION VOTERS: STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2024

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 2024 IS THE LAST DAY TO  
REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE NOVEMBER 5TH, 2024  
STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION

VOTER REGISTRATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT:  
THE JOHNSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
1651 ATWOOD AVENUE  
OCTOBER 6TH, 2024 DURING THE HOURS OF  
1 P.M. – 4 P.M. ONLY

Before OCTOBER 6TH, 2024, registrations can be filed  
from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Johnston Board of  
Canvasser’s Office or by visiting <https://vote/ri.gov> in  
which you can download a voter registration form and also  
access additional information such as your precinct and  
voter history. Existing voters should ensure that their voter  
registration is up to date. If you have had a change in  
name, address and/or party affiliation,  
VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

[WWW.ELECTIONS.RI.GOV](http://WWW.ELECTIONS.RI.GOV)  
[WWW.SOS.RI.GOV](http://WWW.SOS.RI.GOV)  
[WWW.TOWNOFJOHNSTON.RI.COM](http://WWW.TOWNOFJOHNSTON.RI.COM)

Joseph Falvo, Chairman  
Susana Cuellar-Daza, Membe  
Sular Batista, Member

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Public Auction Legal Notice

To: Kirsten Rikonen, 4 Lisa Dr Norton, Ma Santander Consumer USA  
PO Box 961245 Ft Worth TX.A public auction will be held at 775 Hartford ave Johnston RI on September 28, 2024 at 900 am. The vehicle a 2022 BMW 5UX53DP08N9J11116 belonging to the above. the auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

9/19/24

### Town of Johnston Planning Board REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, October 1st, 2024  
6:00 P.M.  
Johnston Senior Center  
1291 Hartford Ave.  
Johnston, RI 02919

### I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### III. NEW BUSINESS

PB 24-26 – 101 Irons Avenue AP 35 Lot 185. Advisory opinion on the donation of this parcel to the Town.

PB 24-28 – Johnston High School 345 Cherry Hill Road AP 47 lot 9. A Public Hearing on a Master Plan submission of a Major Land Development with Unified Development Review to build a new high school. Zoned R-20 and R-40.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

PB 23-01 - 1725 Plainfield Pike. AP 26 lots 77, 85, 111 and 149.

A Public Meeting on a Final Plan submission of a Major Land Development consisting of 12 buildings containing 24 units of housing. The property is located in an R-7 zone.

PB 19-31 - 80 Morgan Avenue – A Public Hearing on the Preliminary Plan submission of a Major Land Development. AP 8 Lots 1 and 276 a Planned Development Continuing Care Retirement Community (PD-CCRC)

PB 23- 12 – Zoning Update. Discussion and review of draft zoning ordinance. Major restructuring of the ordinance was required because of the changes and the failure to update the ordinance over the past years when changes were made to state law.

V. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN Affordable Housing Element, Stormwater Management element

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

• The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at <https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri> or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

• Items not heard by 9:00 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.

• Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

9/12, 9/19/24



# BACK TO SCHOOL IN JOHNSTON



**SCHOOL STARTERS:** Nyah and Natalie Aponte pose together on their first day of 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. (Photo courtesy Amanda Aponte)



**NEW 7TH GRADER:** Colton Brennan, Ferri, 7th grade (Photo courtesy Courtney Caplette)

## OBITUARY

### Dorothy M. Izzi

Dorothy M. Izzi, 96 of Johnston passed away peacefully on September 6, 2024, with her family by her side. Born in Providence, she was the son of late Fred and Ella (Tartaglia) Delfino. She was the beloved wife of the late Donald Izzi.

She was the first Woman Executive to work at Textron, and the former owner of Izzi Trucking. After her retirement she devoted her life to her family, she loved to prepare meals for them. She led a very active life, she walked daily and loved dancing. She was also very creative, often she could be found painting, crocheting and or sewing.

She is survived by her devoted daughters Donna M. Guilmette and her husband William, Elaine M. Parenti and her late husband Ronald, and Dina M. Izzo and her husband Anthony. She leaves several cherished grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brothers Ernest Delfino, Alfred Delfino, Raymond Delfino, and Joseph "Tippy" Delfino.

Her Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 11:00 am at Our Lady of Grace Church, 4 Lafayette St., Johnston. Burial immediately followed in St. Ann Cemetery. VISITING HOURS were held from 9:00 am- 10:00 am at the NARDOLILLO FUNERAL HOME & Crematory, 1278 Park Ave., Cranston.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *The Johnston SunRise asked readers to send in their back to school photos. As usual, Johnston parents did not disappoint. If you have a back to school photo, send it in. We'll run as many photo spreads as we need to run them all. Send photos to SunRise Editor Rory Schuler at [rorys@rhodybeat.com](mailto:rorys@rhodybeat.com).*



**HEADED TO THE HILL:** Monroe and Nova Woods entered the 3rd & 5th grade Winsor Hill School. (Photo courtesy Linz Woods)



**BACK TO SCHOOL:** Kennedie and McKenna Pace started 7th Grade at Ferri (Photo courtesy Nicki Pace)



**END OF MIDDLE:** Hunter begins 8th grade at Ferri Middle School. (Photo courtesy Nicole Desrosiers)



**FIRST GRADE FIRST DAY:** Piper Russo grade 1 (Photo courtesy Courtney Russo)



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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# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## The Preserve at Briarcliffe

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By JENNIFER COATES

The expression "Home is where the heart is" is an oft-repeated phrase that is both familiar and evocative to all who hear it. Whenever these words are uttered, they immediately evoke the sentiment that no matter where life takes you, you can be "at home" as long as you are surrounded by the people and things you love. Home can truly be wherever you rest your heart.

As we age, the concept of "home" will often change. Perhaps we are no longer able to remain in the home where we raised our families. Perhaps we need more help than the independent lives we once led. Perhaps we need to eschew the possessions we once accumulated in our homes and embrace a simpler life, instead savoring time spent with loved ones and making new acquaintances. Life and "home" may change, but they can also be better as we go along.

"Life getting better" and creating "places where the heart can settle in" are part of the mission of The Preserve at Briarcliffe. The Preserve is the newest addition to the Briarcliffe family. Opened in June of 2021, this thoughtfully designed senior living residence is home to seniors looking for this simpler, stress-free life. A life of security, peace of mind, comfort, opportunity, and freedom. A "new" home that caters to their every want and need.

Each of The Preserve's sixty-six apartments is designed to meet the specific needs of those who are either completely independent or who require assistance with such basic needs as medication management or help with simple, everyday activities. It is the ultimate in senior living, known in the industry as a Continuing Catered Retirement Community (CCRC).

The Preserve's apartments come in six different floor



The Preserve at Briarcliffe is a warm, inviting retirement community located in Johnston. If you or a loved one is considering a new home, visit one of their apartments, including this studio apartment with its thoughtfully-planned bathroom and kitchenette

plans including 330 square foot studio apartments and one-bedroom units. Each apartment has a kitchenette (complete with quartz countertops, small-scale refrigerators, and a microwave), "European-style" bathrooms for safe and easy access (complete with barrier free showers, grab bars and two emergency alarm pull stations), wheelchair-width doors for those with mobility challenges, and access to the outdoors. Each apartment is individually controlled for heat and air-conditioning. Every room is bathed in natural sunlight.

Every amenity here at The Preserve has been carefully curated. Restaurant-style dining with restaurant quality

food, housekeeping, landscaped grounds to explore, a full-service salon and fitness center, laundry service and cozy lounges where scheduled activities and entertainment are held. There is a library and game room for family gatherings. Though transportation is provided, there is hardly ever a reason to leave!

Now is the time to schedule a tour of your "new home" at The Briarcliffe, Preserve located in a leafy corner of the city at 54 Old Pocasset Road. To arrange for your tour, call Stefany Reed at 401.944.2450 ext. 202 or visit their informational website at [www.briarclifferi.com](http://www.briarclifferi.com).

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4 Tips for Choosing the Right Medicare Plan

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Coverage begins

OPEN ENROLLMENT AHEAD

Ready for Open Enrollment? With so many Medicare options available, selecting a plan can seem daunting. This year you may be wondering how news of Medicare drug price negotiations, economic uncertainties and other factors may impact your coverage in 2025.

Medicare is the government health insurance program for Americans 65 and older and others who qualify, providing hospital coverage (Part A) and physician visits (Part B) to beneficiaries. Additionally, there are a variety of options that coordinate with original Medicare, such as Medicare Supplement plans and Prescription Drug Plans, or replace original Medicare with Medicare Advantage (MA) plans combined with Prescription Drug Plans.

**Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) takes place between October 15 and December 7, 2024. Here are a few things to know:**

- 1.** Check for plan changes: If your current plan is working for you, you can likely keep it. However, it's a good idea to review your plan every AEP, especially if you've experienced major life, health or financial changes. Any changes to your current plan will be outlined in your Medicare plan's Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) letter, which you can expect to receive in September.
- 2.** Research your coverage: There are a few key things to watch for when shopping for a plan. One of them is whether your favorite providers and specialists will be in-network. You should also review each plan's formulary – that is, the list of drugs covered under the plan. You'll want to find a plan that will cover your current medications and any you anticipate your doctor prescribing over the course of the year ahead. Finally, carefully consider your total spend for your prescription drug plan coverage (i.e., premiums plus pharmacy costs) since the maximum out-of-pocket costs for drugs you utilize will be capped at \$2,000 in 2025.

- 3.** Look for value: No matter what the economic outlook is, it's wise to select a plan that provides great value. To that end, you may want to consider an MA plan, which offers quality and affordability. MA plans cover everything original Medicare does, plus more; most also include dental, vision and hearing benefits, prescription drug coverage, and other extras like over-the-counter drugs, transportation to doctor's visits and pharmacies, healthy grocery purchases, and fitness services. MA plans are often available with \$0 premiums, but you'll also want to check on what your annual out-of-pocket costs could be based on your health status.
- 4.** Understand your plan: Before enrolling in a particular plan, make sure you understand its ins and outs. Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24/7; TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. Or, visit the Medicare Plan Finder website at [Medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare). For local assistance, refer to the State Health Insurance Assistance Program at [www.shiptacenter.org](https://www.shiptacenter.org). You can also contact individual Medicare plans.

Medicare Annual Enrollment Period is your opportunity to assess your budget and your health needs and find an option that will work for you and your lifestyle in 2025.

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# One Tomato, Two Tomato, Three Tomato, Four

Eureka! The four by twenty-eight foot urban “farm” on the side of my garage, that small patch in the corner of the yard, and in the flower bed (which we were doubtful would grow anything) yielded a bountiful harvest of tomatoes.

Before revealing my favorite ways of eating garden tomatoes, let’s start by researching a continuing controversy. Is the tomato a fruit or a vegetable?

Depending on the source, it can be one or the other. To my amazement, it was the Supreme Court in the case of *Nixon v. Hadden* in 1893 that defined the tomatoes as a vegetable. (I will leave it to you to research WHY this case ended up in the Supreme Court).

Botanically, they are classified as a fruit because they are a seed-bearing plant. Regardless of which definition you choose, garden-grown tomatoes are an epicurean delight. This year, we planted Big Boys, Better Boys, San Marzano, grape, and cherry tomatoes.

A simple and delicious way to eat a tomato is freshly-picked from the garden and paired with sliced Mozzarella cheese, drizzled with olive oil and balsamic vinegar, and topped off with a sprig of basil. This type of salad nirvana requires a few slices of hard crusted Italian bread and a glass of red wine to complete the feast.

I also recommend thick slices of tomatoes on cheeseburgers or hamburgers with onions and lettuce. You can add mustard or ketchup, or even bacon if you like; but too many garnishes blunt the taste of a ripe tomato. Mayonnaise is a definite no-no.

My wife loves to put grape and cherry tomatoes in our garden salads, but I am not a fan of either variety. To me, these mini-bites are like giving me a small sliver of a Snickers bar. It’s just not enough.

Tomato slices are also the key to a savory BLT. I prefer my bread toasted. Mayonnaise is acceptable for this sandwich.



## MY SIDE OF THINGS

by LARRY GRIMALDI

own tomato soup.

Above all, I love making a gravy (sauce to others) for macaroni (pasta to you) to be used for a Sunday dinner later in the year. Some people can their tomato harvest. We freeze the “fruits” of our labor.

While San Marzano tomatoes are preferred for Marinara (meatless) gravy we use all varieties of our tomatoes in when making ours. Cover the bottom of your pot with olive oil and roast (do not burn) minced or chopped garlic. Wash the tomatoes and throw them in the blender with basil and pour the mixture into the pot to simmer.

While the gravy will most likely be pink at the beginning, it will eventually turn bright red. We add salt, black pepper, red pepper flakes, oregano, a small can of tomato paste (for a thicker consistency), and Italian seasoning to our gravy. If you prefer, you can add a pinch of sugar and/or a little red wine.

Some alternate recipes call for not using olive oil, using just San Marzano tomatoes (less seeds in the finished product), or grinding up the garlic and oregano in the blender with the tomatoes.

Be sure to have some fresh Italian bread on hand to sample your simmering creation. You can also combine it with meatballs, pepperoni, porkchop, or braciolo for a meat gravy.

If your imagination has piqued, scan the Internet for other garden-tomato recipes. In a recent search, I discovered a site listing 37 ways to prepare and eat these vegetables/fruits. Or, you can create your own dish. Tomato dishes are limited only by your imagination. Mangia!

You can add tomatoes to a grilled cheese sandwich or to add zest to your Margherita pizza. I’ve never done it, but I imagine you can make your



**WHY IS IT THAT:** The millisecond your plane pulls into the gate and the engine stops, passengers eject themselves from their seats as if they were launched by a catapult?

*Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Larry and his wife Kathy are co-authors of “Wandering Across America,” a chronicle of their cross-country road trip, and “Cooking with Mammie,” a collection of family recipes prepared with their grandchildren. He has also written the column anthologies “50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter, Volumes I & II.” Columns reissued in these books are used with the permission of Beacon Communications. For more information, or comments, e-mail [lvgrimaldi49@](mailto:lvgrimaldi49@)*

# Hairballs and Dingleberries



## RETIREMENT SPARKS

by ELAINE M. DECKER

A Canadian friend on Facebook blogs about her rescue cat. Recently a neighbor in her condominium complained about the cat’s hairballs and dingleberries. I’m not sure how the neighbor would even know about these, as the cat stays inside or on the balcony. The neighbor must be a nosy balcony peeper with a dangling microphone. Anyone who has ever had cat knows that a hairball gives plenty of notice as the cat hacks one up. But on a balcony, I would think the sound would be muffled by the wind.

I’ve often wondered why some people call them hairballs and others call them fur balls.

This is what my brief research determined. Technically the term *fur* is used with mammals with thick body hair (and therefore cats) while it’s still attached.

*Hairballs* describe the fur that cats swallow and then hack up. If the fur is sparse, as with humans, we generally call it *hair* even while it’s still attached.

If you’d like more detail on this distinction, visit: [thesprucepets.com/cat-fur-vs-hair-554813](https://thesprucepets.com/cat-fur-vs-hair-554813).

We call it hair once it’s fallen out onto our clothes or our furniture and we’re trying to brush it off.

Dingleberries were new to me. It turns out they collect around the exit hatch at the cat’s rear, especially on those with long hair. They require constant, fastidious grooming to prevent blockage. The balcony peeper might have observed that, especially if she uses binoculars. I imagine a persistent peeper would. They’d undoubtedly have a kit with all their peeping tools in it. And a notepad to keep track of their findings by date and time to report to the condo board.

The dingleberry name reminded me of one of those silly jokes from decades ago. “What do you call red crepe paper that hangs from the ceiling? A dingle dangle. What do you call green crepe paper that hangs from the ceiling? Crepe paper. Dingle dangles only come in red.” I warned you that it was silly.

Getting back to the dingleberries at a cat’s exit hatch—this could get gross. I’ve had nine cats in about forty years. None were long hair and all of the females were spayed. I never noticed any dingleberries. What I did notice was that when some of my girls got older, their lower bellies began to droop and they flopped when they walked. The hair at their back belly also got longer. I referred to

it all as their fuzzy baggies.

I came up with that name from a commercial on the radio for *Fazi Battaglia Verdichio* wine. A man was in a liquor store wanting to order it but couldn’t pronounce it. One of his attempts was *Fuzzy Baggies*. He finally settled on *Fizzy What’s It*, as I recall.

Stella Periwinkle, one of my current girls, now has fuzzy baggies. Kallie Jasmine is more petite and is still svelte. Once I had dingleberries on my radar, I decided to inspect Stella’s exit hatch. What I found shocked me. Dingleberries galore, some larger ones almost blocking that out ramp. I pulled one or two off for her, taking some fur along with it. She was not pleased so I stopped.

There must have been at least four to six of those buggers still there. I decided to make this a multi-day project with regular inspections once I had her completely de-dingleberried. Don’t even ask where that project stands.

Just to be safe, I also checked Kallie’s rear end. No dingleberries there; no surprise because her fur is not very long. However, she seems to be more prone to hacking up hairballs than Stella is. Her pre-hack meow is so pitiful that I usually have plenty of time to find her and catch the blob in a tissue as it comes up. I say usually because there are occasions that I don’t get there on time. Cleaning throw up on carpeting is not pleasant.

Neither is stepping on a dried up hairball days after it was deposited. I imagine that happens when I’m out on errands. Once those dry, they blend in with the Oriental rugs and it can be weeks before I happen upon them.

It took a friend’s Facebook post on hairballs and dingleberries to get me thinking about all of this. I hope my column has you searching your rugs and examining your pet’s exit ramps, too.

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



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# My Singing Family

I’ve been blessed with a large loving family. We grew up with sixteen first cousins and many second and third cousins as well. We’re still in touch and see each other often. I’m fortunate to be surrounded by my original extended family, but I’m doubly fortunate to have another family - my singing family.

My friend, Coleen, and I have been attending vocal workshops given by the Western Wind Vocal Ensemble since 2007. The Western Wind is a world-renowned a cappella group of six professional singers out of New York City who provide workshops throughout the year in small-group ensemble a cappella singing.

When Coleen and I began we attended one weekend workshop every summer. We were placed in a small group under the tutelage of one of the professional Western Wind singers based on our ability to sight-read. We had one day - Saturday - to learn all kinds of music - Renaissance, folk, popular - in many different languages. Add that to a cappella sight-reading - challenging and scary, but exciting and rewarding - a whirlwind of a day.

Saturday night was seminar night. Each group performed whatever they’d worked on all day. The Western Wind professionals then gave their feedback - always gently and kindly - with ways to improve, from rearranging the small group physically on-stage to giving advice on vocal ensemble-singing technique - providing feedback in a million different ways to help each group gel into its best version of itself.

Sunday was back to work - deciding what to keep and what to let go - until each group had its repertoire ready to present at the final concert in the afternoon. No feedback at this one - wherever the weekend’s work landed, that was what was recorded, applauded, and celebrated. Then hugs and good-byes all around and we were home again, wondering, “Did this really happen??” It was over in a flash, it seemed - all that work - tough, but exhilarating, and Coleen and I looked forward to the next year when we’d return to do it all over again.

The Western Wind also offers week-long workshops and Coleen and I eventually added a 5-day in August along with our weekend in June, and it wasn’t long before we gave up the weekend and switched over to attending both 5-day workshops - in June and in August.

The workshops are usually held on college campuses where all of us - Western Wind mentors and participants alike - stay together in a dorm and eat in the dining hall. There’s much more music to learn and a seminar is held every night to receive feedback. Classes are offered in vocal technique, music history, and sight-reading. We also have an opportunity to form our own pop/jazz or continuo group outside of our assigned ensemble group for participation in specialized pop/jazz and continuo end-of-week concerts.

Each pop/jazz group gives themselves a name and sings one song. Five of us sang “Blowin’ in the Wind” this past August, and we called ourselves “The Windchimes”. It’s always a scramble getting five singers together, because everyone has other rehearsal obligations. Often it’s 15 minutes here and there at odd times throughout the week. Rushing around, finding rehearsal space, assigning parts, and putting it all together in the space of a few days is anxiety-provoking, but it’s a good kind of angst and thoroughly rewarding in every way.

## Healthy Eating for Seniors

Eating a variety of foods from all food groups can help supply the nutrients a person needs as they age. A healthy eating plan emphasizes fruit, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat or fat-free dairy; includes lean meat, poultry, fish, beans, eggs and nuts; and is low in saturated fats, trans fats, salt (sodium) and added sugars.

Eating right doesn’t have to be complicated. Start with these recommendations from the Dietary Guidelines for Americans:

- Eat fruits and vegetables.** They can be fresh, frozen or canned. Eat more dark green vegetables such as leafy greens or broccoli, and orange vegetables such as carrots and sweet potatoes.
- Vary protein choices** with more fish, beans and peas.
- Eat at least three ounces** of whole-grain cereals, breads, crackers, rice or pasta every day. Choose whole grains whenever possible.
- Have three servings of low-fat or fat-free dairy** (milk, yogurt or cheese) that are fortified with vitamin D to help keep your bones healthy.
- Make the fats you eat** polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats. Switch from solid fats to oils when preparing food.
- Include Physical Activity to your Daily Routine.** Balancing physical activity and a healthful diet is the best recipe for health and fitness. Set a goal to be physically active at least 30 minutes every day — this even can be broken into three 10-minute sessions throughout the day.

For someone who is currently inactive, it’s a good idea to start with a few minutes of activity, such as walking, and gradually increase this time as they become stronger. And always check with a health-care provider before beginning a new physical activity program.  
(CONTENT COURTESY EATRIGH.T.ORG)

After the seminars each night there’s a dorm party where we talk, laugh, and relax together. The whole experience reminds me of my college days - living in a dorm (especially the shared bathroom far, far away...at the end of the hall), worry and uncertainty over tackling something challenging, and the lasting friendships formed, too.

The week-long workshops offer another benefit - the Silly Seminar. Where grown adults show another side of them-



### MY MEMOIRS

by SUSAN DEAN

selves performing silly skits. Coleen and I witnessed our first Silly Seminar in 2016 as part of the audience, and we’re not exactly sure how it happened, but on the drive home that year we started talking to each other using an exaggerated Rhode Island accent, making it up as we went along with lots of “Not for nuttin’, but”s and “Let’s pock the cah and go fuh cawfee - ya know that place where Almacs used to be?” We laughed so hard I nearly drove off the road.

So the following summer we created two characters - “Vhonda (Rhonda) and “Glaw-wee-uh” (Gloria) - of course we drop all of our “R” sounds - and put together over-the-top outfits (lots of jewelry, make-up, teased hair - everything in an exaggerated manner) and wrote a script. Think “Laverne and Shirley” Rhode Island-style. Since then, “The Rhode Island Girls”, as we’ve come to be known, have made an appearance at every Western Wind Silly Seminar.

But this year turned out to be extra special. After our skit,

four of our friends, Mitchell, Evan, Bert, and Russell - guys we’ve known for years from our Western Wind summers - sang a song titled “Rhode Island is Famous for You” and dedicated it to Coleen and me. Its lyrics end with “Now get it straight - it’s the Ocean State that’s really pretty proud of you!”

Our black mascara, blue eye-shadow, bright red rouge, and purple lipstick became messy rivulets composed of happy tears as these four guys sang to us in perfect harmony. Beautiful, touching, tender, directly from their hearts to ours.

We’ve met so many wonderful people from all over the world at our Western Wind workshops. People, like us, return year after year - for the challenge, the music, the fun, and for the reunion - sharing this amazing week with friends. Friends who feel like family.

I’m lucky enough to have two more singing families locally. I’ve sung with the West Bay Chorale (info@westbay-chorale.org) in Warwick since 1988 and the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra (info@ricco.org) in Providence since 2015. My love of music started in childhood, but these two organizations are “where it all began” for me - where I honed my musical skills and experienced the works of the great masters and composers. And where music and singing continue to fill my soul as we start our new seasons. Both groups are open to new singers - and singing with friends is a sure-fire way to experience “joyful aging” - uplifting, life-affirming, and fun.

Next summer, Coleen and I will reunite with our Western Wind family (westernwind.org) - participants and mentors alike. Mitchell, Evan, Bert, and Russell said it with a song - family is where you truly feel a sense of belonging. We’ve already started working on our next skit and look forward to the fun, the laughter, the music - the joy of being together again - with dear friends in a place that feels like home.



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# When Elders Need Help, The Haven Is There

Elder Abuse comes in many forms, from physical injury to the more frequent financial harm usually caused by someone known to the victim.

Often elders may not know where to turn or how to get help when they're in trouble. Or they may be afraid of the consequences of reporting their caregiver, the person they rely on for assistance.

Fortunately, in Rhode Island, there is a resource to support and protect this vulnerable population, the Saint Elizabeth Haven for Elder Justice.

The program's activities are diverse and usually occur behind the scenes to protect the individuals involved. During the past year, for example, the Haven and its partners played a critical role in assisting the Warwick Police Department in apprehending suspects in a "grandchild in distress" scam, preventing the victimization of an elder couple.

The Haven's primary focus is to connect elder victims with the resources they need to resolve their crisis. When necessary, the program will provide them with temporary shelter at a local eldercare facility so they have a safe place to stay.

In the meantime, an Elder Justice Advocate develops a safety plan and identifies support for both their immediate and long-term needs. The Advocate also connects the elder with legal assistance and, ultimately, helps plan their safe transition back into the community.

In 2023, the Haven provided services to 56 new clients, with 20 of those given access to shelter.

The Haven for Elder Justice is a program of Saint Elizabeth Community and part of the Rhode Island Coalition for Elder Justice (RICEJ) a collaboration of more than thirty community-based organizations committed to protecting and serving our elder neighbors.

Partners include members of the majority of the state's relevant state elder protection programs, law enforcement agencies, elder case management agencies, domestic violence centers, housing, LGBT services, nursing professionals, legal officers, community policing and others.

Moving forward, the RICEJ will institutionalize its efforts with a particular emphasis on traditionally underserved populations including individuals with disabilities, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, persons with limited English proficiency and members of the LGBT community.

For more information, please visit [stelizabethcommunity.org/haven](https://stelizabethcommunity.org/haven) or [rielderjustice.org](https://rielderjustice.org).

*RI law requires those who suspect a Rhode Island resident is a victim of any form of elder abuse to report to the RI Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) Adult Protective Services Unit online at [oha.ri.gov](https://oha.ri.gov) or by calling OHA at 401-462-0555. Reports can be made 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are confidential.*



# Perform an End-Of-Summer Tax Checkup To Avoid Tax Surprises Next Year

## YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER  
IRS/SPEC

The Internal Revenue Service encourages taxpayers to consider using the end of the summer to make tax withholding or payment updates to avoid a potential surprise next year at tax time. While most taxpayers get a refund after filing their taxes, many also find they unexpectedly owe taxes. This can be due to a life or job change for which they did not make the necessary tax adjustment during the year.

### Those who should be especially careful are:

- Gig economy workers
- Those with a "side hustle."
- Anyone earning income not subject to withholding.

These individuals should check the amount they pay, or the amount of tax they have withheld throughout the year, to bring the tax they pay closer to what is owed. The IRS has a special Tax Withholding Estimator that can help taxpayers align their tax withholding or tax payments with what they owe. The IRS reminds taxpayers that tax planning done now can save time and frustration later. Here are some important things to keep in mind:

### How refunds work

The federal tax system is pay-as-you-go. Taxpayers pay tax as they earn wages or receive income during the year. For many, taxes are withheld from their paycheck by their employer and then given over to the IRS on their behalf. Others, such as gig economy workers, make or should make quarterly estimated tax payments throughout the year to stay current. A refund normally results when too much is withheld or paid throughout the year. Recent IRS statistics show that two-thirds of taxpayers received a refund so far in 2024. As of mid-May, nearly \$270 billion in refunds went to taxpayers with the average refund just under \$2,900.

### Avoid an unexpected bill

On the other hand, many taxpayers end up with estimated tax penalties because they underpay throughout the year. The penalty amount varies but for some it can be several hundred dollars. Adjusting withholding on paychecks or the amount of estimated tax payments can help prevent penalties. This is especially important for self-employed people, including those in

the gig economy, those with more than one job and those with major changes in their life, like a recent marriage or a new child. With that in mind, the IRS encourages taxpayers to use the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator to help better align their tax withholding or tax payments with what they owe.

### Tax Withholding Estimator

This handy tool on [irs.gov](https://irs.gov) helps people figure the amount of federal income tax they should pay during the year. All that's needed for taxpayers to use it are paystubs for all their jobs or other income information, such as from side jobs, self-employment or investment income, and a copy of their 2023 tax year return.

### People can use the Tax Withholding Estimator to:

- Estimate their federal income tax withholding.
- See how a refund, take-home pay or tax due are affected by withholding amounts.
- Choose an estimated withholding amount that works for them and their family.

If a withholding change is needed upon completion, taxpayers should adjust their withholding by submitting a new Form W-4 to their employer or pension provider. They can also adjust quarterly estimated tax payments as appropriate.

### IRS also reminds people to use the Tax Withholding Estimator if there's a major life change such as

- New job or other paid work
- Major income change.
- Marriage.
- Childbirth or adoption.
- New home purchase.

While the Tax Withholding Estimator works for most taxpayers, people with more complex tax situations should instead use the instructions in [Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax](#). This includes taxpayers who owe Alternative Minimum Tax or certain other taxes, and people with long-term capital gains or qualified dividends.

For additional information please visit [irs.gov/tax-withholding-estimator](https://irs.gov/tax-withholding-estimator) FAQs.

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# SSDI and SSI

## Understanding The Programs and How They Can Help

by DON DRAKE  
CONNELLY LAW OFFICES, LTD.

The distinction between Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) often creates a great deal of confusion. Both programs employ identical medical criteria to assess disability based on medical evidence and functional capabilities, and they fall under the jurisdiction of the Social Security Administration, contributing to the misconceptions surrounding their disparities.

SSDI is classified as an “entitlement” program, with benefits supported by Social Security taxes paid by workers, employers, and the self-employed. These taxes are designated to specific trust funds. Eligibility for these benefits depends on an individual’s work history or, in some cases, their spouse’s or parent’s work history. The benefit amount is based on the individual’s earnings.

In contrast, SSI is a needs-based program designed for individuals with limited income and resources. Here, resources refer to an individual’s assets or possessions. Unlike the Social Security benefit programs, SSI is financed by general tax revenues rather than the Social Security trust funds. The benefit amount is determined by Federal and State laws, taking into consideration the recipient’s place of residence, household composition, assets, and total income.

### Supplemental Security Income

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a vital program that provides financial support to individuals with limited income and assets. This program is based on financial need rather than a recipient’s work history, and it is financed not by the Social Security trust fund but by general tax funds.

Eligibility for SSI necessitates very constrained income and assets, and qualified individuals may also be entitled to Medicaid in the state of their residence based on income requirements. Furthermore, SSI recipients may be eligible for food stamps, with the amount received contingent on their location and monthly income.

To qualify for Supplemental Security Income, individuals must meet the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) disability criteria. These criteria signify an inability to engage in substantial gainful activity due to a lasting or expected-to-last medical condition or a condition resulting in death.

Moreover, SSI applicants must possess limited assets of less than \$2,000 (or \$3,000 for a married couple), with select assets such

as a primary residence and one vehicle not factored into this limit.

Income plays a pivotal role in SSI eligibility, with individuals with minimal income from any source more likely to qualify. SSI payments are reduced by each dollar of countable income received, with the government considering various sources of income, including non-cash assistance.

The maximum SSI payment for 2024 is \$943 per month for an individual and \$1,415 monthly for a couple.

### State Supplements for SSI

The SSI State Supplemental Payment (SSP) program provides a supplementary sum to individuals receiving federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and certain non-SSI recipients. This program aims to assist low-income individuals with disabilities and elderly adults with limited resources to cover their daily expenses.

Rhode Island offers varying supplement amounts depending on the living arrangement. For individuals residing in their household, the supplement is \$39.92 per month, while those living in the household of another receive \$51.92 per month. Couples residing in their household are entitled to \$79.38 per month, and those living in the household of another qualify for \$97.30 per month. Moreover, individuals in a Title XIX facility are eligible for a supplement of \$20.00 per month.

### Social Security Disability Insurance

The Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program is funded through the payroll taxes of employed individuals. Those who receive SSDI benefits are considered “insured” due to their work history and contributions to the Social Security trust fund through Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) Social Security taxes. Eligibility for SSDI requires a specific number of work years, a defined number of work credits, and an age limit of sixty-five.

After receiving SSDI benefits for two years, disabled individuals become eligible for Medicare. Additionally, under the SSDI program, the spouse and dependent children of a disabled individual are entitled to receive partial dependent benefits. However, only adults over eighteen can receive the SSDI disability benefit.

A mandatory five-month waiting period

for benefits requires claimants to wait five months after becoming disabled before receiving SSDI benefits. Once the waiting period has passed, the monthly benefit amount is calculated based on the individual’s earnings record, similar to the Social Security retirement benefit calculation.

Approval rates for SSDI are generally higher than those for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). To qualify for SSDI benefits, individuals must meet medical and non-medical criteria. The medical requirement involves meeting the government’s definition of disability, rendering the individual unable to work for at least a year due to a medical condition outlined in the SSA Blue Book. Additionally, individuals must have worked and paid taxes for specific years, typically requiring forty work credits for eligibility.

Earning up to four credits each year is possible, with the required amount for a work credit subject to change from year to year. For instance, in 2024, 1 credit can be earned for each \$1,730 in wages or self-employment income, and four credits can be earned once \$6,920 is earned for the year.

Social Security Disability benefits can remain active if the individual is disabled. If benefits are received until age 65, SSDI benefits will cease, and retirement benefits will commence. In essence, SSDI benefits transition to Social Security retirement benefits. In 2024, the maximum monthly amount an individual can receive from the SSDI program is \$3,822.

In 2024, individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) can earn up to \$1,550 a month (\$2,590 for blind workers) without any reduction in benefits. This provision can double a beneficiary’s income, receiving the average

benefit of \$1,538. During a nine-month trial work period and a three-month grace period, beneficiaries may earn unlimited amounts without jeopardizing their benefits while testing their ability to return to work. Furthermore, SSDI beneficiaries are eligible for extended Medicare coverage to assist their transition back to the workforce. Given the relatively low SSDI benefits, it is expected that beneficiaries would seek to supplement their income by taking advantage of these provisions if they can do so.

### Mix of SSI and SSDI?

Qualifying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is possible and offers two key advantages. Firstly, applying for both programs may result in higher monthly payments. Additionally, while there are waiting periods for SSDI, SSI does not have the same waiting period. Consequently, if you are approved for benefits quickly but still have to wait for your first SSDI check, receiving interim SSI payments can provide essential financial assistance.

### A Final Word

Both Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) are designed to provide financial assistance to individuals who are unable to work due to disability. The eligibility for each program is determined by various factors, such as work history, financial resources, and the benefits each program offers. Determining the most suitable program for an individual requires careful consideration of these variables.

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# AARP Driver Safety Celebrates 45 Years of Helping Drivers Stay Safe



AARP - RHODE ISLAND  
by CATHERINE TAYLOR

AARP’s mission is to empower people to choose how we live as we age, which includes maintaining the ability to drive safely as long as possible.

For most people, their cars are key to mobility and independence. That’s an important reason why we all need to stay sharp and think safety.

Since the inception of AARP Driver Safety in 1979, AARP has reached more than 20 million people. We believe this is crucial as the number of older drivers continues to grow. One estimate shows the number of drivers 65 and older increasing by 77% in the next 20 years. While older drivers are generally safe drivers, they have a higher risk of injury or death when involved in crashes.

AARP Driver Safety is celebrating its 45th anniversary by providing useful tips and resources to help you stay safe behind the wheel. For example: According to the most recent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data from 2021, 13% of reported motor-vehicle crashes were the result of distracted driving. Improve your safety by stowing your phone away completely out of sight and properly restraining your pet safely in a crate or harness.

With the driving landscape rapidly changing – from the traffic laws and roadways to the vehicles and the technology in them – we’re helping drivers keep up with these changes.

AARP’s flagship program, the award-winning AARP Smart Driver course, is the nation’s largest and longest-running driver safety course designed specifically for drivers aged 50 and older.

Driver Safety is made possible in Rhode Island by a dedicated corps of volunteers, led by State Coordinator Lorna Oinonen – who also was our 2021 Andrus Award for Volunteer Service winner. Lorna’s highly trained instructors, part of an AARP nationwide team of 4,500 volunteers, conduct our in-person smart Driver courses.

The Driver Safety team serves every corner of Rhode Island. Coming up on October 7 is a 1:30 p.m. class at East Greenwich’s TCE Swift Community Center. Call 401-886-8669 to sign up. You can find more dates and locations at [www.aarp.org/RIEvents](https://www.aarp.org/RIEvents).

The Smart Driver course is interactive and engaging with knowledge checks and videos from experts. It focuses on areas where older drivers could benefit, and it also focuses on state-specific driving laws.

While there is a \$25 fee for participants on the Smart Driver Course (\$20 for AARP members), it covers the costs to run the course, including take-home materials like the Participant Guidebook and Worksheet. Completion may qualify you for a discount on your auto insurance. Restrictions may apply. Consult your agent for details.

According to a survey of participants who completed the course:

- 90% have changed at least one risky driving behavior.
- 92% would recommend the course to a friend.
- 97% consider themselves a confident driver.

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## SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER ONLINE EVENTS

- September 19, 1 p.m. - Free Social Security Webinar
- September 24, October 8, 4 p.m. - Tai Ch/Qi Gong
- September 25, 6 p.m. - Laughter Yoga
- October 9, 1 p.m. - Everybody Dance!
- October 11, 11 a.m. - ADU Design Webinar
- October 24, 4 p.m. - RI Healthy Cooking

## AARP-RI SPONSORED IN-PERSON EVENTS

- September 27, October 18, 7:30 p.m. - Newport Classical Fall Chamber Series
  - October 7, 10 a.m. and October 24, 4 p.m. - Newport Slave History Medallion Tour
  - October 17, 5 p.m. - Bike Newport Full Moon Bike Ride
- Learn more and register at [aarp.org/RIEvents](https://aarp.org/RIEvents)

## DID YOU KNOW?

The World Stroke Organization reports that a person suffers a stroke once every three seconds across the globe each day. Globally, there are roughly 12.2 million new strokes each year, and one in four individuals age 25 and older will have a stroke at some point in their lifetime. In its “Global Stroke Fact Sheet 2022,” the WSO reported that the number of individuals who will have a stroke in their lifetime had increased by 50 percent over the previous 17 years, which underscores a need for the general public to better understand stroke and its controllable risk factors. Such variables include avoiding smoking, eating a healthy diet, minimizing if not eliminating alcohol consumption, and avoiding a sedentary lifestyle.

Arthritis is a series of conditions that primarily affects joint health. The two main types of arthritis are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. The University of Michigan Health says osteoarthritis occurs when the smooth cartilage joint surface wears out, and the condition usually begins in an isolated joint. Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease that causes the body to attack itself. RA targets the joints, but other parts of the body can be affected as well. The Cleveland Clinic says that osteoarthritis is generally diagnosed in adults older than age 50. Rheumatoid arthritis tends to develop in adults between the ages of 30 and 60.



# Sports



**SEASON OPENER:** Dean Paris rushes for a score (left) while a group of Panthers celebrates in the second half. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

## Panthers fall in thrilling opener

JHS rally not enough as NP gets win at home

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Despite a second-half rally, the Johnston football team came up short in its season opener when reigning Division IV champion North Providence held on to win 19-15 in its first game in DIII.

The Cougars shut down the Johnston offense and took a 12-0 lead into the half-time break. Johnston's offense found its rhythm in the third and would get on the board when Dean Paris rushed for a 5-yard score, set up on a big reception from Lyalo Harrison-Perez.

The Panthers drove again, but NP would haul in an interception in the end zone. Daniel Gomez would return possession to Johnston when he recovered a fumble at the NP 10-yard line. Paris

■ START - PAGE 27



## Roundup: JHS boys shake off slow start, climb to 5th

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

After starting the season 0-1-1, the Johnston boys soccer team has bounced back to win two of its past three contests and tying the other to climb the standings to fifth place in Division III.

The Panthers got their first win a 2-1 decision to Cranston East last week. Miguel Santamaria and Sebastian Saucedo each scored in the win while Andre Amato recorded an assist. Josue Vasquez earned the win in net, finishing the day with three saves.

The team turned around to shut out Ponaganset 3-0 the following game, getting all three goals in the second half to run away with the win over the Chieftains. Saucedo finished the

game with two goals and an assist, while Daniel Morales added a goal as well. Steven Vera Vaca recorded an assist.

Most recently, the Panthers battled Prout to a 3-3 draw. Vera Vaca, Saucedo and Morales all scored goals while Amato picked up an assist.

The Panthers sit at 2-1-2 and will be facing Exeter-West Greenwich on Thursday afternoon.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Classical 3, Johnston 1

The Panthers fell to the Purple in a non-league meeting last week. Noelle Patenaude led the Panthers with 17 digs on defense.

The Panthers picked up their first win of the season on Monday, beating Davies 3-1.



# Cramping an early issue in high school football

One thing that I remember about playing high school sports was the coaches always harping on hydration. Especially in the warm months.

Did I ever really listen? Nope, I'd save my water intake for game time.

This past week watching high school football opened my eyes, though. I must have just gotten off lucky all those years. I covered two football games this past week and I have never seen cramping like I had seen in those two contests.

First was Johnston taking on North Providence. From start to finish, especially in the second half, Panthers and Cougars were dropping left and

right. The first concern was leg injuries. The first one or two times, the crowd held its breath as we wondered if those players lying on the ground writhing in pain were injured. After a few quick seconds, though, it was clear that they were dealing with cramps.

I wish I had tallied the number of players that went down because it was astonishing by game's end what that number must have been. I never have tracked the number of cramps in a game, but this was unlike anything I had ever seen before. There had to have been at least 10 kids combined that had to be helped off the field with leg cramps.

Then the next game was

## My pitch



by  
ALEX  
SPONSORER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
  
ALEXS@  
RHODYBEAT.COM

when Pilgrim hosted Woonsocket. Not quite as severe as the aforementioned game, but still, a handful of players on both squads hit the deck and had to be walked off the field then stretched by the trainer. Considering the temps were in the 70s and 60s, my mind was

blown. What on earth was happening?

So, after years and years of believing that hydration, although important, was a bit overblown when it comes to being prepared to play a 60-minute game, I am officially on board with coaches drilling it into their players' heads. I guess, in reality, poor hydration really can drag a team down.

Pilgrim went on to pull off an early season upset over the Villa Novans, but the Panthers were not quite as fortunate as their second-half rally came up short and they fell to North Providence.

After the game was over, Johnston coach Joe Acciardo even mentioned that the severe cramping delivered a blow to the team's depth chart. Let me tell you, readers, that his point was totally justified. He had several kids on each side of the ball miss action due to cramps. It's a tough pill to swallow as he and his staff warned his team and pleaded to take care of themselves. Sometimes,

you can lead high school football players to water, but you can't make them drink.

To the players, for the sake of yourselves, your coaches and your team, please hydrate before, during and after games.

On a more positive note, Cranston West and Pilgrim really made statements this past weekend in their games. The Falcons held off a North Kingstown rally to beat the DI juggernaut while Pilgrim defended its home field by edging Woonsocket.

West set the bar exceptionally high this season with so many returning pieces. The Falcons truly view themselves as DI contenders in the new alignment. Well, they proved themselves right by taking out last year's state runner up NK on the road.

Kelan Cornell was electric on the feet and proved to be one of the state's best quarterbacks. We all expected him to be in the conversation by year's

end, but after week 1, he may already be in the top spot. The West defense also came up with some stops late in the game, halting what is typically an elite offense. West looks like it's the real deal and won't need the whole fall to prove it.

Pilgrim is an interesting group after graduating its four top receivers and its starting quarterback from last year's team. Although Carter Clifton got playing time under center as a sophomore, he's back after missing last year with a knee injury with a new group of playmakers around him.

Sure, it's a small sample size, but he and his support looked to be for real against Woonsocket, who was a perennial Division II contender while Pilgrim competed in DIII.

For the Pats to get that win and to dominate for much of it, they made a statement that they are very much a contender in Division III. Clifton looks ready for an all-division season by the looks of it.

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## Marines leads RIC to win

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sophomore outside hitter Sarina Marines (Cranston R.I.) notched a double-double, matching her career-high with 22 digs to go along with 14 digs, to cap off a five-set match win at Dean College on Thursday evening.

Sophomore setter Yuleisy Alvelo (Springfield, Mass.) also grabbed a double-double with a season-high 41 assists and a team-high 16 digs.

Each of the first two sets went to extra time before the Anchorwomen went up, 2-1, with a 25-22 decision in the third stanza.

After RIC fell in the fourth set, the Bulldogs gained a four-point, 9-5, lead in the fifth set. The Anchorwomen fought back to retake the lead, 12-10, off a junior middle hitter Sydnee Pires' (Rochester, Mass.) kill and a pair of Bulldog errors.

Back-to-back kills by Marines and junior middle hitter Andrayah Williams (North Providence, R.I.) sealed the victory.

Pires capped off the evening with eight kills and four digs.

Senior outside hitter Rhiannon Hodo-vanec (Feeding Hills, Mass.) and Williams each contributed nine kills.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will travel to Worcester State on Thursday, Sept. 19 (6 p.m.).

### Four Anchormen receive LEC awards

Rhode Island College senior goalkeeper Wesley Perrotto (Pembroke, Mass.), junior midfielder Tariq Adio (Providence, R.I.), sophomore back Alijah Nunes (Diego Martin, Trinidad and Tobago) and freshman back Andrew Albamonti (Westerly, R.I.) were each recognized by the Little East for their respective performances in RIC's, 2-1, win over Clark on Sept. 11.

Perrotto was named the Little East Men's Soccer Goalkeeper of the Week. He made six saves in the win over the Cougars. For the season, he has played in three games, starting both of them. Perrotto is 1-1-1 with a 1.33 goals-against average, has totaled 17 saves and an .810 save percentage.

Adio was named the Little East Men's Soccer Co-Offensive Player of the Week. He scored both of the club's goals, including the game-winner with 13 sec-

onds remaining in the second half, in the win over Clark. For the season, he has played in four games, starting three of them. Adio has three goals for six points.

Nunes was named the Little East Men's Soccer Defensive Player of the Week. He anchored the defensive third that was without two starters for portions of the game in the win vs. Clark. For the season, he has played in four games, starting all of them.

Albamonti was named the Little East Men's Soccer Rookie of the Week. Albamonti, who was making his first collegiate start, had a brilliant throw-in to set up Adio's game-winning marker against the Cougars. For the season, he has played in four games, starting one of them. Albamonti has one assist for one point.

Head Coach Kyle Froberg's team is 2-1-1 overall on the season.

### RIC women shut out

Junior forward Tayshia Cary (Wakefield, R.I.) had several great opportunities to score, but Mount Holyoke was able to keep Rhode Island College off the scoreboard in a 1-0 setback for the Anchorwomen at Alumni Stadium on Monday evening.

The first half was a lackluster affair, with neither squad mustering much of offensive momentum.

The pace picked up late in the second stanza, with the visitors finally breaking through in the 82nd minute.

A foul just outside the top of the 18-yard box proved to be the deciding play in the game as junior midfielder Ada Siepmann (Vlotho, Germany) took a free kick. Her blast ricocheted off the bottom of the crossbar straight down into the net to give the Lyons the advantage.

After MHC went ahead, Cary and senior midfielder Marissa Ruzzano (Smithfield, R.I.) had a pair of chances that were ultimately turned away by a disciplined Lyons' back line.

RIC senior forward Tayla Salome (Lincoln, R.I.) put in a great effort up top for the Anchorwomen in the losing effort.

RIC senior goalkeeper Chloe Angelone (Bayville, N.Y.) made three saves, including a key stop with her foot late in the contest to keep it a one-goal deficit, in the loss (3-3).





**DROPPING BACK:** Johnston quarterback Matt Clements.

## ■ Panthers

(Continued from page 19)

would go on to rush for another score and give the Panthers a 15-12 lead. Paris rushed for a 2-point conversion as well.

Although the Johnston defense played a clean third quarter, the Cougars would manage to piece together one final drive and get the game-winning score with 2:09 remaining in the fourth before coming up with the game-sealing stop on defense.

It was a tough opening half for Johnston, who saw players go down with various issues like cramping, including Paris, who has been the team's top rusher and captain on defense. Having to shuffle the lineup put the Panthers in an early bind, according to head coach Joe Acciardo.

"Our personnel was all over the place. To not have Dean in the first half, we were kind of scrambling. We'd get our footing,

then we'd get a cramp, then our personnel changes, then we have someone else cramping. We don't have the depth to do that stuff, so hopefully they'll learn to take care of themselves. They're kids, we're young and this was a growing pain," Acciardo said.

Johnston is still sorting out its lineup after graduating a significant senior core from last season's roster. Despite the loss, the Acciardo was satisfied with the team's effort and the performance of some of the younger players.

"(North Providence) is a really good team, I'm proud of the effort that the guys put in. They had some good drives and played with heart. It's just the little things we need to work on," said Acciardo. "We have some good leadership so I hope that we'll grow and look back on this as a learning experience. The end of the season will be better than the beginning, we just need to keep moving forward."



**FIRST DOWN:** Johnston players celebrate after getting a new set of downs.

CROSSWORD

PUZZLE CORNER

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Wrest

5. Russian river

10. Grupo Montparnasse founder

12. One who quits prematurely

14. Related to the nature of being

16. Early multimedia

18. Indigenous Tibetan religion

19. Tease

20. J.M. \_\_, Irish dramatist

22. Pounds per square inch

23. Surrendered

25. Notable Dallas Cowboy Leon

26. Dash

27. Man who behaves dishonorably

28. British Air Aces

30. Data executive

31. Spiritual leader

33. Flower cluster

35. Of the cheek

37. Tears down

38. Uncoordinated

40. Touches lightly

41. Soak

42. Founder of Babism

44. Not good

45. Inches per minute (abbr.)

48. Type of casino game

50. Skills assessments for adults

52. Check

53. Gives a job

55. Fifth note of a major scale

56. Small, faint constellation

57. Thou

58. Reduce

63. Another recording

65. Removes for good

66. Jill and Catherine are two

67. Cruise

15. Officer in the Book of Mormon

17. Denies

18. Barrels per day (abbr.)

21. Make vital

23. Former NFLer Newton

24. Kashmiri tribe

27. Indigenous S. American person

29. Capacitance unit

32. MLB great Scherzer

34. Taxi

35. Boggy

36. Artist's workshop

39. Feline

40. Prosecutors

43. Freshwater perches

44. Young ladies

46. Whittles

47. Licensed for Wall Street

49. Type of gene

51. Express displeasure

54. Fly high

59. Norwegian krone

60. Investment account

61. Chinese surname

62. Language

64. By the way (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Greenwich Time

2. Metropolis

3. Complete

4. Scheduled

5. One who obeys

6. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects

7. Days (Spanish)

8. Unsaturated hydrocarbon radical

9. Region of the U.S. (abbr.)

10. Tributary of the Alabama River

11. One who eliminates

13. Ballroom music

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# Bluefin tuna bite explodes close to shore

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

The giant bluefin tuna fishing exploded last week just as the commercial bluefin tuna fishery closed until new quota is available Oct. 1. Recreational permit holders are not impacted by the commercial closure mentioned below. And, the school bluefin tuna bite is still very good.

Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said, “The giant bluefin tuna bite is crazy. Multiple fish caught at the Gully, Habbs Ledge at the Butterfish Hole, and last Wednesday multiple giants were caught just two miles off Scarborough Beach, Narragansett. The fish were feeding behind trawlers as they brought their nets up. They have been feeding on Atlantic menhaden. Three giants were weighed in at our dock all at the same time Wednesday afternoon. Fish being caught last week were all sizes with the largest being in the 800 plus pound range.”

Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, said, “Tuna fishing last week was great with more overs showing up. Both jigging and trolling seem to be producing.”

**Hats off to Trout Unlimited and DEM**  
Rhode Island Trout Unlimited and the Department of Environmental Management received a \$190,000 2024 SNEP grant for their joint project, engineering for the removal of Breakheart Pond Dam in the Arcadia Management Area, Richmond.

Glenn Place, President of the RI Trout Unlimited Chapter, said, “We can proudly say that this grant,

along with grants from the Coastal Resource Management Council, US Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and in-kind donations from RIDEM and like-minded organizations, we now have over \$350,000.00 available for the assessment and permitting for the removal of Breakheart Dam.”

## Atlantic Bluefin Tuna fishery closure

The commercial fishing General Category Bluefin Tuna fishery is closed Sept. 12, 2024, 11:30 p.m. to Sept. 30, 2024. Based on the best available landings information, the 188.3-mt quota for the September time period is projected to be reached and exceeded shortly.

This closure affects Atlantic Tunas General category permitted vessels and Highly Migratory Species Charter/Headboat permitted vessels with a commercial sale endorsement when fishing commercially for bluefin tuna.

Commercial fishermen aboard vessels with an Atlantic Tunas General category or Highly Migratory Species Charter/Headboat permit may not retain, possess, or land large medium or giant Atlantic bluefin tuna. Previously-designated restricted-fishing days for the rest of the September time period will be waived when this closure is in effect.

Note: recreational fishing permit holds are not affected by this closure.

## Changes to Local Notice to Mariners and Light Lists

The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center announced this week upcoming changes to the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) and the Light List, as part of their



**SUMMER FLOUNDER:** Joe Klinger of South Kingstown with a 24-inch summer flounder (fluke) he caught off Jamestown in the West Passage last week. It was the only keeper caught. (Submitted photo)

efforts to modernize and improve the accessibility, accuracy, and overall user experience for mariners and other stakeholders.

The Local Notice to Mariners and the Light List are used to relate current navigational changes and important navigational notices.

The Coast Guard plans to transition from using NOAA Paper Chart Numbers, editions and dates to disseminating Marketing Safety Information to using Official Waterway Names. The LNM

and Light List data will now be available in a geospatial format, which will allow you to visualize information interactively on a map/chart.

You can use a mouse wheel or the +/- buttons in the upper left portion of the screen to zoom in or out and navigate to your desired area on the map/chart. Once the area is displayed, you can generate a PDF of the LNM or Light List for that specific area, which you can then save and/or print.

Alternatively, you can use

a fillable form on our website to select your waterway by name from the Light List and generate the LNM or Light List.

The transition to the modernized LNM and Light List platform (the Navigation Center website) will be completed by Monday, Sept. 30th. Visit the Navigation Center at Home | Navigation Center (uscg.gov).

## Where's the bite?

Striped bass, bluefish, bonito. Tom Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle, Warwick, said, “Customers are catching keepers and school bass in the Bay now. One angler hooked up with two 35-inch stripers south of Hope Island with bass also being caught in the East Passage. We also had a good bonito bite at the Sakonnet River this week.”

“The fall striped bass season is off to a great start, some really great nights and mornings across the south shore. The amount of bait is off the charts and a great mix of sizes for bass. From 10 in school striped bass up to 40 inch fish. Bonito are still plentiful popping up very randomly. Some customers getting them from shore as well. Still not an abundance of Albies. We are hoping they make a late push this year,” said O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown.

East End Eddie Doherty, Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author, said, “Mackerel, squid and bunker are providing plentiful forage for stripers preparing for the southern migration. Most stripers caught recently have been swimming in an east tide and are being described as fat. “Paulie the Painter” Gravina and Tim “Hollywood” Petracca

caught close to 20 bass up to 35 inches with various lures at every level of the water column. Hot lures this week included the Bill Hurley Canal Killer, Al Gags paddle tail jig, Yo-Zuri twitch bait & Striper Gear Rocket.”

Fluke (summer flounder), black sea bass and scup. The black sea bass bite is still good however, the summer flounder (fluke) bite is starting to fade. Angler Kevin Fetzer of East Greenwich finished with Joe Klinger of South Kingstown at Austin Hollow off Jamestown and boated a 24-inch, 5.2-pound fluke. Fetzer said, “All the other fish we caught were undersized including several fluke, scup and black sea bass.”

“Fluke and Seabass fishing is starting to taper off,” said O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Tautog. Angler John Migliori of Aquidneck Island caught a 7.46-pound, 21-inch tautog this weekend from shore. It was his first keeper of the year. Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle, said, “Kayak Angler Tom Houle continues to hook up with tautog off Jamestown and Wickford.”

O'Donnell said, “Tautog fishing has been really good with most boats able to catch they're limit. A lot of smaller fish but a few big ones mixed in.”

Dave Monti holds a master 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@verizon.net or visit www.noflukefishing.com.

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ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY					JOHNSTON				
10 Reservoir Rd	Lichtenberg, Stephen and Vieira, Jessica L	Detken, Caleb S and Detken, Shantel L	8/29	\$440,000	14 Niverville St	D & Gail A Conceicao Irt and Dunne, Michelle L	Heav, Thida and Ouch, Poly	9/3	\$440,000
13 Lane E	Dugdale, Claire	Kelly, Timothy	8/28	\$165,000	2 Ligan Ct	May, Daina M	Lopez, Ruben Q and Melceio, Irma	8/30	\$400,000
13 Seneca St	Calligano, Corey and Calligano, Janet A	Oginski, James L	8/29	\$400,000	245 George Waterman Rd	Gardner, Cheryl L	Gardner, Scott and Gardner, Dawn	9/3	\$160,000
141-143 Read Ave	Scheer, Keri	Ruggieri, Sofia M	8/30	\$425,000	26 N Loxley Dr	Forgetta, Matthew J and Forgetta, Heather J	Digiovanni, Lee	8/30	\$405,000
144 Blackrock Rd	Warren, Robert and Warren, Darleen	Miller, Tara M	8/30	\$420,000	33 Dix Ave	Cocuzza, Lisa A	Gagnon, Jordan A and Passey, Meredith M	8/30	\$477,500
18 Taft St	Bromley, Melisa A	Jefferson, Timothy	8/26	\$430,000	55 Paulino St	Mendez Jr, Mario F and Suarez, Maria F	Sitko Jr, Anthony E	8/29	\$425,000
18 Wood Cove Dr	Domina, Robert M and Domina, Margaret M	Vickers, Beth	8/28	\$700,000	62 George Waterman Rd	Gonzalez, Astrid and Scivola, Alfred	Debritto, Stephanie and Debritto, Mark	8/28	\$451,000
20 Juniper Hill Dr	Gavin, Martin T and Gavin, Deborah	Alcala, Vanessa	8/28	\$630,000	WARWICK				
25 Lane A	Savage Jr, Robbie	Seyboth, Kyle	8/30	\$92,500					
28 Arbor Dr	Weigert, Brandon	Silva, Jonathan and Silva, Amanda	8/26	\$737,000					
29 Milton Ln	Jacques, Kevin J and Jacques, Karen E	Eraina Tierney 1st Party and Arruda, John T	8/27	\$205,000	1153 Post Rd	Golish, Kristine A	Kattan, Bachar M	8/27	\$360,500
36 Clark Mill St	Blanchette, Robert J	Corsi, Michael	8/30	\$375,000	12 Railroad Row	Sanders, Jerome D and Sanders, Mischell A	Martinez, Alejandro and Tavares, Elinette	8/28	\$465,000
423 Fairview Ave	Mcnell, Shawn	Bevans, Derek	8/29	\$303,000	121 Manning St	Gilchrist, Brian E	Martino, Joanne O and Dauphinee, Marc V	8/30	\$370,000
5 View Rd	Heon, Christopher J	Plowman, Drew E and Plowman, Marina S	8/30	\$595,000	131 Morse Ave	Paul, Marvin L	Melo, Marc D and Bruck, Isabelle	8/27	\$335,900
50 Ames St	Craig Deborah J Est and Jordan 3rd, James L	Nason, Michael J and Buzzo, Ana C	8/29	\$357,000	16 Arrow Ave	Cp Invest LLC	Palma, Juan A	8/30	\$370,000
5896 Flat River Rd	Emery 2nd, John E	Whitney, James	8/30	\$420,000	194 Washington St	Plowman Relt and Plowman, Drew E	Plowman, Derek	8/30	\$355,000
7 Kelly Ln	Webb, Elaine	Zonfrillo, Patricia	8/28	\$168,500	2 Palm Blvd	Roberge, Cynthia	Donovan, Jennifer	8/26	\$360,000
87 Sherwood Valley Ln	Dabrosca, Marie E	Tempo Holdings LLC	8/26	\$70,000	225 Samuel Gorton Ave	Boardman-Vitone, Crystal	Dones, Audrey and Garza, Enrique	8/26	\$510,000
9 Cantaberry Ln	Fuller Karen S Est and Fuller, Christopher	Evans, Grace and Nardone, Dawn	8/27	\$64,000	225 Spooner Ave	Mccoy Alice F Est and Flaherty, Daniel K	Hardy, Paul and Godsoe, Derryl M	8/28	\$515,000
9 Cantaberry Ln	Fuller Lee C Est and Fuller, Christopher	Evans, Grace and Nardone, Dawn	8/27	\$64,000	23 Sagamore St	Duquette Sharon M Est and Duquette, Deborah	Walker, Helen C	8/30	\$275,000
95 Read School House Rd	Drew, Kerri A	Naylor 3rd, William Y and Magner, Sydney M	8/26	\$425,000	24 Greenpost Ln	Daniel J Orfan RET and Orfan, Daniel J	Orfan, Jake and Warburton, Lindsay	8/29	\$350,000
CRANSTON					293 Fair St	Brescia, Judith	Owusu, Kent	8/30	\$412,500
					348 Sea View Dr	Qayin Acquisition LLC	Pekkola, Elizabeth	8/30	\$475,000
					3524 W Shore Rd Lot 905	Charles River Partners	Twenty Eleven LLC	8/30	\$1
102 Rolfe Sq	Liberman Rlty LLC	Yang, Xichun and Wang, Qiue	8/29	\$500,000	36 Paul Ave	Brothers Rebuild LLC	Conforti, Christopher and Conforti, Ashleyann	8/30	\$840,000
121 Crest Dr	Nader-Sims, Barbara P	Prasad, Leela and Prasad, Baba C	8/29	\$1,250,000	37 Westbrook Rd	Ward Ann M Est and King, Lesley W	Three Kids LLC	8/30	\$300,100
1289 Cranston St	Bucket List LLC	Makor, Kwayah and Makor, Alexandra	8/28	\$549,000	39 Vaughn Ave	Palmer, Brendan D	Susan N & Domenic A Dantu and Dantuono, Domenic A	8/27	\$500,000
130 Zinnia Dr	Mark J Richards T and Duelm, Shelton	Laplante Estates LLC	8/28	\$111,890	4 Dixie Ave	Roy, Landia	Andrade, Barbara J	8/30	\$445,000
130 Zinnia Dr	Richards, James J and Duelm, Shelton	Laplante Estates LLC	8/28	\$223,110	40 Potowomut Rd	Jones, Kyle M and Jones, Kathleen	Lapierre, Peter	8/28	\$629,500
16 Fyffe Ave Lot 717	Cardullo, Joanne and Robbio, Louis F	Amc Prop LLC	8/27	\$285,000	41 Creekwood Dr	Nelson, Melissa and Nelson, Christopher	Lyons, Jeffrey and Lyons, Jill	8/29	\$380,000
16 Fyffe Ave Lot 718	Cardullo, Joanne and Robbio, Louis F	Amc Prop LLC	8/27	\$285,000	44 Julian Rd	Benjamin Firt and Cole, Deborah	Catteau, Kelly A	8/27	\$400,000
16 Fyffe Ave Lot 719	Cardullo, Joanne and Robbio, Louis F	Amc Prop LLC	8/27	\$285,000	54 Contour Rd	Pardy, James A	Disegna, Ross P and Pardy, Nicholas J	8/29	\$650,000
163 Magnolia St	Corey, Katherine E	David, Jessica M	8/29	\$425,000	57 Oniska St	Pekkola, Elizabeth	Talsky, Kenneth J and Talsky, Janet J	8/30	\$315,000
195 Main St Lot 124	Hanson, Benjamin and Hanson, Colleen	Conway, Richard and Conway, Tamrra	8/27	\$360,000	65 Guilford Dr	Makor, Alexandra	Holmes, Karen and Mccracken, Lisa A	8/28	\$370,000
195 Main St Lot 125	Hanson, Benjamin and Hanson, Colleen	Conway, Richard and Conway, Tamrra	8/27	\$360,000	79 Rutherford Ave	Andrews, Heidi A and Kotkowski, Priscilla F	Tetzner, Stephen C and Tetzner, Barbara E	8/30	\$437,500
195 Main St Lot 4	Hanson, Benjamin and Hanson, Colleen	Conway, Richard and Conway, Tamrra	8/27	\$360,000	835 Sandy Ln Lot 13	Dosreis, David R	Cmw Prop LLC	8/30	\$326,500
195 Main St Lot 5	Hanson, Benjamin and Hanson, Colleen	Conway, Richard and Conway, Tamrra	8/27	\$360,000	96 Naples Ave	Dress Charles H Est and Dress, Antonetta A	Pierce, Lester C	8/27	\$195,000
2 Vera St	Difazio 2nd, Albert C	Rodriguez, Roberto C and Colon, Melissa	8/27	\$522,000	96 Naples Ave	Dress, Antonetta A	Pierce, Lester C	8/27	\$195,000
21 Cleveland Ave	Anderson, Jeffrey E and Anderson, Dawn M	Nunez, Katherine D and Perdomo, Ruth E	8/27	\$356,000	97 Wellington Ave	Spencer, Susan M	Marchand Jr, Richard R and Marchand, Abigail M	8/30	\$459,900
212 Lawnacre Dr	Hsu, Yu-Cheng	Mellyn, Susan J and Mellyn-Mason, Genevieve	8/26	\$515,000	99 Everill St	One Main Invest LLC	Teheran, Herman A	8/27	\$410,000
257 E View Ave	Moll, Robert E	New Era LLC	8/28	\$520,000	WEST GREENWICH				
295 Scituate Ave Lot A	Serrocha, Jacqueline A	Agnoli, Steven J	8/27	\$310,000					
30 Gaglione Ct	Yenuck, David M	Abbasi, Zainab and Farukhuddin, Fnu	8/27	\$575,000					
36 Dekalb St	Barreiros, Maria A	Jones, Jonathan N	8/26	\$370,000	20 Nipmuc Trl	Brigg LLC	Nagel, Aletta J	8/26	\$375,000
43 Eden Crest Dr	Bliss, Brian A	Rodriguez, Rosa C	8/29	\$485,000	207 Mishnock Rd	Saint George, Elaine C	Oneppo, Kyle N	8/27	\$132,000
590 Pippin Orchard Rd	Fishback, Barry K and Fishback, Donna L	Bordieri, David J and Sartini, Michelle M	8/27	\$706,500	790 Hopkins Hill Rd	Hallberg, Scot V	Carpenter, Mary R and Tinoco, Jorge B	8/27	\$325,000
601 Laurel Hill Ave	Ros, Sokeo	Mendez, Jorge M	8/26	\$345,000	WEST WARWICK				
68 2nd Ave	Piscopiello, Richard T	Dealeman, Ana L	8/29	\$420,000					
EAST GREENWICH									
1001 Main St Lot 20	Disegna, Ross P	Mcardle, Barbara	8/28	\$400,000	Ayda Rose Ave Lot 87	55 Plus LLC	Gavin, Deborah and Gavin, Martin	8/29	\$479,900
1425 Diplomat Dr	Schwager, Mark L and Flanagan, Patricia J	Hirsch Fit and Hirsch, David S	8/29	\$860,000	10 Lily Ln Lot 10	Gilcrest Ass LLC	Cirillo, Leonard and Cirillo, Bettina	9/3	\$439,900
163 Peirce St	Knight, Russell P and Knight, Mary L	Beaudette, Aaron and Anheier, Stacey	8/30	\$1,315,000	120 E Greenwich Ave	Elevator Pro Inc	Camille, Elie	8/30	\$425,000
176 Cindynn Dr	Gonzalez-Guzman, Dania	Pellettieri, Cortmey and Pellettieri, Michael A	8/29	\$955,000	1768 Main St	Bueno, Evelidis	Bueno, Evelidis	8/30	\$395,000
214 Vistas Ct Lot 214	Thornhill Fret and Thornhill, William M	Accetta, Karen	8/26	\$555,000	19 Governors Hl Lot 19	Hud	Crowley Jr, James E	9/3	\$305,000
32 Laurel Ln	Werner Rappelt Irt and Rappelt, Werner	Grenier, Evan T and Brodeur, Michelle J	8/28	\$410,000	21 Bell St	Laquale, Anthony	Pavao, Nora R and Pavao, Christine A	8/30	\$430,000
68 Great Rd	Tovar, Alison and Serre, Thomas	Greenberg, Scott H and Greenberg, Hayley	8/29	\$1,310,000	25 Colvin St	Izzo, Cory A and Jacobe, Heather F	Decastro Jr, Leonardo J	8/30	\$350,000
70 Ann Dr	Muskus, Bartosz P and Marzan, Hazel V	Trabucco, Jonathan D	8/30	\$752,000	343 E Greenwich Ave	Feinstein, Alan B and Feinstein, Tracy	Vilbig, Mark	8/30	\$459,900
75 Brookside Dr	Bravo, David and Bravo, Johanna P	Wyman, Kevin and Wyman, Kristine	8/29	\$590,000	50 W Valley Cir Lot 50	Residences At West Vly In	Pagan, Emar A and Manon, Rafael A	8/29	\$447,400
837 Division Rd	Donovan, Jennifer K and Castillo, Miguel A	Ota, Yoshitaka and Ota, Satomi	8/26	\$730,000	53 Birchwood Ln	Kritter, Nina D	Gravier, Gregory	8/28	\$395,000
					59 Village Ct Lot 59	Chin, Daniel J and Chin, Eric	Caparco, Jordan	9/3	\$215,000
					89 Ayda Rose Ave Lot 89	55 Plus LLC	Imondi, Pompea	8/28	\$479,900
					98 Acorn Ln	Beauchamp, Michael	Fortin, Lily M and Corcelli, Daniel P	8/29	\$360,000

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# RhodyLife

## Live, from Warwick...



### Local resident campaigns to become SNL's oldest cast member

By ADAM ZANGARI

**E**lly McGuire is looking for her greatest second chance. In 1978, she met Dan Rowan — one of the hosts of Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In and the former boss of Saturday Night Live creator Lorne Michaels — and the two became friends. Rowan wrote her a letter of recommendation for future jobs, though McGuire said that her low self-esteem at the time prevented her from auditioning for SNL, then in its infancy. Forty-six years later, at 69 years old, McGuire is campaigning for her audition for SNL's golden anniversary.

"He wrote me that recommendation, and then he sent a little letter along with it, just a short note, and it said 'Elly, always remember, better to have tried and failed than never have tried at all,'" McGuire said. "And so, here I am."

McGuire has lived in many different places and currently splits her time between the house in Warwick where she grew up and an apartment in New York City. She's worked in the entertainment field, in advertising for WPRO, and for the NBA and NHL.

Currently, she hosts the podcast "Shaking the Bushes," which focuses on her time living in Rhode Island and NYC and the experiences she's had in both, and is writing a book of the same name.

Earlier this year, she rediscovered Rowan's recommendation letter while cleaning. That discovery — along with her being upset at the negativity around aging with the presidential race at the time being between candidates who were 81 and 78 years old — led to her decision to begin her own campaign.

"I run three miles a day, I just went to my friend's wedding and danced the whole night, I don't think I stopped once," McGuire said. "I'm really against stereotypes. I'm a proud Baby Boomer."

■ SNL - PAGE 27

McGuire's most recent audition video (below right) released on social media is a faithful recreation of Michaels' video (below left) asking the Beatles to reunite on SNL. (Submitted photos)



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# ■ SNL

(Continued from page 25)

Trying out to become SNL's oldest cast member, McGuire said, is as much about wanting to change the perception of older people on the show as it is about looking for her second chance.

"They have all young people, but if they want [to play] an old person, they throw a gray wig on, and they have them pushing a walker, and that's their jokes," McGuire said.

McGuire said if she gets on the show, she has a few ideas for characters she could portray, such as a cranky old lady working off of Colin Jost and Michael Che's Weekend Update anchormen.

She has some big names in her corner besides Rowan, who died in 1987. Her New York apartment is near Michaels', and she's become friends with his doorman. SNL alum and "Parks and Rec" star Amy Poehler, she said, also liked one of her audition videos on TikTok.

So far, McGuire has released three separate videos auditioning for the show. One involves her jogging down Narragansett Parkway, showing Michaels that she's still in good shape as cars drive by her. Another is her in a pool, holding up her recommendation letter from Rowan — though it is the original letter, it's encased in a Ziploc bag so as not to damage it. And the most recent release is a faithful recreation of Michaels' video asking the Beatles to reunite on SNL by presenting Michaels with a check for \$5.85.

Currently in the planning phase, she said, is a video focusing on her taking on a nest of wasps that she recently stumbled upon.

"When I run, I come up with so many ideas that I exhaust everybody, because I never stop creating," McGuire said. "I'm already thinking about the next one and about my podcast."

McGuire and Ron Trotta, her "forever fiancé" of 33 years, joke that they



**McGuire's carried Rowan's letter with her in audition videos, which were designed to demonstrate that she's in good shape.**

haven't officially tied the knot because they're scared of commitment.

Trotta said that for him, Elly's audition for SNL was not a surprise.

"She never rests," Trotta said. "She's always working on projects that most people wouldn't work on — she's very creative."

Trotta and McGuire have done shows together in the past, where he plays the piano as she improvises songs, mainly about their dog, Schmittie the Weather Dog, who she wrote a book about. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the two traveled to different schools to perform — a group that McGuire called her "toughest audience."

"That was a huge undertaking for years — we toured the country, went to 350 schools for little kids teaching them about why weather is science," Trotta said. "She was the impetus and the entertainment and the comedy and everything in that show."

Finding humor in everyday situations, McGuire said, is important to her. It's also something that Rowan pointed out as one of her greatest strengths in his recommendation letter from 1978.

"Elly is that rare person who seems to always find humor in every situation," the letter reads. "And she has an even rarer ability to remain cheerful, happy,

and helpful under trying conditions. She is definitely what we call an upper... Seldom have I, in a lifetime spent in show business, met anyone better suited for the medium than Elly."

Though McGuire's campaign is primarily aimed at Michaels, it's finding a local audience as well. One person, she said, even approached Trotta at the grocery store asking about "Shaking the Bushes."

"People are actually investing in it," McGuire said. "I've got more people going 'Hey, have you heard from Lorne yet?'"

For McGuire, having that community support is deeply meaningful to her. The Warwick community, she said, holds a special place in her heart.

"These are my roots," McGuire said. "This is where I was raised since I was 4 years old. I know everybody in the neighborhood. I know all the history of all the houses."

There's not much time left for an audition. Season 50 of SNL officially premieres on Sept. 28, meaning that Elly likely will not be making her NBC late-night debut this year.

If she doesn't get the audition she's looking for now, though, Elly isn't giving up.

"It's all about having a purpose, and I'm focused, and maybe I can make a change," McGuire said. "Maybe through my humor, I can make a statement about aging."

Whether it's for season 50, 51, 52 or beyond, she believes that her determination, persistence, talent and a little bit of luck — what she considers the four most important factors in this endeavor — will get her the audition with Michaels that she's looking for.

In doing so, she'd be honoring the memory of an old friend that she and Michaels have in common.

"If I fail, I'll have at least tried and failed, like Dan Rowan said," McGuire said. "Put me in, coach. Give me an audition."

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