

PLANNING ON IT: The proposed floorplan for a new Johnston High School was recently presented to the Johnston School Building Committee. (Image courtesy SLAM)

TIMEOUT

Council prez calls for pause in 'new school' construction

By RORY SCHULER

The head of Johnston Town Council has called for a pause in new school construction projects.

"I think the state needs to enact legislation to increase aid to communities based on this expected influx of students to our schools," said Johnston Town Council President Robert V. Russo. "Until something like this is in place, I think construction of any new school facilities should be paused."

New housing developments in town may lead to an influx of students in the near future.

"With new legislation enacted at the state house which took effect Jan. 1, 2024, communities across the state will see an influx of multi-unit developments that will bring in many students," Russo warned. "It is real and the way the legislation is drafted there is very little a community can do to stop this potential development."

SCHOOL - PAGE 5

No place like Homecoming

MARCHING DOWN CHERRY HILL: Members of the JHS marching band get things started outside the high school. For more photos from Homecoming, check out Pages 12 & 13. (SunRise photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)



General 'one of the guys' on Honor Flight

By JOHN HOWELL

For the first time since retired Providence Fire Chief George Farrell founded the Rhode Island Honor Flight in 2012, a three-star general made the trip to the nation's capitol, but the general wasn't in charge.

In fact, nothing distinguished the rank of retired General Reginald Centracchio from the other 57 veterans on flight High Voltage that was given a patriotic send off early Sunday morning from Rhode Island TF Green International Airport. Centracchio, who served as adjutant general to the governor and commander of the Rhode Island National Guard, wore an honor flight T-shirt as did the rest of the veterans. And Centracchio, like the others, had a guardian who, as it turned out, is also a high profile Rhode Island individual, Ernest Almonte, director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns. It's no mistake that neither Centracchio

nor Almonte had the spotlight shown on them. That's the way Farrell runs honor flights.

"We did not have any special recognition on the flight. We don't normally single anyone out based on rank or service medals. We think this is a great day to celebrate all of the veterans' services and hope that this day is simply one of the best days of their lives," he said in a Monday email.

Centracchio preferred it that way too, although Almonte said when the general told him which seat to take on the bus or airplane he followed orders.

Centracchio called the flight that returned to Rhode Island that night one of "the most enlightening experiences" of his career. He was impressed by the planning, leadership and execution that went into the flight. Yet, it was the faces of the veterans that left an indelible impression of the day and its activities. He watched






WHO'S IN CHARGE? Retired General Reginald Centracchio, former commander of the Rhode Island National Guard and his "guardian" for the Honor Flight, Ernest Almonte, before boarding Sunday's flight to DC. (Beacon Media photos)

VETERANS - PAGE 9

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JHS Panther of the Week



POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Skyla Almeida. Skyla is a junior at Johnston High, and is a member of the Girls Volleyball Team, Girls Flag Football Team, and a member of the National Honor Society. She was nominated by her Forensic Science Honors Teacher, Ms. Victoria Serra. Ms. Serra said "Skyla has been a true leader in class since the first day of school. She is focused, determined and dedicated to her learning. She also has shown such school pride this past week during homecoming. Skyla embodies what a Panther is and is an incredibly well-rounded young lady who deserves such amazing recognition!" (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.

Say you saw it in the
Johnston SunRise



Senior 'Spotlite'

When you need them most, they'll be there for you

By **RICHARD J. DELFINO JR.**
Special to the SunRise

Like many of our members, the loss of a spouse creates a void which is difficult fill. Over time, we will advise loved ones and those we care about to explore getting out, meeting people, and trying something new to get them "out of the house."

In the last few months, the subject of this week's profile, Richard Zannelli, did just that, and found his way to the Johnston Senior Center.

Today, he enjoys coming regularly, playing bocce, cards, bingo, taking trips, and eating lunch, which he describes as "great food."

Richard continues to live in Johnston, for the past 45 years. He spent 31 years working at Narragansett Bay.

Spending time, keeping busy and socializing, enjoying a meal, and even having fun, has made it all a little easier for those, like Richard, who are coping with loss.

Here at the Johnston Senior Center (JSC), let us help you enjoy life to the fullest possible. We certainly will have something for you.

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

THE SPOTLITE: This week's Johnston Senior Center's Senior 'Spotlite' shines on Richard Zannelli. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

Forging traditions, the second annual JSC Holiday Bazaar

BAZAAR LEADERS: From left to right, Debra Quiles, Kathee Yankee, Mary Rawson, Lynn Cianci and Barbara Kuras pose for a photo at the Johnston Senior Center. These five members are pitching in to plan the JSC's second annual Holiday Bazaar, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Over 30 craftsmen and others will be setting up at the center, with proceeds from the event supporting programs here at the Johnston Senior Center. There are still "sites" available for vendors who are interested. The event will be very family friendly with Santa, his elves, a petting zoo, food, entertainment and raffles. Last year, this event was a huge success and many great programs were supported as a result. Vendor information is available by calling Debbie, at 401-441-8585.



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ELECTION 2024

House District 42

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Johnston SunRise contacted all the local candidates running for office, prior to the Nov. 5 General Election. They were each asked the same set of questions. Most candidates responded by the deadline. We'll be running their answers between now and Election Day.

NAME:
Kelsey Coletta

AGE: 34

**OCCUPATION/
PROFESSION:**
Licensed Clinical
Therapist (LICSW,
LCDP)

EDUCATION:
Bachelor's degree
from Rhode Island
College, Masters
degree from Simmons
University

**POLITICAL
AFFILIATION:**
Democratic



HAVE YOU HELD ELECTED OFFICE BEFORE? No

IN 50 WORDS OR LESS, IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR FIRST PRIORITY BE? My first priority as a legislator is to address state spending and budget concerns. We need to make serious investments in our schools, healthcare system, and infrastructure. I will work to bring money back to the district and address the concerns I've been hearing from my neighbors.

NAME:
Richard Fascia

AGE: I have 67 years
of knowledge and
experience

**OCCUPATION/
PROFESSION:**
Retired Providence
Police Sergeant,
Private Investigator,
Worked with the
Homeless population,
presently Human
Resource Manager

EDUCATION:
Bachelor's in Criminal
Justice, Roger
Williams University



POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Republican

HAVE YOU HELD ELECTED OFFICE BEFORE: 20 years
Johnston Town Committee (elected), Nineteen years Johnston Zoning
Board (appointed).

IN 50 WORDS OR LESS- IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR FIRST PRIORITY BE: Championing a change to the statutory structure to offer relief for homeowners on property taxes. Specifically , a cap on the yearly increased assessed value. This would be especially helpful for the elderly/retired so they can stay in their homes for as long as possible.

Say you saw it in the SunRise

Mom power on Smith Hill has doubled. But there’s still a long way to go.

‘Part-time’ legislature often means full-time hours and less time for caregiving responsibilities

By **NANCY LAVIN**
Rhode Island Current

Jennifer Boylan didn’t plan on running for office until her two sons became adults. But an unexpected opening in the Rhode Island House of Representatives two years ago made Boylan rethink her timeline. The Barrington Democrat cruised to victory in November 2022, defeating independent Samuel Read by 15 percentage points. The battle between legislative responsibilities and being there to support her two sons — the younger of which was still in high school — was not so easy.

“Making sure my kids are taken care of, it’s a top priority,” said Boylan, a passionate advocate for stricter gun laws and improving school safety. “It’s not like I head to the State House and just forget about it.”

Boylan is among a growing contingent of mothers with children under 18 who serve in state legislatures: 582 of them nationwide as of February, according to a new report published by Vote Mama Foundation.

The Sept. 23 report touts a 48.6% increase in the number of mom legislators from September 2022, when the study was last conducted.

In Rhode Island, the number of mothers with minor children on Smith Hill increased 100% — from five in 2022 to 10 as of February 2024. Rhode Island ranked 21st among states based on the 8.84% of moms in its legislature, according to the report.

The increase stems largely from results of the November 2022 elections, when most state legislative seats, including all 113 in Rhode Island, were last decided. That the 2022 election cycle came months after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade is no coincidence, said Sarah Hague, chief program officer for Vote Mama Foundation.

“That jump reflects a momentous change in the conversations surrounding the role of mothers in America and the needs of American families,” Hague said in an interview.

“There are more and more conversations in the limelight about how American policies are failing women, children, and families. More and more, we are seeing moms step up to the plate when they are seeing a problem they know they can solve.”

Long hours, low pay

Yet the power comes often at great personal sacrifice for mom lawmakers, whose ability to win and remain in office is undercut by low pay and lack of support — both personal and systemic — to offset caregiving responsibilities at home.

Just ask Rep. Megan Cotter. The Exeter Democrat is in the midst of a tough reelection campaign against former seatholder, Republican Justin Price. Cotter ousted Price by just 32 votes in November 2022.

“I am so tired,” Cotter said in a recent interview. “Having kids is definitely a con-



MOM POWER: Cranston City Council Vice President Lammi Vargis, a mother of two, won the five-way primary for State Senate District 28, and is unopposed in November. (Michael Salerno/Rhode Island Current)

tributing factor. It’s hard to find the time. Your canvassing schedule has to be in line with what’s going on at home.”

It helps that Cotter’s kids are now teens — ages 18, 16 and 14 – with the oldest now living on campus at the University of Rhode Island. The flip side?

“Big kids, bigger problems,” Cotter said.

Moms with children under age 6 are especially scarce in state legislatures, comprising just 1.7% of lawmakers nationwide, according to the report. While Rhode Island is

MOMS - PAGE 15



ATTENTION JOHNSTON VOTERS VOTING INFORMATION

STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5TH, 2024

EARLY IN PERSON VOTING WILL BE AVAILABLE STARTING OCTOBER 16TH, 2024
IN THE JOHNSTON LAND TRUST BUILDING LOCATED AT 509 GREENVILLE AVENUE
MONDAY-THURSDAY 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM AND FRIDAYS 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

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

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

THE NOVEMBER 5TH, 2024 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION IN JOHNSTON WILL BE AT THE FOLLOWING POLLING LOCATIONS ONLY:

PRECINCT 1601	WINSOR HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 100 THERESA ST.
PRECINCT 1602	SIMMONS VILLAGE COMMUNITY HALL, 339 SIMMONSVILLE AVE.
PRECINCT 1603	RAINONE GYMNASIUM, 45 MILL ST.
PRECINCT 1604	N.A. FERRI MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM, 10 MEMORIAL AVE.
PRECINCT 1605	IUOE LOCAL 57, 873 CENTRAL AVE.
PRECINCT 1606	N.A. FERRI MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA-RIGHT SIDE, 10 MEMORIAL AVE.
PRECINCT 1607	AIME J. FORAND COMMUNITY HALL, 8 FORAND CIRCLE
PRECINCT 1608	N.A. FERRI MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA-LEFT SIDE, 10 MEMORIAL AVE.
PRECINCT 1609	GRANITEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 6 COLLINS AVE.
PRECINCT 1610	SARAH DYER BARNES SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 24 BARNES AVE.
PRECINCT 1611	JOHNSTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 345 CHERRY HILL RD.
PRECINCT 1612	BROWN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 14 BROWN AVE.

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

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

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4. **ALWAYS** get a lien waiver from your roofer before paying for the project. If you skip this step then you may be legally obligated to pay for the roof TWICE! That’s crazy but true.
5. **ALWAYS** confirm in writing that the labor/workmanship warranty from your roofer lasts as long as the manufacturer’s material warranty. What good is a lifetime roof if it only comes with a 2 year or 5 year workmanship warranty? If they do not have faith in the quality of their workmanship then how are you supposed to have faith in their work?

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Are school reimbursement and new housing policies at odds?

When it comes to state policies that affect everybody in Rhode Island, there are perhaps no two greater examples than the parameters set for reimbursing municipalities that seek to construct or renovate school buildings, and the policies guiding the creation of much-needed new housing throughout the state.

We feel it is prudent to question whether the state realizes a key area of apparent contradiction in their carrying out of these two separate, but very much connected, policy areas.

We can look to Johnston for a current example of what we're positing.

- WHERE TO WRITE: Johnston, in need of a new high school, is going through the process of submitting their plans to the state, which includes a building that will be capable of housing fewer students than are currently enrolled at the existing school. Part of the reason for this design is the increased incentives offered by the state's reimbursement guidelines.

On its surface, this makes sense, considering projections for student enrollment are declining as they are in communities across Rhode Island.

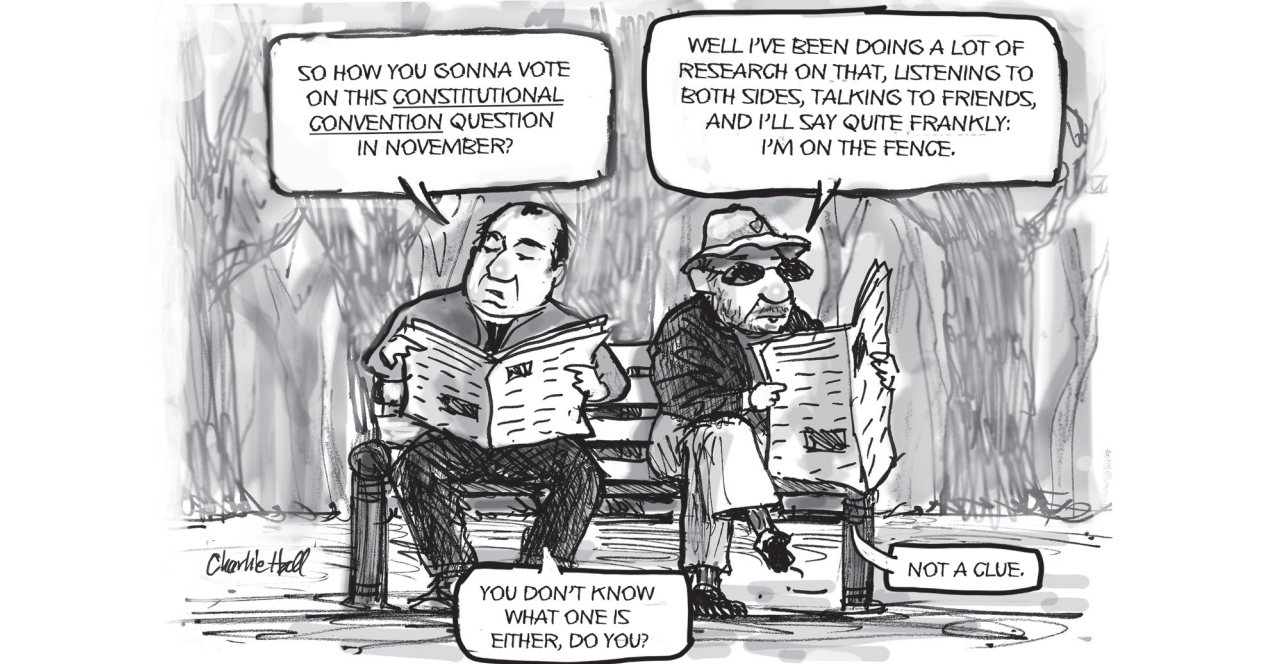
However, those projections may not be accounting for the state's recent push to boost the production of affordable housing; a goal that everyone can agree is paramount to enabling more people to move to the state and start lives, careers, and most important to this situation, families, in Rhode Island.

If the state succeeds in boosting housing production and the number of people able to live here — particularly in places like Johnston where, unlike other local communities, land capable of being developed into housing is in good supply — does this not create a potentially catastrophic situation where a brand-new school building will be insufficient to handle the influx of new families and students that will be living in the area 10 or 20 years down the line?

It is an admittedly theoretical conundrum based on assumptions and speculation, but when the potential outcome of those assumptions is having a brand-new, multi-hundred-million dollar school building that ultimately winds up being unsuitable for the community that pays for it, is that not worth a bit more consideration?

Is this a calculated risk, or simply the result of different state agencies charged with "different" goals not realizing they have a blind spot where their goals actually intersect with one another?

Regardless of that answer, this argument should be considered by those making decisions on the ultimate size and capacity of a new school building, not only in the short term, but in the long term as well.



LETTER

The horse should come before the cart

To the Editor,

Over the years, running for local offices I always left my calling card via, telling it the way it is, knowing I was paving the way for future candidates that believe "the horse should come before the cart."

The endless demands of government labor unions that have profoundly inflated the costs of our services, in which they have methodically taken over many of our state and local governments including our federal government and especially our town. I find it very disheartening that so many candidates are unwilling to take them on.

As for our town, the provisions in the contracts are very extensive.

"Truth-be-told," the demands of our Fire and Rescue fill 64 pages. As for the 15 paid holidays, they include paid birthdays.

Note: The combined force of our fire and police is 177, so let's do a little math.

Because of minimum staffing and overtime involved the actual expense to provide paid birthdays is the equivalent of 442 days wages just for that one seemingly insignificant provision. When you consider the cost to accommodate three personal days it's in the tens of thousands annually and that's not even the tip of the iceberg.

And you wonder where all the money is going?

"Truth-be-told," over those years, as I highlighted the provisions, costs and alternatives, I saw a side of the unions that mirrored Stalinism, without exception.

In 2010, excluding state school aid, our budget was \$78.8 million. In 2023, excluding state school aid, it was \$107.3 million, a \$28.5 million increase. So where have those tens of \$millions gone to? How come our taxes never ever come down?

As we continue to overdevelop our town and bring in additional \$millions all we get from our elected democratic officials is "they are holding the line on taxes."

"Truth-be-told," when taxes go up it only benefits

civil service, as they are the recipients of taxation. As taxes continue to spiral out of control one day soon Johnston Taxpayers will be faced with "supplemental taxes" to enable the endless demands of the various departments.

However, there is a bright spot. The commentaries I have been fortunate enough to get in the Johnston Sun-Rise, a must publication for every municipality that keeps residents informed, I've been getting lots of thumbs up. It seems more lifelong well-intentioned Democrats are now opening their eyes as the now-days liberal, socialist, perverse Democratic Party has been showing its hand on every level; local, state, federal and internationally, and all very disturbing.

Realizing the need for residents to have a much more thorough understanding where the money is going our town needs to develop a database that would enable residents to view the provisions and costs including having the ability to type any questions.

"Truth-be-told," if they had that ability cost saving alternatives would flash across their minds. But that will never happen as long as the "special interests" continue to run our town in which we don't even televise the council or school committee meetings? At present, if residents submit questions regarding various expenses, depending on the questions, they will have to pay a research charge.

In closing, I wish I didn't care about our country or what the future holds for tomorrow's generation, but I do and make no apologies for my outspoken concerns, as lifelong democrats and eligible nonvoters need to open their eyes.

"Truth-be-told," one day, in the not-so-distant future, when government takes total control over the citizenry, tomorrow's oppressed generation will look back and lament, knowing their great or great, great grandparents never gave a damn about them.

Peter A. Filippi III, of Johnston ("A.K.A. Town Troublemaker")

JOHNSTON

Sun

Rise

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SUNRISE SCOOPS

Oct. 5

Celebrating the Life of Dillon Viens

The family and friends of Dillon Viens plan to gather at Johnston Memorial Park from noon to 4 p.m. on Oct. 5 for a celebration of Dillon’s life. Event organizers promise free food and drinks.

Oct. 5

Project Linus of RI Fall Blanket Making Day

Project Linus of RI invites the public to participate in their Fall Blanket Making Day on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at William Hall Library, 1825 Broad Street, Cranston. Join Project Linus to learn to make a blanket, knot, crochet, and/or tie fleece and meet other “Blanketeers.” Bring a sewing machine if making a quilt or starting a new project with available materials. Snacks provided. Project Linus is a 100% volunteer, non-profit organization. For more information email Martha at esholes@aol.com

Oct. 5

St. Francis Xavier Academy Alumnae Homecoming

St. Francis Xavier Academy Alumnae Association will hold its annual Homecoming Mass and Luncheon, Sunday, Oct. 20. Mass at 11 a.m., at St. Timothy Church, 1799 Warwick Ave., Warwick, followed by lunch at The Crown Plaza, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick. Scholarships for student attending Catholic high schools will be announced that day. or more information email SXA.Alum@gmail.com

Oct. 5

Northern RI Out of the Darkness Community Walk

Out of the Darkness Community Walk for Northern RI will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 10 a.m. Registration and activities will begin at 9 a.m. at Roger Williams Park Temple to Music. Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States and the 11th leading cause of death in Rhode Island, yet it can be prevented. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Rhode Island Chapter (AFSP-RI)will be joining the thousands of people who are gathering this season in towns across the United States to promote suicide prevention. For more details and to register, go to: afsp.org/northernri.

Oct. 11

Johnston Youth Basketball 2024 Early Registration

Johnston Recreation Dept. is holding early registration for Youth Basketball 2024, boys and girls, grades 1 – 8. Register on or before Friday, Oct. 11 for \$110 individual and \$90 each sibling. After Friday, Oct. 11, \$120 individual and \$100 each sibling. All registrations end on Friday, Oct. 25. Register at the Recreation Office, Johnston Memorial Park, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration forms can be mailed to: Johnston Recreation Dept., 1385 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI 02919. Cash, check or money order only, credit cards are not accepted. Sponsors and coaches needed. For more information and registration forms, go to: johnstonrec.com.

Oct. 12

Hope’s Connection to Ann & Hope Dept. Stores

Hope’s Connection to Ann & Hope Department Stores will be presented by The Hope Historical Society on Sat., Oct. 12, at 2 p.m., at the Howland Barn, 35 Ryefield Road, Hope. David Lawlor, an award-winning filmmaker and documentarian, will be the speaker. He will visually connect Hope to the Brown Brothers, the massive Ann & Hope Mill in Lonsdale, RI, and the retail leader, Ann & Hope department stores.

Oct. 19

Southern RI Out of the Darkness Community Walk

Out of the Darkness Community Walk for Southern RI will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 10:30 a.m. Registration and activities will begin at 9:30 AM at Salve Regina University, 100 Ochre Point Ave., Newport. Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States and the 11th leading cause of death in Rhode Island, yet it can be prevented. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Rhode Island Chapter (AFSP-RI)will be joining the thousands of people who are gathering this season in towns across the United States to promote suicide prevention. For more details and to register, go to: afsp.org/northernri . Walk-up registration is also welcomed.

Oct. 19

Oktober Fest Dinner

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 54 Cedar Swamp Road, Smithfield, is having an Oktoberfest Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 6 p.m. The menu will include bratwurst, sauerkraut, sauerbraten, baked chicken, mashed potatoes, red cabbage, green beans, roasted carrots and assorted desserts and beverages. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children ages 5-12; children under 5 eat for free. Reservations required by Thursday, Oct. 10. Please call the church office and leave a message 401-232-7575.

Oct. 19

World Singing Day

The only World Singing Day event that will be happing in Rhode Island will be held on Sat., Oct. 19, at 1 p.m., at the Warwick Mall, 400 Bald Hill Rd., Warwick. For more information please contact: Shelley Pray at spray89423@aol.com or 401-226-5192. All are welcome.

Oct. 26

Moosup Valley Music Series

Moosup Valley Music Series will be held on Sat., Oct. 26, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Moosup Valley Church, 81 Moosup Valley Rd., featuring singers/songwriters Lara Herscovitch and Allysen Callery. Light refreshments provided. Pass-the-hat donations are welcome. Proceeds benefit guest artists. Support live, local music. For more information, contact: Laurie 401-623-0320.

Oct. 26 & 27

St. Francis Xavier Church Holiday Bazaar

St. Francis Xavier Church will hold its annual holiday bazaar on Sat., Oct. 26, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sun. Oct. 27, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., St. Francis Xavier Church, 81 No. Carpenter St., East Providence.

Bring the entire family as there will be something for everyone. After shopping, enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner, and their famous Portuguese malassadas (food fit for the angels) while there.

Oct. 27

Fall Harvest Craft Fair

Our Lady of Grace Church will hold it Fall Harvest Craft Fair on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Our Lady of Grace Church, 15 George Waterman Road, Johnston. Over 30 local artisans featured in the church hall. Food, sweet treats, raffles & more. Information: Pat 401-529-7592.

Nov. 2

RI Italian American Hall of Fame Inductions & Sinatra

The Rhode Island Italian-American Hall of Fame (RIIAHF 501©(3) is proud to announce RIIAHF Honors & A Salute to Sinatra presented by Providence Auto Body on Sat., Nov. 2, at The Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 1 Ave. of the Arts, Providence. The Hall of Fame will induct respected physician and author Dr. Edward Iannuccilli and former New England Patriot and three-time Super Bowl champion Joe Andruzzi. Brian Duprey will perform a Salute to Sinatra concert accompanied by a 12-piece orchestra Proceeds from this RIIAHF fundraiser benefit the organization’s scholarship fund. A minimum of ten exceptional college bound Rhode Island students from all ethnic backgrounds will be recognized and receive scholarship awards totaling at least \$30,000 as each student will receive a \$3,000 scholarship. This event will be cohosted by NBC 10’s Gene Valicenti and former NBC 10 sports-caster and RIIAHF President, Joe Rocco. For time and ticket information: thevetsri.com or 401-421-2787.

Nov. 22

The Sojourner House Annual Masquerade Ball

The Sojourner House will hold its Annual Masquerade Ball on Friday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m., at the Graduate Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 11 Dorrance St., Providence. Guests are invited to dance through the Enchanted Forest, a place where seeds of hope are planted and beauty blooms out of darkness. This fairytale realm invites those who stand against violence. Enjoy cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction, performances from Toys 2 Men, DJ Dayglow, Extraordinary Rendition Band (ERB), and more. Proceeds support Sojourner House’s life-saving victim advocacy and violence prevention work. For more information and to purchase tickets visit <https://sojournerri.org/masquerade-ball/>.

ONGOING SCOOPS

PSA Free Gun Locks at Cranston Public Library

Secure storage of weapons is now the law in Rhode Island. A Free Gun Lock and Securing Weapons Safely information is available at the Reference Desk at the Central Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd., Cranston. Stop by for a free gun lock and literature on how to securely store weapons. Doing so will save lives and make our communities safer. Residents from all RI communities are welcome. This event is not endorsed by or affiliated with the Cranston Public Library.

Help OSDRI restock their pantry!

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

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

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

Veterans

(Continued from page 1)

as Vietnam War veterans looked over the names of 58,000 lost in that war, saw them take in the magnitude of the WWII memorial and watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. He said he felt “empathy seeing the emotions in their faces.”

Centracchio said he “felt honored” to be in the group, adding that he felt somewhat out of place and wanted to help. He did do a bit of that, “just where I could.”

“Being a recipient was hard for me. I didn’t want to be in the limelight,” he said.

When the three buses of Flight High Voltage arrived at the WWII memorial it looked like they could have used a three-star general. Vehicle access to the memorial and its parking lots was blocked. The buses pulled to the side of the road and Farrell hopped out to see what the problem was. The National Park Service had been advised of the flight and its arrival time. There had been no notice of an incident closing access to the memorial.

Farrell was greeted by a uniformed officer. She informed him the memorial was closed to tours. Farrell said he appreciated her orders, however, he had three buses filled with veterans from Rhode Island who may never get to visit the memorial if they didn’t do it now. What would he tell them?

After a few more cordial exchanges, the officer instructed the buses to circle



A SCOUT SENDOFF: Members of Boys Scout Troop 20 of Johnston were up early Sunday morning to cheer 57 veterans as they boarded Honor Flight High Voltage for a day in Washington DC. Here they surround Vietnam veteran Thomas Cathers of North Kingstown before clearing security. (Beacon Media photos)

around and she would move some barriers. Did she learn one of those veterans was a 3-star general? We don’t know.

It wasn’t the last of the snags.

Having visited the Arlington National Cemetery during 30 previous Honor Flights, Farrell sensed something was out of place when they pulled up Sunday. There were a lot of vehicles and security personnel. He thought there could be another unannounced change in plans. Farrell has con-

nections and he knew who to call, Colleen Creighton, a Rhode Islander now living in the DC area. Creighton volunteers at the cemetery and meets up with the Rhode Island Honor Flights.

Creighton inquired why there were so many military dignitaries including a number of generals. It turned out that the United States Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Charles Q. Brown Jr. was also at the cemetery as part of part of a gathering to Gold Star Mothers.

Creighton asked the security detail if General Brown might greet the Rhode Island veterans.

“He spoke briefly to everyone and then took the time to shake hands and speak directly to Mr. Aniello DiMeglio (97 yr. old WWII Navy) and Mr. Antonio F. De Aguiar Jr. (94, US Air Force, Korea), also Mr. Daniel Harley, US Navy and President of IBEW Local 42 and Mr. Ian McQuade, US Navy IBEW Local 42 before all four of them went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to

participate in a Wreath Laying Ceremony,” Farrell reported on Monday.

Farrell believes Centracchio was impressed by all the people he met on the flight and despite efforts not to put the spotlight on his rank, Farrell couldn’t recall any members of Honor Flight High Voltage calling him “Reggie.” It

was always “general.”

Almonte should remember that.

As Reggie’s guardian, Almonte sought to have him use a wheelchair to cover the open spaces between memorials. He refused.

General or not, there are some things Centracchio won’t do.

Obituaries

Vincent L. Raniello

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Vincent L. Raniello of Johnston, RI, age 83, on August 24, 2024, from Pulmonary Fibrosis. Born in New York, Vincent proudly served in the U.S. Navy before dedicating many years of hard work as a member of Local 51 Pipefitters. He also lived in Sedona, AZ for 25+ years. Alongside his professional career, he was a gifted stained-glass artist.

Vincent’s life was rich with love, family, and friendship. Vincent was the beloved husband of the late Dimity A. Raniello (Spalding). He was a loving father to his children Traci Raniello (Patti Delvecchio) of Johnston, Roy Raniello (Dolores) of Nevada, Peter Pfeiffer of Arizona and Jody Pfeiffer of Warwick. He is also survived by his brother, Anthony Raniello of NY, as well as his many cherished cousins, great-grandchildren, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and his dog Jada, all of whom will forever hold him in their hearts.



Obituaries

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

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

— Thank you



WHAT A SENDOFF: Family, friends, firefighters, policemen, elected officials and community groups turned out to applaud the veterans as they entered the terminal at 5:30 a.m. to depart for Washington.

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11/16: Carriage Inn-North Kingstown

11/16: St Mary's Feast Society-Cranston

11/16: Bella Luna-North Providence

11/21: Jerry Longo's Meatballs & Martinis Restaurant at Bally's-Lincoln

12/5: Hill's Tavern-Glocester

12/6: Difesa Club-Johnston

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A man in a blue patterned shirt and a green baseball cap points towards a large historical painting on a wall. The painting depicts a colonial village scene with a church, a bridge, and a body of water. Below it is a smaller framed print showing a different historical scene.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE: Col. Ron Barnes, a Johnston resident and commander of the Pawtuxet Rangers, points to one of the many paintings and historical prints that the public can view at the militia's armory.

A night at the museum

By BARBARA POLICHETTI
Special to the Sun Rise

The Pawtuxet Rangers and the Gaspee Days Committee are making history a little more fun and more accessible this Friday when they host a “Museum Night” in Pawtuxet Village. Artifacts, documents and other Revolutionary War memorabilia will be on display at the Rangers’ Armory on Remington Street and at the Aspray Boat House at 2 East View St. in Warwick. “It’s a community event that gives people a chance to see some of the many artifacts we have,” said Col. Ron Barnes, commander of the Rangers. “It’s also a great social event. We are right here in the village and some people have never seen the armory or the artifacts we have – it’s a nice night to come in and meet your (historical) neighbors.” The Pawtuxet Rangers — which are one of the oldest existing chartered Colonial militias — and the Gaspee Days Committee share a common passion for preserving Revolutionary War History in the Cranston-Warwick area. Most of their activities focus on the 1772 burning of the British Naval schooner, the HMS Gaspee. The British ship ran aground off the Warwick shore and colonists boarded it and burned it down. It is considered a key act of colonial insurgence that was instrumental in triggering the Revolutionary War. In addition to the artifacts at the armory, the Museum Night will feature important documents on loan from the State Archives. Those will be on display at the Aspray Boat House and guests can stroll between the two locations. The event will be a fundraiser and also a way to continue celebrating the Pawtuxet Rangers 250th anniversary, Barnes said. The museum event will run from 6 to 8 p.m. and tickets are \$30 per person. The admission includes beer and wine at both locations, anniversary cake and a commemorative Pawtuxet Rangers 250th anniversary glass mug. “We have so much history to show and share,” said Gaspee Days Committee member Carol Deming. “It’s a fun night, and it is a good chance to look at the history of our state and of our community.”

Editor’s Note: Barbara Polichetti, a Cranston resident, is a regular contributor to the Cranston Herald, Warwick Beacon and Johnston SunRise.

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A human skull is displayed in a glass case, likely part of a historical medical collection. The skull is positioned in the foreground, with another skull visible in the background. The case is made of clear glass, and the skull is resting on a reflective surface.

LEAVE IT TO THE DOC: What was Revolutionary War medical care like? The Rangers have some artifacts that can help answer that question. (Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti)

BACK TO SCHOOL IN JOHNSTON

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Johnston SunRise asked readers to send in their back to school photos. As usual, Johnston parents did not disappoint. This is our fifth and final installment. Thank you for the amazing response. Get ready for our next photo submission (Halloween costumes for your kids and your pets). Feel free to start sending in submissions. Email photos to Johnston SunRise Editor Rory Schuler at rorys@rhodybeat.com.*



LOOK OUT 1st GRADE: Jaxon Figueroa started 1st grade at Winsor Hill. (Photo courtesy Kayla DiSano)



OFF TO 7TH: Aliviah Bittle Grade 7 (Photo courtesy Erin Balasco)



ON HER WAY: 1st grader Briana Watson is "on her way to bigger things." (Photo courtesy Shae Krick)



FIRST GRADE FIRST DAY: Bryce Olson, an aspiring baseball player, on his first day of 1st grade. (Photo courtesy Erin Olson)



LAST MIDDLE YEAR: Matteo Fleet off to 8th grade (Photo courtesy Lisa Hoopis)



A JUNIOR: Nathan Della Morte, Junior at Johnston High School (Photo courtesy Michelle Della Morte)

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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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FUTURE PANTHERS: Johnston Youth Football players and cheerleaders took part in the parade. (SunRise photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

Johnston High Homecoming

The Johnston community gathered to celebrate its annual JHS Homecoming Parade that started at the school and made its way down Cherry Hill. The celebration kicked off in the morning and went right until kickoff of the football team's home game against Rogers. Here are some shots of the action.



FLOAT ON: The JHS Class of 2025 showed off its float on Saturday afternoon.



SOPHOMORE CLASS:

Members of the
JHS Class of
2027 stroll down
Cherry Hill.



HOMETEAM: The JHS football team road along a truck from Northeast Autobody.



UNIFIED CHAMPS: Members of the JHS faculty show off the banner it received from Special Olympics recognizing it as a Unified Champion School.



POM POMS: Cheerleaders march in the Johnstonn Homecoming parade on Saturday. (SunRise photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

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By JENNIFER COATES

Courtesy. Integrity. Modesty. Self-control. Perseverance. Indomitable Spirit.

These are more than just simple words; they are the aspirational values and principles that guide every decision made at Premier Martial Arts, a martial arts dojo in North Scituate. These words are spoken at the beginning of every class held at this welcoming and busy studio just across the border of Johnston. These values are taught, encouraged and emulated by both the instructors and students of Premier Martial Arts.

The team at Premier Martial Arts work hard to uphold an important promise. It is that “with the utmost professionalism, in a safe atmosphere, and with care and respect, we strive to teach our students the values and life skills that will lead to remarkable improvements in academics, careers and relationships – literally making a better community one black belt at a time.”

Premier Martial Arts is part of a larger network of martial arts studios throughout New England. This dojo is owned locally and is managed by Johnny Gasdia, a talented, energetic and devoted Black Belt instructor. Johnny or “Mr. Johnny” (as he is affectionately known) is passionate about the work he does at the studio, but mostly he is passionate about the students who attend classes here. It matters to him that they live up to martial art’s overarching principles, both on the mat, and in the outside world.

Martial arts is an ancient practice that is commonly understood as the “fighting arts of East Asia”. There are many different styles of martial arts, including the ones that are taught at Premier. These include Krav Maga (self-defense), Taekwondo, Pilipino Kali (stickwork), Muay Thai and Kickboxing. All forms teach movements such as kicks and punches but they also teach the importance of



Sign up today to meet Mr. Johnny, seen here leading one of many classes at Premier Martial Arts in North Scituate. Classes available for all ages and ability levels.

self-discipline. All aspire to instill the values of courtesy, integrity, modesty, self-control and perseverance.

There are many benefits ~ both visible and hidden ~ of practicing martial arts. With every class, Mr. Johnny teaches all the classic moves of martial arts but there are other important outcomes that accompany progression towards the ultimate black belt honor. The broader benefits include increased confidence and physical fitness as well as the ability to defend oneself. Strength. Physical fitness and wellness. Empowerment. Mindfulness.

Each month, Mr. Johnny focuses on a specific theme such as anger-management, teamwork, nutrition, courage,

and so many more! Come see these how themes can impact your life!

Beginner students and experienced martial artists alike will find everything they need at Premier Martial Arts. If you want to know more, try their two FREE introductory classes. Classes are held Monday through Friday, and there is something for every age and ability level, from “tiny champs” to teens and adults.

Premier Martial Arts is located at 43 Village Plaza Way in North Scituate. To learn more, call Mr. Johnny at 401-764-5745 or visit them at their website at www.scituatemartialarts.com.

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Moms

(Continued from page 5)

among 32 states that let candidates use campaign funds for child care, no parent — man or woman — has taken advantage since the 2021 state law was passed.

When Rep. Teresa Tanzi, a South Kingstown Democrat, first ran for office in 2010, her daughter Delia was 3. Tanzi, then a stay-at-home-mom, towed Delia to campaign stops, and, after winning election, legislative hearings at the State House.

Tanzi relished the opportunity to expose her daughter to the legislative process, with Delia firmly attached to Tanzi's leg as she spoke on the House floor. But her colleagues were not always understanding.

"I have to admit, I was criticized by folks I never thought a criticism would come from," Tanzi said.

Now 18 and a first-year student at the University of Rhode Island, Delia is no longer Tanzi's State House sidekick. But a crop of new women lawmakers with children, and grandchildren, have given Tanzi a chance to pay forward the help she did not re-

ceive when Delia was young.

"The more moms that are there, the more support there is," Tanzi said.

'They were my motivation'

For Lammis Vargas, having more women, and moms, serve alongside her on the Cranston City Council fostered a similar sense of kinship and support.

"We understand when someone sends a text saying 'coming from a doctor's appointment, running late,'" Vargas, a Democrat and council vice president, said.

Vargas' kids, Nevari and Christian, were 12 and 5 when she first ran for the council in 2016, while battling a cancer diagnosis she received after she launched her campaign. She refused to drop out, crediting the support of her husband and her children.

"They were my motivation from the very beginning," she said.

Eight years later, Vargas is a proud cancer survivor and on a path to becoming the elected representative for Rhode Island State's Senate District 28, having won a five-way Democratic primary on Sept. 10. She is unopposed in the general election.

Nevari and Christian are now 20 and 13. But Vargas' dad, 73, had a stroke at the end of 2023 which left him temporarily immobile on one side of his body. Vargas, the eldest of two children and the only one living in Rhode Island, found herself now tasked with driving her parents to doctors' appointments, picking up groceries and acting as translator for her parents, who are immigrants from Colombia.

"During my Senate campaign, I would hit the grocery store at 9:30 p.m. and they would be closing at 10, so I was just running through the aisles," Vargas recalled.

The Vote Mama report does not account for other types of caregiving challenges women lawmakers face, a criteria which Hague said they hope to incorporate in future data collection.

Caregiving, work and family obligations were the third-most cited reason why women leave state office, behind running for higher office, or retirement, according to the Vote Mama report.

"It's hard enough to be a mom as a candidate, but being a mom in the state legislature brings on a whole different set of barriers," Hague said. "Neither system was built for women, much less moms of minors."

Demanding legislative schedule

Boylan found her first term in office much more difficult than the actual campaign. The long hours and opposite schedule to her teenage son left little time to spend together.

Not that it stopped her from seeking a second term this year.

"I didn't really hesitate to run for reelection, because there's still much work to do," Boylan said.

The pay for that mountain of work is not considered commensurate. Rhode Island lawmakers made \$19,000 a year in 2024 for the "part-time" job, though most lawmakers say they log as many hours as a full-time position, especially without dedicated staff to help them.

Rhode Island's legislative pay is higher than nine states — excluding those that offer daily or weekly rates, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Massachusetts lawmakers earn over \$73,600, while those in Connecticut are paid \$40,000.

Only four states — Pennsylvania, Michigan, California and New York — pay lawmakers "a livable salary" as of 2024, according to the Vote Mama report. California and Michigan rank first and fourth for highest

representation of moms in their legislatures. In both states, being a lawmaker is recognized as a full-time job, versus the "hybrid" or part-time model used in Rhode Island.

Tanzi has a real estate license and sells homemade focaccia through a state cottage food license. But she has struggled to find a full-time job that doesn't conflict with afternoon and evening hearings at the State House, along with daytime meetings for her role chairing the Human Services Subcommittee.

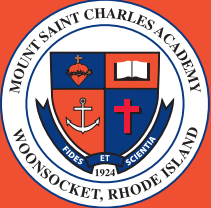
"The big thing that's not being discussed is the confidence gap," Lynch said. "Research shows that when women run, women win. But there's a lack of women being encouraged to run for office."

Vargas hoped seeing moms like her in office would plant the seed for future lawmakers.

"I love when we have kids come to the council chambers," Vargas said. "I tell them, 'you could be my boss one day.'"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Nancy Lavin is senior reporter covering state politics, energy and environmental issues for the Rhode Island Current. Rhode Island Current is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

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Sports

Panthers fall to Vikings at Homecoming

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston football team's Homecoming celebration was spoiled by visiting Rogers, who ran away with a big 56-21 win in a Division III match-up.

The Vikings entered the game as the division's hottest team and quickly went to work against Johnston, taking a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter. The Johnston defense struggled to contain the Rogers rushing attack, which finished with five scores on the ground. Rogers has scored at least 40 points in all three of its games this season.

Johnston's offense did, however, enjoy its most productive day of the fall through its first three games. Quarterback Matt Clements connected with Lyalo Harrison-Perez for a touchdown while Dean Paris rushed for another. Clements connected with Paris for one more score, which would give the Panthers their first 20-point performance of the year.

Although the offense made some big plays and had its moments, it also turned the ball over three times, all of which were converted into scores.

"We've been mixing a lot of guys in and out, we've had some injuries. We've been shuffling, it's kind of like musical chairs. Our timing was off, we lost the ball three times and they scored three times. When you take three scoring opportunities away and put it on the other team's (side) of the

scoreboard, that's a big swing," said Johnston coach Joe Acciardo. "We moved the ball well at times, we have a skilled quarterback, Dean Paris is a bull."

The Vikings boast the best rushing attack in the division, and although Johnston zeroed in on their backfield, it was not quite enough to ground the running backs.

"Defensively we struggled. They have some big backs and we concentrated on stopping the run on the inside. We needed some help from our defensive backs on the outside, they caught us off guard on a breakdown in the defensive backfield and scored. Then it got away from us. They're a good team and they run the ball well on other teams too. They're good," Acciardo said.

Rogers improved to 3-0 with the win while Johnston fell to 0-3. The Panthers will be back at it on Friday when it travel to Chariho.

With a young roster that is dealing with injury and illness, Acciardo hopes to get the squad back to full health and make a run at a playoff spot in the back half of the regular season.

"We are just looking to get our team back on the field at full strength. We just want to heal," said Acciardo. "We've been dealing with injuries, sickness has run through us with colds, allergies. If we can just get healthy and back together, then I think we will be able to turn things around on the back half of our schedule."



HOMEFIELD: Johnston's James Estrada picks up some yards on Saturday. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)



TOUGH BATTLE: Johnston quarterback Matt Clements delivers a pass (left) while running back Dean Paris fights for some yards through the Rogers defense.

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Pete Rose and the Hall of Fame

The sports world lost a giant on Monday as it was announced that Pete Rose passed away at 83 years old. I searched back in my archives and realized that I have never touched on what is perhaps the most talked about topic in professional baseball. What I am referring to, of course, is his exclusion from the Baseball Hall of Fame. Rose was an all-time great, and in my eyes, very much in the conversation for the greatest player to ever live. He played for two decades, won three World Series, and as we all know, holds the record for career hits. He also holds the record for career singles, plate appearances, games played. His resume is jaw dropping. Rose was accused of betting on Cincinnati Reds games during his career in 1989 and it was decided that he would be ineligible to receive Hall of Fame votes in 1991. In 2004, Rose admitted that he did bet on games, but it was always that his team

would win. Now, gambling cannot be tolerated. It muddies the water and unfortunately, in all sports, athletes and coaches have tossed games for their side hustle. I am by no means saying that Rose should have been let off the hook because he was a great player. Baseball figureheads are known for being rigid. Between rule changes on the field, off the field, adjustments to the game or times where the culture is being questioned, baseball decision makers are the toughest of all North American sports. Point being, I do not see a world in which Rose is allowed in. I believe that baseball is simply too stuck in its ways and dug in at this point. However, to keep arguably the best hitter in league history out of the Hall because he bet on his own team to win? After 30 years of debate, it's ridiculous. He should be in. It is a shame that he went to his grave never seeing his name be called. Sure, he won

My pitch



by
ALEX
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SPORTS EDITOR

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championships, an MVP, broke records, made millions, but the Hall of Fame is the most prestigious honor in the sport. To miss out on that is devastating, especially since he would have been a first ballot inductee and possibly a unanimous one at that. Look at the steroid era of the late 80s and into the early 2000s. Now these guys, specifically Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, should have to jump through hoops to make it in. Steroid use is absolutely performance enhancing and an unfair advantage. Had Rose been

tossing games, then sure, my tune would be different. But the fact that he bet on himself, essentially, changes the whole narrative. Slightly off-topic, but I am also one of those guys that believe that the steroid era guys should make the cut as well. Let's be real here, a significant number of players in that era used PEDs. It's not right and they all deserved their comeuppance, but to ignore roughly 20 years of great players at a time where steroid use ran rampant? It's just too broad of a stroke. These players revolutionized the game and put up the stats and achievements to be in. It was not just a couple of players that used, it was several players on every team over the course of 20 years. What's funny is that I am actually for small halls. I believe that in sports today, we are way too forgiving when evaluating players and their cases to be elected to their respective halls of fame. I am for the best of the best, the cream of the crop. Being a

great player should not be enough, you need to be among the best of your era. That's what these players were. Rose, Bonds, Clemens, Alex Rodriguez, among many others. Not to dump all over Craig Biggio, but he is a (somewhat) recent inductee whose resume pales in comparison to these greats. Biggio finished his career with fewer than 300 home runs and a career batting average of .281. How is that Hall of Fame worthy? Scott Rolen was inducted in 2023 and had shockingly similar numbers as well. Great players, but is hitting .281 and 300 home runs in a career all-time great? Not even close. So, although I believe we have become too inclusive when it comes to the hall of fame, baseball, as usual, is a step behind. Rose should be inducted posthumously as he is in the discussion for the best player ever, the steroid era standouts should be allowed in after being denied for years. Time to loosen up a bit.

Marines stays sharp as RIC beats Elms

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sophomore outside hitter Sarina Marines (Cranston) and classmate setter Yuleisy Alvelo (San Juan, Puerto Rico) each registered double-doubles as Rhode Island College won, 3-1, at Elms on Monday evening. Alvelo recorded season-highs in both kills and service aces with 41 and five, respectively, to go along with 14 digs. Marines lead the Anchorwomen with 15 kills to pair with a nice defensive showing with 11 digs. Senior outside hitter Rhiannon Hodovanec (Feeding Hills, Mass.) set a new season-high with 13 kills to complement Marines' effort. With the visitors trailing, 18-16, in the first set, Hodovanec rattled off four kills to put RIC up, 20-19, and eventually take the first set by four, 25-21. RIC would then lose in a closely-contested second set, 25-23, but bounced back to go up two sets to one with a 25-11 victory in the third stanza. The Anchorwomen fell behind one final time in the fourth set, 11-10, before going on a 9-1 run to close out the match with a 25-18 win. Freshman defensive specialist Daniella Escudero (East Providence) anchored the way in the back row with a team-high 15 digs. In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will resume Little East play at home vs. Plymouth State on Saturday, Oct. 5 (noon).

RIC women roll past UMD
Fifth-year Amiah Sommer (Cumberland) clinched an 8-1 win for Rhode Island College vs. UMass Dartmouth with a straight set win at No. 5 singles at the RIC Tennis Center on Tuesday afternoon. RIC built a 2-1 advantage after doubles. Freshmen Haylie Peacock (West Gardiner, Maine) and Emilia Houwers (Whitewater, Wisc.) won, 8-2, at second doubles. The Anchorwomen swept all six singles matches to stay unbeaten on the season. Freshman Arianna De Thomas (Providence) and senior Amara Devine (Greenville) lost just a game apiece as part of straight set wins at No. 3 and 6 singles, respectively.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will host the University of Saint Joseph on Thursday, Oct. 3 (3:30 p.m.).

Recinos nabs LEC award
Rhode Island College senior midfielder Anthony Recinos (Providence) was named the Little East Men's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week for his performance in a 2-0 week for the Anchormen. Recinos notched an assist as RIC downed Nichols, 3-1, on Sept. 25. He scored the game-winning goal with nine minutes remaining in regulation to lift RIC past Plymouth State, 1-0, for the club's second Little East win of the season on Sept. 28. For the season, he has played in eight games, starting all of them. Recinos has four goals and seven assists for 15 points. He has two game-winning goals on the season. Head Coach Kyle Froberg's team is 6-1-1 overall and 2-0 in the Little East. The Anchormen have won six straight and are unbeaten in their last seven. In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will continue Little East play at Eastern Connecticut on Wednesday, Oct. 2 (7 p.m.). Rhode Island College junior Jasper Bruins Slot (Scituate) was named the Little East Men's Golf Player of the Week for his performance in two competitions last week. It is the second consecutive week that Bruins Slot has received this award. He finished tied for fourth (76; +5) as the Anchormen finished fourth (10 teams) at Westfield State's Brett Williamson Invitational on Sept. 25. Bruins Slot earned medalist honors for the third time this fall by finishing first (74; +2) as RIC defeated Emmanuel, 325-336, on Sept. 26.

Alvelo earns LEC honors
Rhode Island College sophomore setter Yuleisy Alvelo (San Juan, Puerto Rico) was named the Little East Women's Volleyball Offensive Player of the Week for her performance in a 3-1 week for the Anchorwomen. Alvelo played in 21 sets in four matches and totaled a team-high 99 assists, while also contributing 21 digs and seven service aces.

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Still time to register for the RI Tog Classic

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

If you have not fished a tautog tournament, this is the one to enter. The AnglerCatch RI Tog Classic will be held Sunday, Oct. 13 from sunrise to 2 p.m.

There are over \$50,000 in prizes and great online and in person auction items to bid on, and a great party after which will be held at the Portsmouth Portuguese American Club, 35 Power Street, Portsmouth. The after tournament dinner, raffle and awards ceremony are something you will not want to miss with live music and much more.

Tournament entry is simple at www.ritogclassic.com. Prizes are awarded to the top three fish in each division. There are adult shore, boat and kayak divisions as well as a Junior Angler Division for those under 12 years old. The entry fee is \$100 for adults and \$30 for Junior Anglers. Fish are weighed in from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Portsmouth Portuguese American Club.

This year the Tournament is co-sponsored by AnglerCatch, the angler smartphone logbook app with a purpose (to account for angler fishing catch and effort), the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (as they are seeking to enhance tautog catch and effort data to help manage the species) and Ralph Craft of Crafty Custom Rods Tournament Founder who is still tournament director this year as he provides guidance for new tournament sponsors.

Fly fishing clinic for women

The Rhode Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited in conjunction with South Kingstown Land Trust will conduct a Fly Fishing Clinic for Women on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the South Kingstown Land Trust Barn, 17 Matunuck Beach Road, Wakefield, RI.

Sheila Hassan of Cast90, a Fly Fishers International Master Casting Instructor, will lead the Clinic. Key Clinic instruction components include an overview of fly fishing rods, reels and lines; essential fly fishing knots and terminology;



CATCHING DINNER: Tom Houde of West Warwick with a keeper striped bass he caught and took home for fish chowder last Friday at Brenton Reef off Newport. *(Submitted photo)*

how to make a roll cast and basic cast; as well as false casting and shooting line.

The \$25 program cost includes lunch. Register in advance by Oct. 16. The clinic is limited to 20 women. Register at <https://secure.etransfer.com/RICTU/Women-sClinic.cfm> or email Susan Estabrook at susan@ysrinc.com and please put “women’s clinic” in subject line.

Where’s the bite?

Striped bass, bluefish, bonito. Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said, “The striped bass bite is good off Watch Hill and Charleston beaches with a diminished bonito bite. However, we had some reports of False Albacore being caught off the West Wall of the Harbor of Refuge, but that bite faded quickly. Hope the come back stronger this fall.”

“The bass bite is on in the Greenwich Bay area with anglers catching school bass and keepers right

here in Apponaug Cove with larger fish still being caught off Newport,” said Tom Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle, Warwick.

East End Eddie Doherty, Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author said, “Fish have been scarce for some, but many were able to locate bass on the east flood tide like John ‘Captain’ Morgan who reeled in a healthy 34-inch striper that attacked his green mack Fish-Lab on the bottom. Attleboro first grader Sage Nicholson muscled in a 36-inch striper from the incoming east flow that fell for her blue mack Savage Gear Sandeel and during the same tide six surfcasters had their rods bend simultaneously with nice fish that looked to be at least 40 inches! The bluefish invasion is keeping the tackle shops busy stocking soft plastics.”

Declan O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, “Striped bass are now feeding on smaller baits including silver sides and rain bait. There have been a

mix of striped bass, blues, bonito, and an occasional Albie along the South shore of Rhode Island. Most fishing is structure dependent with an occasional open water beach blitz. In the coming weeks we expect to see more of these open water blitzes. The best way to make sure you get into one is putting in your time or having good luck. The Breachway’s are hot at night with some fish being caught in the morning and evening. Fishing in the ponds has been.”

Expert kayak angler Tom Houde said, “I was part of the plastic navy out there Friday morning at Brenton Reef. Most fish were Stripers, Bluefish and some Bonito around along with many short Black Sea Bass. I took one slot fish home for seafood chowder.”

Fluke (summer flounder), black sea bass, scup and cod. The black sea bass bite is still good however, the summer flounder (fluke) bite has faded. “Keeper black sea bass being caught by anglers tautog

fishing but if you want to target them your best bet are the East Grounds, South of the Block Island Wind Farm and Sharks Ledge,” said Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina.

Tautog. “The blackfish bite has been good from boats and shore. Even with all the sand around the Charlestown Breachway we are pleasantly surprised to see customers catching their fair share from the rocks,” said O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

“We have a good tautog bite in 25 to 30 feet of water off Charlestown and in the boulder field at Scarborough Beach, Narragansett. The Bay is good too in lower water depths,” said Cahill of Snug Harbor.

Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle, said, “Customers are catching keeper tautog south of Hope Island and at General Rock in North Kingstown.”

I fished the General Rock, North Kingstown area Monday and caught two keeper tautog in about two hours of fishing time in 18 feet of water. I intentionally monitored the Revolution Wind cable installation barge and its safety vessels on channel 16, the vessels did not interfere with fishing, I did hear several hailing calls to vessels transiting the area asking the to pass work boats to port or starboard, all were made in an orderly fashion with very cooperative mariners.

Tuna. “Tuna fishing continues to be good but spotty as it is hard for anglers to follow them with rough seas and wind, they are not getting out multiple times a week. The bite was strong in the middle of last week at the Gully, however, that bite faded over the weekend,” said Cahill of Snug Harbor.

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

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Keeping Cranston’s Historic Park Theatre alive with live performance

By HALEY LONG



The Park's open house this weekend was attended by Spectacle Live staff Sara Shevlin, Brandon Caron, and Pete Lally, as well as Charlie Nelson, the grandson of the Park's original founder. (Beacon Media photos)



The Historic Park Theatre will be hosting Dionne Warwick for a live performance on November 17, the night of its 100th anniversary.

For almost 100 years, Rhode Islanders have had the chance to see a movie or a show at the Historic Park Theatre on Park Avenue. This fall, Spectacle Live will keep the tradition going. The Massachusetts-based management company held an open house Saturday afternoon in advance of the Park’s first performance of the season on Oct. 4. The Park’s opening performance under this new management is set to feature Jim Henson’s “Labyrinth” in concert. Tickets range in price from \$39 to \$79.

This year’s re-opening of the Park is the most recent in a series of openings and closings in the venue’s history. Business began in 1924, when Peter Nelson opened the cinema for the first time as the New Park Theatre. For its first 40 years in business, the auditorium offered a single screen. The first movie that the Park showed was “Secrets,” a silent film starring Norma Talmadge.

Peter Nelson’s grandson, Charlie Nelson, began working at the theater as a child and still lives in Cranston with his wife today. He showed up for the open house.

The first movie he remembered watching at the Park was “Operation Pacific” starring John Wayne in 1951. Nelson recalled cleaning popcorn and candy from the ground after weekend showings; he was also responsible for arranging the lights in the marquee each Tuesday and Saturday evening to spell out the featured titles. One winter night in the 1950s when Nelson was working, about a dozen moviegoers were in the cinema when a major snowstorm hit. Nelson, his father, and the patrons who lived too far away to walk home decided to get comfortable inside the cinema and spend the night there.

“I knew so much about the theater business because I had lived in it, so I could do it,” Nelson said. “It was really in our blood in the family.”

Nelson graduated from URI and managed Park for a few years after his graduation before eventually leaving the business to join the military in the early 1960s.

The cinema closed in 1964 and re-opened in 1966 as the Park Cinema, having added two more screens. The triplex operated for 35 years before closing in 2001 and did not reopen until 2009, this time as a live performance venue. The Park closed once again in the summer of 2023. Since last summer, the Park has been added to Spectacle Live’s list of venues around New England that it manages.

In the time between the theater’s recent closing and its re-opening, the Park underwent several hundred thousand dollars in renovations. Many of these renovations, Spectacle Live CEO Pete Lally said, are invisible to the audience but enhance the quality of the onstage performances.

“A lot of the upgrades right now are black boxes on stage,” Lally said. These “black boxes” include new sound and lighting systems that are suited to a range of live performances. Lally explained that Spectacle Live operates by bringing live performers to 11 theaters around New England.

“Our main focus is live events, whether it be bringing in concerts or comedy or theater,” Lally said. The backstage renovations reflect this focus on live performance and continue the Park’s mission since 2009 to showcase live acts to its audience. Spectacle Live aimed to create an enjoyable backstage experience for the artists who perform at the Park. Lally hopes that this will draw even more performers to the venue in the future.

The Park’s programming for this season extends through April, with performances ranging from Dionne Warwick in concert to Chazz Palminteri’s “A Bronx Tale Live.” Ticket prices vary depending on the performance.

The Historic Park Theatre is not the first historic venue that Spectacle Live has worked with. Spectacle Live is also involved with the Lowell Memorial Auditorium in Massachusetts and the Colonial Theatre in New Hampshire, both of which are over 100 years old and owned by their respective cities. Lally described efforts to research the architectural features of these buildings over the years; during a restoration project, one theater in Vermont managed to replace a cracked slab of granite using stone from the same quarry used in the historic theater’s original design.

“Every opening is a little bit different, every process is different,” Lally said. “It’s one visit, one conversation. One thing at a time gets rolling, and before you know it, you get the altitude you need to get moving.”



BRANDON CARON

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥️Adoptable♥️Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Litterbug

Litter your life with love...meet Litterbug! His smile is infectious! He is so smart, he wants to learn everything! He is only ten months old so very much a puppy who's got energy and lots of spunk! Litterbug is a mixed breed pup with a beautiful colorful coat and eyes that sparkle with excitement! Playing fetch with a ball, going for walks and sitting like a perfect gentleman for treats are just a few of his favorite things! You can meet him at EGAPL The Heart of RI Animal Rescue League located at 44 Worthington Road in Cranston on Wednesday 3:00-7:00 or Saturday 10:00-2:00. He is also available to foster so if you are interested, please call 401-467-3670 for more information. October is Adopt a Dog month so please consider adopting a new best friend!

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Madison Donnelly and Charlotte Kinder. (Submitted photos by Erin X. Smithers)

Wilbury's "What the Constitution Means To Me" strikes a chord

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

Good theatre can take many forms, and at its best will speak to its relevance in your life.

Director Brian Lang has taken Heidi Schreck's contemporary play "What the Constitution Means To Me" and brought it up close, personal and relevant to its Rhode island audiences.

Schreck wrote and starred in the original production, playing herself as a 15-year-old high school debater and her 49-year-old self in a 90 minute production that will send you home with much to think about.

Wilbury's Charlotte Kinder proves herself worthy of playing the challenging role of Heidi in a solid performance that requires pages and pages of only occasionally uninterrupted dialogue, plus a plethora of body language and movement.

Heidi is competing in an American Legion Hall debate that, if she wins, will pay for her college tuition.

She is introduced by a Legionnaire (Ricky Waugh) who also serves as timekeeper and asker of follow-up questions.

Heidi gives her starry-eyed speech and animatedly tells personal stories about what the Constitution means to her.

Heidi takes off her jacket, moves away from the podium and becomes the woman she is today, closely examining the language of the document, beginning with "all 'MEN' are created equal" and following up with "equal justice under the law."

She reminds her audience that the Constitution was written by white men for white men. She cites chapter and verse, recalling stories of abuse and injustice toward her great-grandmother, grandmother and mother.

The subjugation of women challenges the words and meanings of the Constitution as she cites the interpretations of the 9th and 14th amendments that she championed as a younger, naïve student.

Thanks to some careful writing and interpretation by Kinder, any bitterness and anger is contained as the stories and examples of the inconsistencies in the Constitution are revealed.

The play then takes a fork in the road as the Legionnaire steps out of character, describing himself as an

actor who has been personally affected because of his sexual orientation.

It is now time for the debate between the young Heidi who pleads for the Constitution to remain as is and a young student who calls for change. Madison Donnelly alternates the role with Hayley Pezza.

The audience must decide the winner, which means the play could end differently each night.

With Election Day around the corner and a chance to vote for holding a Constitutional Convention in Rhode Island, the play carries even more relevance than when it was written.

Wilbury adds a final touch, presenting each audience member with a copy of the Constitution.

The play runs through Oct. 13 at the theatre's space in the Waterfire building on 475 Valley St., Providence. Visit www.thewilburygroup.org/tickets.html or call 400-7100.



Hayley Pezza

Blessing of the Animals at Edgewood Church

The Annual Blessing of the Animals will be held outside the portico of the Edgewood Congregational Church, 1788 Broad St., Cranston, on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m.

Everyone is invited to bring their pets, whether you are a member of the church or not, all are welcome.

In past years Rev. William Sterrett and previous ministers have blessed cats, dogs, bunnies, hamsters, gerbils and other animals.

In the event of rain the ceremony will be held indoors. Please have your animal on a leash or under your control.





Charlotte Kinder as Heidi Schreck. (Submitted photo by Erin X. Smithers)

A strong constitution yields a dynamic performance

An interview with actor Charlotte Kinder

By IDA ZECCO

“What the Constitution Means to Me,” is a thought-provoking play written by Heidi Schreck. It reflects the impact of the U.S. Constitution on our individual lives and society as a whole. This is Schreck’s personal story as a teenager competing in Constitution debates interwoven with her perspective on how the Constitution has shaped her life, centering on women’s rights, personal autonomy and systemic inequalities. The play culminates in a debate format, inviting the audience to consider what the Constitution means to them. It’s a compelling examination of the ongoing struggle for justice and equality in America.

I was fortunate to interview Charlotte Kinder, the lead actor in the role of Heidi Schreck, currently on stage at the Wilbury Theatre Group in Providence. Charlotte is a native Rhode Islander, a graduate of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in the UK, and a member of the Actors’ Equity Association. As well as performing roles at The Wilbury Theatre Group, her credits include Trinity Rep, Gloucester Stage, Moonbox Productions, O.W.I (Bureau of Theater) and the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company.

Ida Zecco: What drew you to this play and what does it mean to you?

Charlotte Kinder: I think the first thing that drew me to it was Heidi’s humor, vulnerability, her heart and her family’s story. She was real and relatable for me in a script that included a mix of facts, reality and the burden she carried regarding her family’s history. Because I just had a baby, I was not planning on working on a production until after the first of the year, but this play caught me. I immediately identified with it. It was like putting on a great pair of jeans.

IZ: I saw the play last night. This is a monster script for any actor. What is your technique in digesting a script of this proportion?

CK: I agreed to take this role three weeks before going into rehearsal. I separated the script into three pages of memorization per day. I recorded three pages on my phone the night before, listened to them throughout the following day and then memorized them, like I would with a song. My brain kept saying, “There is no other option — we WILL learn this, and we WILL do it.”

IZ: From the outset of the play, the fourth wall disappears. Tell me about how you confront this role without the fourth wall.

CK: I love not having a fourth wall. I felt very comfortable. The foundation of my training is Shakespeare and his writing permits breaking the fourth wall, using the audience. Something comes alive in me. When I entered on opening night and said, “Hi, I’m Heidi,” the audience responded back, “Hi.” And it felt so real, comforting and connected. Every

night I relish taking in the responses from everyone sitting out there in front of me. I love the spontaneous reactions from the audience, it is really fun.

IZ: Tell me about your experience at the Wilbury Theatre Group and with your director, Brian Lang.

CK: The vibe at the Wilbury is wonderful. I can’t say enough good things about this theatre. I first met Brian Lang a few years back, when I was cast for “The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart” but life happened, and we never staged the production. So, when Brian cast me for this role, I felt safe with him as the director; especially with a script that was so authentic and vulnerable. Here, I am not only respected as an actor, but this theatre gets that you have a life. It is fiercely respectful of the balance between a personal life and working. I feel very much at home here.

IZ: Do you have a personal connection to this play?

CK: More and more connections come up every time I perform this play. What Heidi gets fired up about, I get fired up, too. When Heidi speaks about the women in her family, I thought about the women in my life and the sacrifices they made as mothers. Yes, I think a lot about my mother during this show.

IZ: At the end of the production, playing yourselves and not characters, you and Hayley Pezza (Teen Debater) asked each other questions to know more about each other. Why was this important? It could have ended with the debate.

CK: We all discussed what that was about. To me, much of the context of the play is about the Constitution and a debate about the Constitution. This was a moment in the play when we did not measure ourselves as citizens of the Constitution but communicating and regarding ourselves as human beings.

IZ: What do you want the audience to walk away with?

CK: I think I would like them to walk away with a deeper respect and honor for everyone’s humanity. We need to have mutual understanding and equality for everyone. I hope that men and women alike will feel like they have an equal place in the Constitution and in the world. I want people to look at each other and say, “I want to hear your story, and to honor and respect that story, no matter who you are or where you come from.”

IZ: Any last words you would like to add?

CK: I would like to add that doing this play without the support of my family would have been impossible. I have two young children at home. My husband, Ben, has been so supportive and there for all of us every minute of the day. I am so grateful to Ben. I could not have done it without him.

More about Charlotte Kinder: <https://charlottekinder.com/>

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WARWICK SHOWCASE

THE WILD ROBOT

(Must-see Animated Film For All Ages)

Every once in a while — not often enough — a beautiful, thought-provoking and entertaining film comes along that is suitable for all ages.

“The Wild Robot” has it all: a good story, fascinating characters, important messages, creative drawings and positive lessons for all ages.

Rozzum Unit 7134 — AKA “Roz” — crash lands on an island paradise, inhabited by only animals. We are uncertain about the rest of the world, but this beautiful island has everything, including a family of possums, a huge bear, fish, insects, birds and lots of geese.

When Roz lands she unfortunately wipes out a family of geese, leaving only an egg that is ready to hatch.

And it does, producing a cute, cuddly gosling named Brightbill that attaches itself to Roz, thinking the robot is his mother.

Roz has one job — discover who ordered the robot and provide him with whatever he requires.

A sly fox has attached himself to Roz and the gosling, providing advice on raising a child, and helping the little one learn how to survive by swimming, flying and eventually flying south before winter arrives.

Roz and Brightbill are rejected by many of the other animals, especially the geese, until the robot comes up with a plan to save them from a fierce storm.

All join in to teach Brightbill to swim and fly, leading to a glorious and triumphant conclusion.

That’s the basic story, but there is so much more to this wonderful movie.

We learn that life isn’t always easy and nature isn’t always kind. We learn about the circle of life, survival of the fittest, prejudice and love.

The drawings are beautiful, and the animals show emotion and caring.

While the violence of nature is shown, the beautiful side is also displayed.

The PG rating could have been a G, but studios don’t like G ratings, so instead of having a character say “bull----”, he says “male bovine excrement,” which will go over the young ones’ heads, but we found hilarious.

What an ideal movie for grandparents, parents and children to see together.



THE WILD ROBOT



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