

JohnstonSunRise

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Community rallies after Bainbridge Apartments fire

By **TIM FORSBERG**
SunRise Editor

A devastating fire at the Bainbridge Apartments on Simonsville Avenue early Monday morning has displaced residents from 36 units, leaving many in need of assistance. Mayor Joseph Polisen, Jr. expressed his support for those affected and praised the swift response of the town's emergency personnel.

"Our thoughts are with all those affected by this unfortunate event," Mayor Polisen stated. "I am incredibly grateful that no civilians or firefighters were injured in this incident."

Emergency assistance efforts are already underway, with the Red Cross stepping in to provide support to displaced residents. The town is also leveraging its partnerships with local organizations to aid those in need.

"The town maintains strong partnerships with local organizations equipped to assist in such situations, such as the Red Cross," Mayor Polisen explained. "Additionally,

Tri-County Community Action Agency offers various support services, including housing assistance and emergency provisions."

Johnston Fire Department Chief David Iannuccilli provided further details on the challenges firefighters faced while battling the blaze.

"There were no injuries, no firefighter injuries, no residents were injured. The state fire marshal and our fire marshal still have the fire under investigation," Chief Iannuccilli stated. "It was a very labor-intensive job, it wasn't like a normal fire that we usually have. There was a void between the interior wall and the exterior wall, and that's where the fire was, so we had to rip the walls apart to get to it. That's why it was so difficult to put out."

Chief Iannuccilli further explained the necessity of calling a second alarm for additional manpower.

"We called the second alarm for manpower, they came to assist with the fire and also they helped man our stations, too. When we went to the

fire, all of our stations were empty, so what would happen is Providence would send an engine to headquarters, and they would stay there to handle other calls we may receive," he added.

He praised the efforts of the firefighters who worked tirelessly for several hours to contain the blaze.

"It was a very labor-intensive fire and the firefighters did an absolutely wonderful job. The fire came in around 9:45 or so, and they worked right through to about two o'clock. They did a great job protecting the buildings. Bainbridge Apartments is a very difficult place to fight a fire because of the design," Chief Iannuccilli noted.

The chief also observed the large number of pets at the complex.

"I can't believe how many pets there were there. They have a ton of pets, it's a pet-friendly complex, and almost every resident I saw had a pet," he said.



The fire was raging when firefighters arrived at the Bainbridge Apartments. Submitted photos

● FIRE - PAGE 8

Merlino Leads Medical Supply Drive for California Wildfire Victims

By **TIM FORSBERG**
SunRise Editor

When Jennifer Merlino, the director of human resources for the Town of Johnston, heard the devastating news about the California wildfires, she was struck not only by the destruction but also by the tragic stories of the most vulnerable.

Among them were two victims, one with cerebral palsy and his father, an amputee who could not lift his son and refused to leave his side and perished with him.

As a mother of a child with cerebral palsy, Merlino felt an immediate and

personal connection to their struggle.

"It was just very bothersome to me that this was happening," she said. "If you have a child with special needs, it's very difficult trying to replace medical supplies. You can't just walk into a store and buy them, and insurance is all over the place with everything else going on."

Determined to help, Merlino turned to her personal network – other mothers who also had children with similar medical needs, including Sarah Tabella and Gina Cairone. Without hesitation, they responded, donating excess supplies they had on hand. The challenge, however, was finding a

way to get those supplies to the people who needed them most.

That's when fate intervened. Merlino discovered Katie Hamias in Los Angeles, who had transformed her home into a makeshift warehouse, distributing critical medical supplies to displaced families.

With a contact in place, Merlino's mission took shape. She gathered donations – everything from G-tubes, formula, and syringes for medication to gloves and diapers that aren't easily found in retail stores. But a new problem arose: how to get these

● MERLINO - PAGE 10



Master chef Walter Potenza says that quality ingredients are the key to making good pasta. Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti

Mixing, kneading, rolling taught by a master chef at Senior Center

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
SunRise Reporter

Flour, water, and a little salt – along with some coaching from a master chef can result in some tasty homemade pasta.

That's what about 20 participants learned at the Johnston Senior Center last week after they took part in a special pasta-making class taught by renown Rhode Island chef, restaurateur, and culinary entrepreneur Walter Potenza.

Potenza who has a long list of national and international awards and accolades, kept his 'class' amused as he taught them how to turn the humble ingredients into handmade cavatelli -- a tightly rolled, short Italian pasta.

First there was the mixing of the ingredients, then the kneading of the dough, the rolling and stretching of the

● POTENZA - PAGE 10



Yilmael Diaz, Lindsay Olsen and Jake Devlin from Amazon join Johnston Fire Department Battalion Chief John Robinson with some of the medical supply donations collected by Jennifer Merlino and shipped at no charge by Amazon to the California wildfire victims. Submitted photos

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Stitching it Together at Knitting, Crocheting Classes at JSC

The Johnston Senior Center continues to enhance its programming to meet the diverse interests and needs of its members. Recently, a number of members learned or refined their skills in crocheting and knitting through classes designed to provide an opportunity to learn new techniques, share patterns, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow enthusiasts. These sessions offer a relaxing and social environment where participants can create handmade projects while enhancing friendships. Those interested in joining are encouraged to stop by the Johnston Senior Center or call for more details. *Submitted photo*

Police Log

LARCENY

On February 3 at approximately 9 a.m., Officer Elijah Bolarino responded to 198 Shun Pike for a report of larceny regarding diesel fuel.

At the scene he met with the reporting party, who stated that the fuel was stolen from excavation machines and a dump truck. The party also informed the officer that on January 27 he noticed diesel fuel missing from his machinery and stated that approximately 112 gallons of fuel was missing, with an estimated value of \$1,100. A lock system on the fuel tank was also broken and missing.

Surveillance cameras on the property captured a white Ford pickup truck driving up to the machinery. While cameras did not capture a suspect, the truck had distinctive markings that made more identifiable. The case was then sent to detectives for review.

Based upon evidence collected and examined, a warrant was drawn for a suspect, identified as Brendon Laflamme, 30, of 62 Brandy Brook Road in North Scituate.

On February 15, Johnston dispatch was contacted by the Warwick Police Department, who indicated that they had Laflamme in custody for the active warrant. Patrolmen then responded to Warwick Police headquarters and took Laflamme into custody for the alleged larceny.

Laflamme was transported to Johnston Police headquarters where he was booked, processed and held. He was arraigned and was issued bail at \$2,000 with surety and a Third District Court summons to appear on February 18. He was found to be a probation violator and was transported to the ACI Intake Center.

SHOPLIFTING

At approximately 4 p.m. on February 9, officers responded to the Home Depot located at 100 Stone Hill Drive in reference to a shoplifting that had occurred earlier in the afternoon.

At the scene the officers met with a member of the store's loss prevention team, who stated that just prior to 1 p.m., a man walked into the store, took a water heater valued at \$539 and then allegedly

walked past all points of sale without paying for the merchandise.

In the parking lot, surveillance cameras show the suspect receiving help from another unknown man who appeared to be a co-conspirator. The heater was then loaded into a newer model white Jeep Grand Cherokee. A description of the suspect was obtained.

Officers later spoke with the Cranston Police Department, who stated that they had a suspect in custody, identified as David Nadeau, who matched the description of the suspect and reportedly admitted to stealing the water heater. Nadeau had been arrested in a separate shoplifting incident which occurred in Cranston following the incident in Johnston, and was operating a Jeep Grand Cherokee. The water heater was reportedly found in his possession.

On February 13, Nadeau was arraigned in the Third District Court and presented as a bail violator on three separate charges. No plea was entered, and Nadeau was held as a bail violator. He was issued a no trespass order for the Johnston Home Depot, and issued a \$5,000 surety bail on the new charge.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

While on a fixed post on Plainfield Street on February 14 at approximately 6:18 p.m., officers observed a black Honda Accord with no front registration plate. A motor vehicle stop was then initiated.

Contact was then made with the driver, identified as Jason Ruiz, 27, of 16 Lucas Street, Apt. 1 in Pawtucket. Ruiz allegedly stated that he was aware that his vehicle was unregistered and that his license had been suspended.

Background checks on Ruiz confirmed the license suspension, and that this was his fourth offense. He was placed under arrest and his vehicle was towed from the scene. Ruiz was transported to police headquarters where he was booked, processed, and later released with a district court summons for driving with a suspended license fourth offence and mailed a citation for the display of plates violation.

Editor's Note: *The preceding arrest log information has been taken from arrest log reports provided by the Johnston Police Department.*

CORRECTION

In a story last week on State Rep. Richard Fascia, the first Republican to hold the Dist. 42 House seat in more than 80 years, the final vote count was incorrect. Fascia outpolled opponent Kelsey K. Coletta by 676 votes, garnering 54.6 percent of the total votes cast.

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Scouts help Honor Flight Veterans prepare to soar

Scouts from Scouting America Troop 20 Johnston recently had the honor of meeting with veterans from the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub during one of their pre-flight meetings. This organization is dedicated to honoring veterans by providing them with no-cost trips to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice.

Since its recognition as an official hub of the Honor Flight Network in 2012, the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub has conducted 30 Honor Flights, transporting over 925 World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans. The next scheduled Honor Flight is set for March 30, and is currently fully booked. Another flight is planned for the fall of 2025, with applications now being accepted.

During the pre-flight meeting, the scouts had the opportunity to speak with veterans who will be part of the upcoming Honor Flight, including Robert Cullen, an Air Force Vietnam veteran, and Warren Riccitelli, a Vietnam veteran. Both veterans are well-known to the scouts, making



ing the event even more meaningful for the troop.

The Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub continues its mission to recognize and thank veterans for their service. Veterans interested in participating in future Honor Flights can download application forms from the

organization's website. For more information or to support their mission, contact Chief George S. Farrell (retired), Chairman of the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub, at rifirechiefshonorflight@gmail.com.

Submitted photos

Cub Scouts showcase speed at Pinewood Derby

Competition and the spirit of camaraderie filled the air as Cub Scouts from Pack 20 Johnston gathered for their annual Pinewood Derby on February 15.

This beloved tradition brought Cub Scouts and parents together for a day of

creativity, craftsmanship, and high-speed excitement.

Held at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, the Pinewood Derby showcases the hard work and dedication of each Scout through their handcrafted wooden race cars. More

than just a race, the event highlights the teamwork between Scouts and their families, who create their own designs and fine-tune their cars for maximum speed.

"A great time was had by all! Wow, just wow!" said Eagle Scout and Cub Scout dad William DeRita on Facebook following the event.

The race featured a wide variety of designs and creative themes. Cheers erupted as the cars zipped down the track, with each race bringing close call finishes.

After multiple rounds of intense competition, five Scouts emerged as the top finishers:

1st Place: Lion Scout Anson Birtwell with his car, *Thunder Roll*

2nd Place: Arrow of Light Scout Pemberley Reyes with *Stitch MY Love*

3rd Place: Tiger Scout Aria Home with *Pink Cheetah Car*

4th Place: Arrow of Light Scout Brody Amaral with *Freedom*

5th Place: Lion Scout Donovan Charest with *Fire Hawk*

The top finishers earned the opportunity to represent Pack 20 Johnston at the upcoming regional competition, where they will



put their skills to the test against other top racers from across the area.

Beyond the rankings, every Scout walked away a winner, gaining valuable lessons in sportsmanship, perseverance, and problem-solving. And while the race is exciting, the scouts' real reward comes from the experience itself.

For more information about becoming a Cub Scout, visit www.beascout.org.

Submitted photos



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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:



Local CCRI students, production win 10 awards

The Community College of Rhode Island's student-run theatre group, the CCRI Players, proudly marks a half-century of participation in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 1, held this year at Central Connecticut State University. Over the five-day event, the Players distinguished themselves with 10 awards across various disciplines, including acting and properties design.

Individual Honors

Nathaniel Campbell of Johnston was honored with the Eye of the Storm Award for his exceptional talent in properties design.

Ayana Desimone of North Kingstown received Outstanding Ensemble Performance in a National Playwright Production Reading for her role in *Schrödinger & Co.*



CCRI students Ayana Desimone of North Kingstown and Nathaniel Campbell of Johnston received individual honors in Region 1 of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. *Submitted photo*

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown
Let the Right One In
Doubt: A Parable

Additionally, Benjamin Card of Coventry and Maxwell Hayden of Warwick advanced to the final round of the prestigious Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Audition, showcasing their exceptional acting talents.

The students' achievements were guided by the dedicated mentorship of CCRI faculty members Ted Clement, Anthony Goes, Justin Carroll and Mark Colozzi, who devoted their time over the winter break to helping students perfect their performances.

Reflecting on the mile-

stone, CCRI Prof. Ted Clement, theatre program coordinator, stated, "Our 50-year journey with the KCACTF has been a testament to the unwavering commitment and passion of our students and faculty. This year's accomplishments highlight the exceptional talent within our program and our dedication to fostering artistic excellence."

The CCRI Players 2024/2025 season continues March 6-8 with a production of Stephen Sondheim's multiple Tony Award-winning tour de force *Assassins*. For more information about the CCRI Players and their upcoming performances, visit ccri.edu/performingarts/theatre.

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Ferri Middle School Wins State STEM Award for Innovative Composting Project

Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School has been named Rhode Island's State Winner in the 15th annual Samsung Solve for Tomorrow national Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) competition. The school has received a \$12,000 Samsung technology prize package, including a Samsung Video Kit, to showcase their innovative STEM solution.

Students at Ferri Middle School are working to help Rhode Island eliminate styrofoam waste from schools. Their project focuses on replacing styrofoam lunch trays with compostable ones and converting them into usable compost for a school garden. The garden will then support a local community food station near the school, benefiting residents in need.

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is a national competition that empowers students in grades 6-12 to apply STEM skills to real-world challenges. This year's competition highlights key issues such as environmental sustainability, public health, and accessibility. More than half of the 50 State

Winners represent Title 1 schools, emphasizing Samsung's commitment to equitable STEM education.

"These students are redefining STEM as a tool for real-world problem-solving," said Salman Taufiq, Head of Brand Marketing at Samsung Electronics America. "By addressing critical issues with innovative technology, they are preparing to lead in a rapidly evolving workforce."

The next phase of the competition requires State Winners to create a three-minute video pitch demonstrating their STEM solution. These submissions, due by March 6, 2025, will determine the 10 National Finalists, who will compete for one of three \$100,000 grand prizes.

With support from Samsung mentors, students at Ferri Middle School will refine their project and presentation as they continue their journey in the competition. Their creative approach to sustainability and community support showcases the power of STEM to make a tangible difference.

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Opinion

EDITORIAL

Pipeline to good jobs just got bigger

For too long, barriers to the education and skills required to get a “good job” have been too high and too expensive. Also for too long, the definition of a “good job” has been relegated to a finite number of white-collar careers, despite what we now know is a drastically inconsistent rate of return for those types of jobs, often depending on specific degree and field of study.

The New England Institute of Technology deserves a large round of applause for its recent effort to address both of those imbalances – and for working toward a future where more people can pursue an in-demand career with a good, solid paycheck without mortgaging the next 30 years of their lives.

By slicing tuition nearly in half – 47% – for seven of its programs, NEIT is providing the opportunity for students to invest in their futures for the price of an affordable new car rather than the cost of an overpriced starter home.

The decision to slash the price of those programs now brings the cost of all of NEIT’s programs within the same range, giving students the chance to pick the program they want to pursue, rather than make a decision based on how

much they can afford. This, hopefully, will go a long way toward producing the thousands of skilled workers Rhode Island will need to overcome a projected labor shortage in skilled trades in the years ahead.

Amy Grzybowski, NEIT’s vice president of community engagement and workforce development, has spent much of her career trying to improve the state’s labor-training efficacy, including transformational work in developing the Westerly Education Center. We are encouraged that people like her continue to be focused on creating a better pipeline for the skilled trades in Rhode Island.

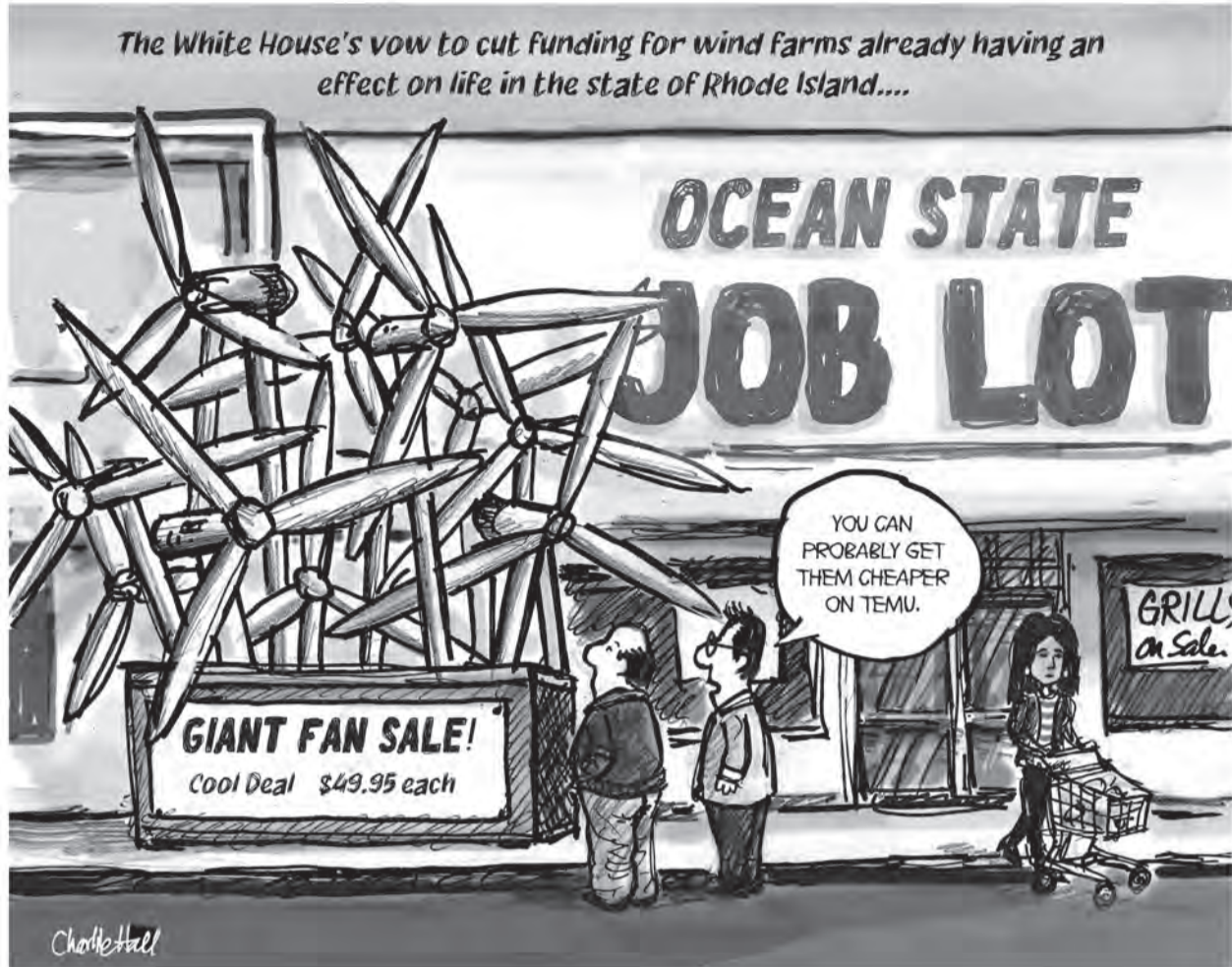
With all of the tumult we have seen in public education over the last decade-plus, the rise of career and technical education programs has been a bright spot.

Seeing the enthusiasm that kids have for this type of training, and knowing of the availability of jobs once they graduate, gives renewed hope that things like homeownership are still possible for people entering the workforce today.

This does not mean that graduating from NEIT is a free ride to a good life, of course. Hard work is a prerequisite for these jobs, same as any other. But entering the workforce without a six-figure debt hanging over your head makes it easier to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and wake up ready and excited for work.

range, giving students the chance to pick the program they want to pursue, rather than make a decision based on how

WHERE TO WRITE:
1944 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889
TimF@beaconmediari.com



LETTERS

Cryptocurrency Kiosk Fraud Tell Your Legislators To Stop It Now

To the Editor:

Criminals have found a new way to steal millions of dollars from older Americans. During this year’s legislative session, our elected officials in Rhode Island will have the opportunity to address this issue and help to protect our vulnerable community members by taking action to stop them.

Cryptocurrency ATMs, also known as “crypto kiosks” or “virtual currency kiosks,” allow people to conduct legitimate cryptocurrency transactions. Unfortunately, these machines are being used by criminals to perpetrate fraud. In 2023, the FBI reported over 5,500 cases involving crypto ATMs, leading to an alarming total of \$189 million stolen across the country. And, many individuals do not report being scammed, leaving even more victims unrecognized. It is crucial that we come together to support those at risk and work towards solu-

tions that ensure their safety and security.

There are over 20,000 cryptocurrency ATMs across the United States, and at least nine are located in Johnston. The way it works is that perpetrators convince individuals that they must address an urgent financial matter, directing them to withdraw large amounts of cash—sometimes tens of thousands of dollars—from their bank and insert the money into a cryptocurrency kiosk via a digital QR code. It is then transferred to the criminal-and not refundable once you realize that you have become a victim of fraud. These criminals can be remarkably cunning, often manipulating even the most knowledgeable individuals. By recognizing their tactics, we can empower ourselves and others to respond with clarity and resilience, fostering a stronger sense of awareness and support in our communities.

As part of its ongoing efforts to

fight fraud, AARP Rhode Island supports House Bill 5121 and Senate Bill 16. This important legislation aims to deter criminals from using crypto ATMs for fraudulent activities by creating essential safety measures and consumer protections. This legislation will set daily transaction limits for crypto kiosks and require the posting of fraud warning notices, advising individuals on how to respond if they suspect fraudulent activity.

Older Rhode Islanders have worked hard to save for a secure retirement. Call or write your legislators today and tell them to support House Bill 5121 and Senate Bill 16-the Crypto ATM Regulation bill. We’re counting on our lawmakers to ensure our savings remain where they belong and not in a criminal’s digital wallet.

**Marianne Kelly, Co-Lead,
AARP RI Fraud Watch
Volunteer Team**

Al Gore had a better way of reforming government

To the Editor:

I agree with your [Feb. 20] editorial, “This isn’t “efficiency” – it’s casual destruction.

I am a retired federal employee with close to 33 years of continuous federal employment in the competitive civil service.

In 1993 Vice President Al Gore initiated The National Partnership for Reinventing Government-to improve and streamline federal government operations. John Kamensky served as deputy director of Gore’s National Partnership for Reinventing Government. Mr. Kamensky authored “A Brief History” in 1999, outlining this initiative. The initiative was well thought out.

In the initial phase, career federal employees were offered the opportunity to take part on various task forces, personnel, procurement etc. An employee had to apply to the head of the department.

Although my classification was budget officer, with the U.S. Department of Justice, I had a collateral duty. When the position of procurement officer was delegated to the agency I worked in, I was told I would also do procurement.

We lacked funding to hire a full-time employee for the new position. I could not say no, because a boilerplate paragraph in an employee’s workplan included “other duties as assigned.” I became a certified U.S.

Government contracting officer, after training and testing. I received no additional compensation for what was another full-time position.

I found the government procurement process to be convoluted. Hence, I was motivated to be on a procurement task force. I applied directly to Attorney General Janet Reno and was accepted.

I think Vice President Al Gore had a better plan to reform federal government – while keeping it intact and maintaining its integrity.

**Sincerely,
Rebecca Rotondo
Johnston**

JohnstonSunRise

John Howell, Publisher Emeritus


<p>Publisher Joy Fox - Publisher@BeaconMediaRI.com</p> <p>Editor Tim Forsberg - TimF@BeaconMediaRI.com</p> <p>Reporters Barbara Polichetti - BarbaraP@beaconmediari.com Rosegalie Cineus - RosegalieC@beaconmediari.com</p> <p>Sports Editor Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com</p> <p>Advertising Director Donna Zarrella - DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com</p> <p>Classified Advertising Ida Zecco - Classifieds@rhodybeat.com</p>	<p>Advertising Representatives Suzanne Wendoloski - SuzanneW@rhodybeat.com</p> <p>Credit Manager Lynne Taylor</p> <p>Bookkeeping & Circulation Leslie Paz Andujar</p> <p>Production Manager Lisa Bourque Yuetner - LisaB@rhodybeat.com</p> <p>Production Staff Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com</p> <p>Spotlight Profile Writer Jennifer Coates - JenniferC@rhodybeat.com</p>
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

For the last couple of months, our team has been working behind the scenes to update our technology and software. Not the most glamorous task, but necessary for us to keep delivering for you every week.

These upgrades also presented an opportunity for us to refresh our look and layout a little, updating our nameplates and fonts and introducing the Lifestyles section. Fear not, this section will still have features and coverage of arts, entertainment and more.

Changes like this are not always easy, especially with a small but mighty team that lives on a tight weekly deadline schedule producing the Cranston Herald, Warwick Beacon, Johnston SunRise and The Reminder.

I would like to express my appreciation to Lisa Bourque Yuettner and Monique Rice. You will never see



their byline or photo credit but they are critical to our team.

Lisa and Mo are the backbone of our production department, along

with Jason Major. It is because of their dedication that our papers hit the streets (and our websites) every week. And the updates you are seeing this week are the products of their work.

The one thing that is not changing is our commitment to covering our communities. In the coming months, we will be focused on city and town budgets and our schools as well as countless events in our neighborhoods and beyond.

Lastly, as we continue to explore new ways to deliver the news, we want to hear from you. And we hope you will continue to subscribe – and turn to us to spread the word about your business. This is your community, and it is an honor to be your newspaper of record. Please reach out anytime.

Thank you, Joy

GUEST OPINION

Reimagining philanthropy in changing times

By DAVID N. CICILLINE

National and local transitions of power have a real impact on the day-to-day lives of all Rhode Islanders, and on the organizations that help support thriving communities. From the uncertainty many experience during times of transition, to navigating complex conversations about the challenges we all face, as the state's community foundation we have chosen and will continue to choose a singular, purposeful response: meeting the needs of all Rhode Islanders.

For over a century, during times of tumult and tranquility, the Rhode Island Foundation has remained committed to solutions-oriented philanthropy, and to thoughtfully addressing the powerful structures that may be keeping progress at bay.

In many ways our work is more relevant than ever. That is why we are reimagining how philanthropy can address our shared challenges and prove that generosity is more than just a donation: it's a strategic investment in our collective future that will stand the test of time, bridge divides and create meaningful progress in an increasingly complex world.

For those new to our work, community foundations are powerful yet adaptable tools for the public good. They pool charitable gifts and invest them, channeling the returns into meaningful initiatives that improve quality of life. Community foundations aren't government agencies, nor are they dependent on public funds. And, they are not private philanthropies. Community foundations are bridges, connecting everyday gener-

osity to true progress.

Recently we unveiled our Five-Year Action Plan, an ambitious blueprint for hope that was informed by the voices of Rhode Islanders. The Action Plan focuses our attention on Civic and Cultural Life, Climate Action and Sustainability, Education and Student Success, Healthy and Strong Communities and Housing and Economic Mobility, all guided by inclusiveness, accessibility, compassion, mutual respect and humility. The Action Plan acknowledges the intricate web of challenges that Rhode Islanders face and creates space for sourcing and supporting solutions.

The priorities outlined in the Action Plan are not siloed. They are interconnected pathways to progress. Their intersections are where the most transformative possibilities emerge. For example, a climate resilience project is about creating a blue economy workforce – and about environmental protection. An education initiative is about breaking the generational cycles of poverty – and about leveling-up classroom learning. Building affordable, accessible housing is about providing our children and grandchildren with a way to settle in and contribute to the community right here in Rhode Island – and about driving down the cost of rent and homeownership for all.

To address these priorities, we've developed a new approach to funding local organizations and institutions. By updating the design of our grant programs, we aim to make the process more accessible and better equipped to meet the complex needs of the nonprofits and community

leaders driving this work.

Three core grant programs will power these efforts: Community Priority Grants, Catalyst Grants and Capacity Building Grants. The three programs represent a sophisticated understanding of community need and offer a range of flexible funding meant to empower organizations with the resources not just to respond to challenges, but to innovate and build lasting progress.

Our future isn't predetermined. It's constructed, brick by brick, gift by gift, grant by grant, opportunity by opportunity. The foundation's work is grounded in partnerships with individuals, nonprofits, businesses and civic leaders who have come together for over a century to create a better Rhode Island. And as challenging as the obstacles ahead may feel, we have cause for hope.

We invite everyone – whether you work at a nonprofit, run a local business, lead the PTO or the local zoning board or are simply interested in the well-being of our state – to explore our Five-Year Action Plan and consider how you might contribute to this shared vision. Learn more about the action plan and our new grant programs by visiting rifoundation.org.

Together we can transform generosity into a powerful force for good, building the thriving and resilient communities that we all want to be a part of.

David N. Cicilline, former Providence mayor and former U.S. representative in Rhode Island's First Congressional District, is president and CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation.

iii RISLA

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Legal Notices

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Avenue

- I. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Minutes from Previous Meetings
- III. Election of Officers for 2025
- IV. Appointing Member of the Land Trust
- V. Old Business:

ZBR File 2022-2-Petition of Johnston Asphalt LLC, Applicant for 100 Allendale Ave. AP 36 Lot 77. Zoned industrial. The Petitioner is seeking a special use permit pursuant to Section 340-75 for installation of Two Hot Mix Asphalt Storage Silos. This matter has

been remanded by the Superior Court for a new hearing before the Zoning Board.
VI. New Business:

Petition of Amanda Saucedo 25 Pinewood Ave AP 9 Lot 78, Zone R15. Requesting to construct an attached garage with living space above. 30ft.x 20ft. 600 SQ. Feet

VI. Adjournment
Per order of the Zoning Board of Review
Thomas Lopardo, Chairman

• The Zoning 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 Department of Development and Public Services, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

• Items not heard by 10:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or special meeting at the discretion of Board.
• Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

2/20, 2/27/25


What's on your mind?

The Johnston SunRise encourages letters to the editor. It's part of our mission to reflect a multitude of perspectives on everything from community news to national politics. In the interest of including as many viewpoints as possible, we ask that you hold your letter to 250 words. We can accommodate a longer piece on a complex topic as an op-ed, preferably with a local focus and a maximum of 750 words. With your letter or op-ed, we ask that you include a phone number (not for publication) where we can reach you to confirm authorship. We'd like to hear from you.

• **WHERE TO WRITE:**
TimF@beaconmediari.com
or...
The Johnston SunRise
1944 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889

Obituaries

Joseph M. Ventresco

 A beloved cousin, Godfather, and friend, Joseph M. Ventresco, 92, of Johnston, passed away peacefully at Morgan Health Center on February 20th, 2025. Born in Providence on June 6th, 1932, he was a cherished son of the late Marco and Maria (DiGuistini) Ventresco and is survived by his cousins, Josephina and Antonetta DiGuistini, both of Charlestown, MA;



Julianna DiGuistini and her husband Tom of Philadelphia PA; and his dear friends and Godson, Frank Jasparro and his wife Marion of Davie, Florida, & William Jasparro and his wife Donna, of Scituate. Joe was predeceased by his only brother Gabriel (Gibby) Ventresco in 2016.

Joe was a Renaissance man, a hard-working man who loved his family and had many interests. Born in Maine and raised in Johnston in a traditional Italian family, he attended Johnston Public Schools before being drafted into the US Army where he served his country honorably during the Korean War. When he returned home, he worked in the thriving Rhode Island jewelry industry for many years before retiring.

Always stylishly attired, Joe always looked neat and sharp; truly impeccable! He enjoyed fine dining and loved to eat out often with friends; however, he absolutely refused to eat chicken! He had a great sense of humor and never forgot to make time for family and friends.

As with everything he did, he took great pride in his lush, vibrant vegetable garden, the produce from which he generously shared. He was a New York Yankee's fan and stood by his team through thick and thin. He loved classical music and especially enjoyed Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. He loved to dance and enjoyed fixing old clocks. He would go to the Antique Fair once a year in Brimfield, MA to look for clocks and other items he admired. He will be remembered most for his heart made of pure Italian gold and will be sorely missed by his family & many loved ones. May he rest in eternal peace until we meet again!

Relatives & friends were cordially invited to services for Joe on Wednesday, February 26th at 8:45 am in the Berarducci Funeral Home at 26 Grove St in Providence, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 am at Our Lady of Grace Church on George Waterman Road Johnston. Burial took place in St Ann's Cemetery, Cranston, immediately following the Mass.



Anna Notarianni of Johnston helps as Shirley Saccoccio of Cranston slices pieces of 100th anniversary cake. *Beacon Media photos*

St. Mary's celebrates 100 years of embracing faith, family, traditions

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

Their fathers and grandfathers would have been proud.

Antonio. Cosmo. Vincenzo. And so many more hard-working Italians who tirelessly petitioned the Diocese of Providence to grant them permission to build a church where they could celebrate their faith in their language and with their customs – and also create a monument to their devotion to their patron saint, Santa Maria della Civita.

Their dedication paid off 100 years ago this month, on Feb. 21, 1925, when the bishop informed the Rev. Cesare Schettini that permission had been granted for a new church – St. Mary's – to be built in the Knightsville section of Cranston.

“Our forefathers worked so hard pleading and demanding for a church of their own,” Bob Pirraglia, a trustee of the church, said last week. “They had such a firm belief in their religion -- their loyalty remains an inspiration to us today.”

A number of events will be held throughout the year to commemorate the centennial anniversary, but the official “birthday party” was held last Friday at the parish center on Vallone Road. There was vanilla-frosted birthday cake, coffee, blue and white balloons, happiness, and memories. The evening also included music from the Ambrosiani Italian- American Band.

“I wish my grandfather (Vincenzo Soscia) was here to see this,” said Valerie McIntyre, when asked what the celebration meant to her. Her aunt, Rose Micallef told her



it was wonderful they were keeping the tradition.

Time and time again, parishioners recalled how their ancestors lobbied to get a church specifically for area residents of Italian descent, most of them from the small town of Itri, Italy.

“This is a party to celebrate the birth of the church and the parish we love,” said Pirraglia who has extensively researched St. Mary's history. “It is also to celebrate

the ancestors we love who fought so hard to make it possible.”

According to Pirraglia, when a wave of Italian families began settling in Knightsville around the turn of the century, there was no Catholic church nearby where Mass was celebrated in Italian. He said that the only neighborhood church was St. Ann's on Cranston Street. That parish was comprised largely of families of Irish descent, and they spoke English, he said.

Father Schettini was brought in to minister to the Italians in their native language, but Pirraglia said their options were limited. They were given space in the basement of St. Ann's Church and there were only two masses for them each week.

Over time, he said, the families became frustrated and began writing the Diocese in an attempt to get permission to build a church of their own. Some of the more prevalent families who helped lead the campaign for the new church are names that are still common in Knightsville today such as Sepe, Cardi, Vallone and Saccoccio, he said.

Their letters and appeals to the Diocese went largely unanswered, Pirraglia said, but around 1923, the Italian parishioners took a strong stance and said they were going to stop worshipping at St. Anns and find a way to do things on their own and would no longer support the diocese.

“All they wanted was a church where they could embrace their traditions, their heritage...their experiences,” he said.

The change in tactics worked, with permission granted to Father Schettini in the 1925 letter from the bishop.

After that, Pirraglia said, the parishioners zealously began searching for land and fundraising for building costs. They wanted a location very close to St. Ann's since most of them lived in the area and did not have their own transportation. They found a piece of land that was practically next door to St. Anne's and they raised \$100,000 -- a value of more than \$2 million in today's dollars. Construction on the church began in 1935.

The early population of St. Mary's parish was nearly 490 families or 2,800 people, and the church has continued to grow, now, a century later, numbers about 700 families consisting of more than 4,500 people.

“We are a family,” Pirraglia said. “We are a family of faith. And we are dedicated to our faith.”

100th Anniversary logo created by Deanna (Campopiano) Agresti.



Matthew Volpi, Jr of Cranston joined his father and president of the Feast Society, Matthew Volpi, Sr on Friday. “There are lots of great people here and I am proud to be a part of the community,” said Matthew.



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



Mutual aid from Warwick, Smithfield, Cranston, West Warwick, and Providence assisted in the fight to extinguish the fire at the Bainbridge Apartments. Submitted photos

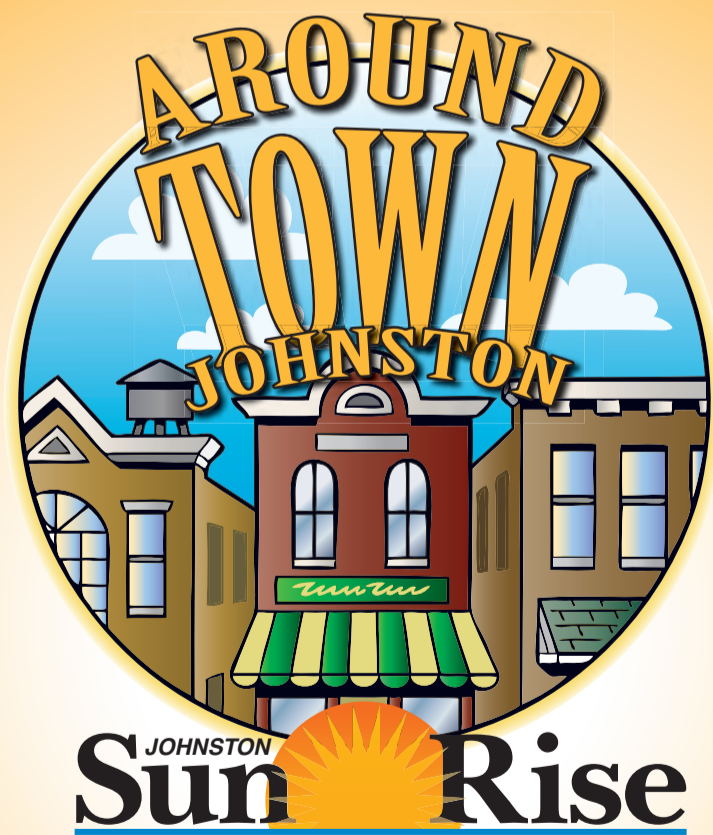


● FIRE from - page 1

A call to the apartment complex, managed by Micozzi Management, was not immediately returned.

As the community comes together in response to this tragedy, local leaders encourage residents to sup-

port relief efforts through donations or by assisting local organizations providing aid. More information on assistance and ways to help may be found through the Red Cross and the Tri-County Community Action Agency.



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Raffle run by the Rotary Club of Warwick. Drawing to be held April 2025, winner has option of cash, full details on the ticket

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With bragging rights on the line, pool tourney set for March 4

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

Game on! Pool enthusiasts from the Cranston Senior Center are going to face their counterparts from the Johnston Senior Center on March 4th.

It's all in good fun and there's no money or prizes on the line, but that's not stopping the participants from indulging in a little good-natured ribbing ahead of time.

Harvey DuPerry, "captain" of the Cranston team said his opponents should "bring their lunch money," using the slang expression for being ready to pay up.

"Actually, it's all for fun," he said, but added that the Cranston crew is definitely going to bring their "A" game.

They play every day on the second floor of the Cranston center and between them have them more than 100 years of experience.

It's pretty much the same for the Johnston team. They are calling themselves the underdogs because Cranston has more pool tables but say they're ready to compete for bragging rights.



Like Cranston, they are just a bunch of friends who like to get together to play pool – a game most of them started when they were young.

Both teams saying that shooting pool helps them stay sharp, and it's a sport that anyone can pick up at any age.

"We're ready and looking forward to it," said Bob Piscione, the Johnston team captain and operations manager at the Johnston Center. "We're going to have fun," he said, "and they just might be surprised."

The unofficial tournament is scheduled for about 9 am at the Cranston Senior Center on Tuesday, March 4.

RIDE gives Thornton three out of five stars, principal sees progress

By TIM FORSBERG
Editor

Rhode Island's public schools were recently judged by the Rhode Island Department of Education based upon their performance for the 2023-24 school year, and Thornton Elementary School Principal Kerrie Calabro-Pepin made a point of reviewing her school's results with students' parents and the community.

Calabro-Pepin recently held an after-school workshop inviting parents and guardians to review the school's score, which was three out of five stars. She broke down what the results mean for students and their futures.

"I have watched the teachers in this building and how hard they work. I have watched the work that the kids are exposed to, and I see that there are some things we can do better," said Calabro Pepin, who just recently celebrated her one-year anniversary as principal of the school. "There are some things where we have to work smarter and not harder. I also feel like we have an untapped resource that we're not fully utilizing, and that's our students' parents."

Schools are graded on a scale of one to five stars in up to five categories – School Quality and Student Success, Achievement and Growth, Graduation Rate, Diploma Plus Measures, and English Language Proficiency.

This overall star indicator of school performance provides a simple way to understand overall school successes. Schools receive their rating based on their lowest score in the categories where they were assessed.

Under Rhode Island's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, the accountability results build off previ-

ously released assessment results and provide a view of school and performance across multiple other measures, including non-assessment measures like student chronic absenteeism.

Thornton Elementary, like most of Johnston's schools, received a three-star ranking. Below them at two stars are Ferri Middle School, and Johnston Senior High School.

At Thornton, they had a 99% participation rate in accountability for English Language Proficiency, however only 27% of students were deemed proficient.

"It's very low. That's basically saying that, if you combine the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years, it equals about 44% of our students in two years are proficient," said Calabro Pepin. "The partially proficient, however, dramatically rose from 36% to 53.5% That's a lot."

The school had a 100% participation rate in accountability for math in 2023 to 2024, in which only 21% of students were deemed proficient. When taking into account the years 2022-2024, the school's proficiency index was ranked at 41%.

While Calabro Pepin believes there has been a lot of progress in the elementary schools, she believes Thornton, in particular, will continue to show improved growth, and that it's possible the school could advance their percentages enough to bring the school to a four star rating before the elementary school consolidation takes place.

Some parents in the district have raised concerns about RIDE's rating system, particularly regarding how English Language Proficiency affects overall school rankings. School officials have argued that grading schools based on their lowest-scoring catego-

ry, rather than an average of all categories, disproportionately affects schools with larger populations of multilingual learners such as Thornton.

Calabro Pepin stated that she and the district remain committed to improving scores across all categories and ensuring that students receive the highest quality education possible.

Looking forward, she hopes increased family involvement in the school and outside will help support fundamental skills. Calabro Pepin plans to implement a summer challenge check in at the end of July to assess summer learning loss, as well as early assessments in math and ELA to maximize intervention supports. The school also plans to implement a Book Buddies program, where students from higher grades read to lower grades; a school wide book reading and vocabulary challenge; and school vacation packets to encourage math and reading during school breaks for skill maintenance.

Additional priority areas include social-emotional learning activities and events, attendance initiatives with increased school wide celebrations, and expanded cultural events and experiences from within the school community. Calabro Pepin also looks for increased focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs to build competency in the scientific method.

"When you look at these pieces and you look at the year-to-year trajectory, you have to ask what is it that we're doing that's not getting us to that next level," said Calabro Pepin. "So we really have to look at the data, we have to dig deep, and we have to look at what types of programs and what type of focus do we want to have."

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian
Local  Adoptable  Loveable



Photo credit: Donna Normand

Cody

If you've been searching for a young pup to join your home, then look no further! Cody will fill your heart and home completely! He is an eight month old medium sized mixed breed with a beautiful tri-color coat with chocolate eyes that will steal your heart. Cody likes other playful pups, he's super smart, he is a little shy when you first meet him but he opens up quickly. He loves to romp around and play too! How can you not fall in love with this face? To meet Cody please contact Rhode Home Rescue via their website at www.rhodehomerescue.org Cody will be waiting to light up your life!

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



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Peaches

All adoption fees are \$14.00 until the end of February at Providence Animal Control. Peaches lives up to her name, she's as sweet as they come! This beautiful, happy go lucky girl was found as a stray but unfortunately was never reclaimed so now she finds herself at Providence Animal Control hoping someone will fall in love with her! They think she's about six years old and she's a petite lady with a beautiful brindle and white coat. Peaches is happy to get lots of attention, belly rubs and yummy treats! If you'd like to meet Peaches, please email PACadoptions@providenceri.gov and if you do not have access to email, please call 401-243-6040 to find out how to apply. Peaches will be waiting to share her sweetness with you!

● POTENZA from - page 1

dough, and finally the cutting and pinching of the dough into the desired shape.

Potenza's instructions, delivered in his lilting Italian accent, were gentle but firm. And he challenged many of the family cooking habits of his students, most of whom happened to be of Italian descent.

When he found out that the water that was being boiled to cook the pasta in had been salted, he required that it be poured out and replaced with plain water.

Why?

"Salt makes the water boil too fast," Potenza explained. It also boils unevenly, sending the pasta scattered to the sides of the pot. Instead, he said, you want a slow, steady boil so the pasta cooks evenly.

When Johnston Senior Center Director Richard DelFino Jr., a good home cook in his own right, announced that he had a pot of meatballs and 'gravy' ready for when the pasta was finished, Potenza pretended to look pained.

"No, no," he said. "It's not gravy, it's sauce. I know we say 'Sunday gravy' here, but it's sauce."

Potenza who is officially 'retired,' but busier than most people with his businesses and special food and wine tours he leads in Italy, recently became involved with several area senior centers. He said he wants to help seniors with nutrition also encourage them to discover (or rediscover) the joys of cooking.

That's a lot of pasta. The 'class' goes to work creating hand-crafted cavatelli. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*



Master Chef Walter Potenza (left) gives Johnston Senior Center Director Richard DelFino kudos for NOT adding sugar to his spaghetti sauce. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

On Tuesday Feb. 25, he was scheduled to conduct his pasta-making class at the Cranston Senior Center.

Potenza wove culinary history into his instructions, which helped soften the blow in Johnston when several people admitted to using sugar to sweeten their gravy, er, tomato sauce. "You should be arrested," Potenza said with a laugh. Then he added that that practice, common here in New England, came about because many Italian immigrants could not afford to

buy expensive canned tomatoes.

As a result, what they did buy was often a bit bitter, so they had to use sugar – or wine – to cut the acidity and sweeten the sauce.

"With good tomatoes, you don't need that," he said. The "graduation" celebration for his Johnston students was sitting down to bowls of their just-made pasta tossed in DelFino's sauce – no sugar added.



The finished product. Homemade cavatelli in tomato sauce.

● MERLINO from - page 1

essential supplies across the country.

A conversation at the Johnston Fire Department provided the unexpected solution. While discussing the logistics of shipping, Fire Chief David Iannuccilli suggested reaching out to Amazon, which was already in discussions with local fire officials on other matters. Seeing an opportunity to foster goodwill within the community, Amazon agreed to ship the supplies at no cost.

"I had no idea how I was going to be able to ship them myself," Merlino said, adding thanks to the fire department and Amazon for their assistance "We ended up with 17 or 18 boxes. It was a huge relief when Amazon said they'd help."

Amazon delivered relief packages to Los Angeles through its program Amazon Local Good, which provides

free transportation of food and essential items for non-profits and communities in need. These efforts build on the company's \$10 million commitment and donations of more than 500,000 essential relief items and resources to response organizations in support of California wildfire relief efforts.

For Merlino, the effort was never about recognition; it was about doing what she could to help families like hers.

"These families are so generous," she said. "If I had opened it up longer, we would have received even more donations. But I knew we needed to act fast."

Her grassroots effort, born out of compassion and a personal connection to those struggling, made a real impact. In the face of disaster, Merlino proved that a small group of determined individuals can bring relief to those in need, one box at a time.

Lifestyles

Kitchen *to* Classroom

Sabitoni leaves mark on Rhode Island hospitality industry

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

Johnson and Wales University professor Michael Sabitoni was recently awarded a ribbon as part of an induction ceremony given by the Rhode Island Bailliage de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, an international gastronomic society founded in Paris 75 years ago. The society has chapters around the world, and more than 150 districts (*bailliages* in French) in the United States, including several in New England,

Sabitoni has been a familiar face at Johnson and Wales, where he has taught since 1992. He currently chairs two departments in the College of Hospitality Management: the Department of International Travel/Tourism Studies and the Department of Food & Beverage Management.

The ribbon is not the only award he has received recently. Last month he was honored with an anchor-shaped award from the Rhode Island Hospitality Association (RIHA). It was his second award from the group; in 2022 he received a pineapple-shaped glass trophy at the Association's annual Stars of the Industry event.

Sabitoni is active with RIHA, specifically with the organization's Education Foundation, a group that entices children and teens to work towards careers in the food service and hospitality industries.

"Next Tuesday I'm judging the Prostart competition," Sabitoni says, referring to a competition among students in six area high schools with culinary arts programs.

A native Rhode Islander, Sabitoni was born in Providence and raised in Cranston. His first service industry job was an after-school job at a D'Angelo Sandwich Shop, which eventually grew into him managing the location. After attending Johnson and Wales at night for a few years, he moved to Florida and began working in kitchens.

Realizing he preferred the other side of the kitchen doors, he became a specialist in tableside cooking, a mid-century trend that could still be found in white tablecloth restaurants in the 1970s. From Florida he moved back to New England, and into restaurant and function hall management. Eventually he burned out from working too many 80-hour weeks.

This time he returned to Johnson and Wales to study tourism, and worked a few nights a week at Capriccio, which by the late 1980s was already one of the only holdouts still doing tableside preparation.

"You had your bananas foster, your baked Alaska, your chateaubriand for two," Sabitoni says, listing off items rarely found on menus anymore.

"He's a terrific individual, and very empathetic. Just a pleasure to work for. He's going to leave a big gap when he retires."

—Nick Makris
Food & Beverage Management Professor

After that job, he jumped to working in travel agencies and eventually became a tour guide. After establishing himself in the tourism world, he again returned to Johnson and Wales, this time as a professor.

● SABITONI - PAGE 18

Sabitoni was recently awarded a ribbon as part of an induction ceremony given by the Rhode Island Bailliage de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. *Beacon Media photo by Matthew Lawrence*



LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



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By JENNIFER COATES

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

John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

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

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

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

The director, the staff, the caregivers and all the people who make the Briarcliffe community a big extended "family" try every day to honor the lives of those who pass through these doors today, sixty years later. Their commitment to excellence in care and to providing services which are designed to meet every need has not dimmed over these

decades. In fact, Briarcliffe Manor has become one of the top ranked nursing homes in the country, achieving a five-star rating from the federal government's Center for Medicare & Medicaid for over a decade.

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

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

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

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Sports

Panthers 'invested' despite winless season

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Sports Editor

The Johnston boys basketball team knew that it would have an uphill climb this season as it was moved up to Division I after graduating all five of its seniors from the previous season.

The Panthers took their lumps in the state's toughest field, finishing the year with an 0-20 record. The team will now look ahead to next winter and return to the drawing board with a developing roster.

"The number one thing we took from the season as a coaching staff is that we had the same number of guys involved from Dec. 1 until the last game. They stayed the course, stuck together and worked hard. It's not easy to go winless and come to practice every day and give it your all. Our culture stayed the same, that's a kudos to the team," said coach Mike Bedrosian.

The Panthers were led mostly by underclassmen, with sophomores occupying most of the roster spots. A bright spot for the team was Ronnie Vento, who was the team's primary ball handler and leading scorer. Bedrosian hopes that the team will find new ways of getting him open next season.

● PANTHERS - PAGE 15



Ronnie Vento puts up a shot in a game earlier this season. Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com



Johnston's Lyalo Harrison-Perez (left) and Mikey Abbruzzi (right). Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com

Panthers receive football awards

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Rhode Island Football Coaches Association unveiled their postseason awards for the 2024 season and a handful of Johnston Panthers were recognized.

Leading the way was running back and linebacker Dean Paris, who was named to the Division III First Team along with lineman Matt Ponte.

Quarterback Matt Clements made the Division III Second Team along with freshman receiver Lyalo Harrison-Perez. Kayden Burrell-Cann also made the second team as well as Mike Abbruzzi.

Wrapping things up were Yadier Grullon and James Estrada, who were named to the Division III Third Team.

It's the cutting board for NOAA

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Like other Federal agencies, NOAA is on the cutting board. However, things are not adding up. It makes good economic sense to fund NOAA as their 2023 annual budget was \$6.8 billion, yet fisheries alone have an estimated annual economic impact of over \$400 billion. This impact is just the Fisheries side of NOAA with no weather/atmospheric benefits noted.

Based on what is happening with other agencies, NOAA staff reductions could be as high as 10 to 30 percent (1,000 to 3,000 employees). And, based on what we know so far, the impact could be devastating.

Impacts could include the elimination of many science programs that help manage fisheries such as reduced stock assessments jeopardizing fisheries and stock rebuilding programs. Other impacts may include eliminating observers on commercial vessels which would reduce data reliability and the elimination of Sea Grant programs, which is how the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography has funded much needed research to bolster habitat and fisheries programs over the years.

And the big one, the dismantling of NOAA is possible as it is not an agency established by Congress but rather a Department of Commerce entity.

Things are changing daily, so by the time you read this, new developments may have occurred. But I do know we need to act now by connecting with our US Congress persons, on the House and Senate side, both Republicans and Democrats as growing fish so there are more of them in the water to catch, eat and/or release is good for the economy and good for the fish. And NOAA plays a huge role in growing fish and working on healthy habitats for them.

Send your congress person an email or call them and let them know they need to take action, you can find the names of US House members at <https://www.house.gov/>, contact information for US Senators at <https://www.senate.gov/>.

New England Saltwater Fishing Show March 7 to 9

As a reminder, the New England Saltwater Fishing Show, the largest show of its type in the Northeast, is just two weeks away and is being held Friday, March 7 to Sunday, March 9, 2025, at the Rhode Island Convention Center. The Show features tackle, rods, reels, lures, electronics, charter guides, boats, motors, accessories, clothes and much more.

The Show features over 340 booths with eighteen seminars of interest that will have you catching fish all season. There will be exhibitors show specials and raffles of all types that you will not want to miss and a charter for six as a show door prize.

Scott Travers, Show Director and Executive Director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (show sponsor), said, "Seminars will key in on strategies and tactics to target species such as striped bass, summer flounder, tautog, false albacore and tuna."

Visit www.nesaltwatershow.com for updates on exhibitors at the show.

Show hours at the Rhode Island Convention Center are Friday, March 7, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 8, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Children 11 and under admitted free and on Sunday, March 9, Family Day, all women are admitted free. Visit the Kids Casting Area on Satur-



George Poveromo greets Scott Travers, executive director of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association and Steve Skenyon, board Treasurer, while promoting RISAA's March 7-9 Fishing Show at the RI Convention Center during his Fishing Seminar at Mohegan Sun. Submitted photos

day and Sunday.

All adults who enter the show can register to win a Free Fishing Charter Trip with Capt. Connor MacLeod of Tall Tailz Charters for up to six people. You can purchase raffle tickets for three custom rods donated by Ralph Craft of Crafty One Customs, with the rods displayed at the RISAA membership booths.

Tickets at the door are \$15.

Where's the bite?

Cod. Party boat fishing and a few smaller charter boats continue to fish for cod south of Cape Cod and off Rhode Island waters. Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said, "Not much is going on with saltwater fishing. Some fished last week and had a poor cod bite other than that we are gearing up for the March 7-9 Saltwater Fishing Show at the Rhode Island Convention Center and our big instore sale this year will be April 26 and 27."

Visit Fishing Machine Charters, Pt. Judith, RI at www.fishingmachinecharters.com; www.islandcurrent.com and www.francesfleet.com. Fishing. Full day rates for party boat vessels are generally \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

Freshwater fishing. Check ice conditions with local cities and towns to make sure ice is safe for fishing or skating. Connor Swartz, floor manager at Red Top Sporting Goods, Buzzards Bay said Wednesday, "Ice on area ponds melted this week with the big rain. Anglers finding open water to fish have been doing well with largemouth bass using shiners."

For stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.gov. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) stocked thirteen waterways last week for updates visit Designated Trout Waters | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.



Dustin Stevens, Rhode Island Kayak Fishing Adventures, was a big hit Saturday offering tips on tautog, fluke and striped bass fishing at the Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar Series produced by George Poveromo. You can see Dustin at the March 7-9 Fishing Show at the RI Convention Center.

Another busy week of high school playoffs

It was another busy week of high school sports playoffs as some of our teams lived to see another round while others saw their season come to an end.

The Pilgrim boys fell to West Warwick in the Division II quarterfinals in a great game. The Pats roared in the fourth quarter as Dylan Vale drained a trio of 3-pointers to lead Pilgrim within inches of completing the late comeback. It was a disappointing end for the players, but it goes to show how competitive DII is this season.

Pilgrim was a very good team, maybe even great, and had all the pieces to make a deep run. Vale is arguably the best point guard in the division and Carter Clifton was a force this season after returning to full health. Jack Cirelli, Jack Bannon and Jayden Ames were great in their roles, providing Pilgrim with a little bit of everything on the court.

Had the Pats won on Saturday, they would have had every chance to reach the championship and maybe even win it. Sure, they'd probably be labeled the underdog the following two rounds, but the top

eight or so teams in DII were virtually even. Pilgrim had championship aspirations heading into the season, and despite coming up short, this team proved to be one of the best in its division.

The Cranston West boys and girls teams fell in their preliminary round matchups last week.

For the boys, although they were competitive and reached the postseason, it feels like they're still a year or two away from being a contender due to inexperience.

It's a young roster overall, with the majority of the starters set to return next season. Noah Germain will be one of the best forwards in the state next year and Nate Conca is on his way to being an elite guard. Expect a step forward next year.

For the girls, their season ended earlier than it should have due to injuries. I try to avoid blaming injuries, but this is a team that lost its best overall player in Saniyya Chase. In basketball, one player can truly impact a team's fortune and she was that level of athlete. She was their best rebounder, interior defender and scorer in the paint. To lose that much juice in



My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

those areas, it was inevitable that the team's ceiling would be capped. She'll also be back next year with much of the same roster. I have a feeling that West basketball will have a resurgence next winter.

In Johnston, the girls fell in the DII prelims. One thing that I respect about coach Jhamal Diggs is that his teams are always confident. Whether it was back when he was at Cranston East or now up on Cherry Hill, his teams always ooze confidence which allows them to play to their full potential.

The Panthers had a tough test this year, graduating nearly its entire core from last year while being moved from DIV to DII. The team took its lumps at times but managed to earn a postseason berth.

Bella Gesualdi, Bella Rivas, Alanna Colon, among others will be back and the Ferri Jag-

uars just wrapped up another big season at the middle school level. The Panthers will be one of the most interesting teams next season and could emerge as a favorite by the time the 2026 postseason starts.

For hockey, the Cranston boys co-op fell in a wild game against Lincoln in the first round on Monday. On a similar note to DII basketball, DII hockey is also very competitive and there are about three or four teams that could do well in DI.

Devin DeAngelis was electric on offense and Jack Fontaine was as steady as could be on the back end, while Bryce Crance had a breakout season between the pipes for the Falcons. The co-op will be right back in the fold next season, and its ceiling will be set by the progress of the youngsters that make up the back end of the roster. They'll have enough returners to form a strong core, but the depth will need to be determined by the underclassmen.

The Toll Gate boys basketball team completed a fourth-quarter comeback to beat Central Falls in the DIII basketball quarters last week. The team will be taking on Times 2 Acad-

emy in Thursday's semifinals.

The Titans have proven that their big regular season was not a fluke. After a few down seasons, the team made the move to DIII this year and has been hanging out toward the top of the standings all winter long.

Brayden Healey and Damola Oremosu have continued to surge up front while Jack Colvin and Liam Leahy have been dynamic in the back. They lost to Times 2 by just two points in the regular season, so Thursday's game could be a thriller. With last week's win, the Titans have proven to be bona fide contenders.

Hendricken worked past Portsmouth in a not-so-surprising result. The Hawks took on Classical on Wednesday night.

Also in action on Wednesday night were the Pilgrim girls, who beat Hope in a competitive quarterfinal matchup on Saturday as well.

This young roster, made up of a large sophomore class, will have its hands full against top-seeded Lincoln School. Should they pull off the upset, it'd be hard not to pencil them in as the favorites to win it all next week.



Sincere Waldron drives to the hoop.

● PANTHERS - from page 13

"Every night we gave it our all, but we're young. We have a sophomore heavy group and a lot of those guys got their feet wet and next year will know how it will be. Guys like Ronnie Vento, he played every second of every game and had the ball in his hand every time. Next year we'll have more guys to handle the ball and will open him up next year," Bedrosian said.

Bedrosian was also proud of senior captain Anderson Villa, who was key in keeping the players locked in despite the tough sledding.

"Andy did a great job being our leader, being our guy to lead everyone and keep guys together. He didn't fold," said Bedrosian, who also learned some valuable lessons from his perspective. "I learned a lot

as a coach this year, you learn more about yourself in seasons that you struggle. When you have success, you can keep doing what you're doing, but in seasons like this, you have to go back to the drawing board. I learned a lot about myself, too, and that will only help me get better."

Although Panther fans are hoping to see the team turn things around fast, Bedrosian and his staff are looking to maintain a strong chemistry on the court and make steady progress.

"I think next year we'll be better, win some games and challenge for a playoff spot, then two years we'll be back in the championship conversation. We just needed to get some experience and they got a taste of that," said Bedrosian. "They're already working out at Rainone, they're hungry for it. They're invested."

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Sainristil, Pezza shine at LEC Championships

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Rhode Island College junior Haley Oliver (Coventry) earned First Team All-Little East honors with first place finishes in the mile (5:13.19), 1,000m (3:06.93) and 3,000m (10:31.36) as Rhode Island College competed at the 2025 Little East Indoor Championship held at the Providence Career and Technical Academy on Saturday afternoon.

RIC finished fifth (nine teams) with a team score of 70.0. Southern Maine

took home the title with a team score of 131.0.

Oliver also finished sixth in the 4x400m relay (4:24.23).

Senior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston) earned First Team All-Little East honors with a first place finish in the weight throw (17.51m) and Second Team All-Little East honors with a second place finish in the shot (12.38m; new program record).

Freshman Quiana Pezza (Cranston) earned a pair of Second Team All-Little East honors as she finished second

in both the long jump (5.42m) and the triple jump (10.91m). Pezza also finished sixth in both the 60m (8.06) and 4x400m relay (4:24.23).

Freshman Grace Lane (North Smithfield) finished fifth in the 600m (1:49.21) and sixth in the 4x800m relay (11:16.77). Sophomore Shirley Portillo (North Providence) finished sixth in the 4x800m relay (11:16.77) and 11th in the 600m (1:55.95).

Sophomore Lexie Zakrzewski (Taunton, Mass.) finished sixth in the 4x800m relay (11:16.77) and ninth in

the 600m (1:53.72). Junior Valeria Uribe Calderon (Central Falls) finished sixth in the 4x800m relay (11:16.77).

Junior Tayshia Cary (Wakefield) finished sixth in the 4x400m relay (4:24.23), seventh in the 200m (27.50) and eighth in the 60m (8.24).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the 2025 N.E. Div. III Championship, held at The Track at New Balance on Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, March 1.

Real Estate Transactions

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY					JOHNSTON				
17 Park Ln	Flower Realty Rigp	Mandeville, Matthew	2/5	\$30,000	206 Shun Pike,	Cardillo, Robert N	Beck, Joseph	2/7	\$772,000
2044 New London Tpke	Cardi, Stephen A	Segbeyan, Burphy Z	2/4	\$350,000	21 Steere Dr	Yergeau-Breault, Tricia and Breault, Steven M	Cooper, Kayleigh T	2/10	\$475,000
21 Arizona St	Holston Sr, Manuel L and Holston Sr, Lynn M	Taylor Jr, Paul S	2/6	\$268,885	4 Arcade St	Martineau, Lillian E and Llagg Community Inv Fund	J&m Home Buyers LLC	2/7	\$316,000
28 Acres Of PineRd	Allen, Deborah L and Willard, Donna L	Meyer, Adrianna	2/3	\$400,000	41 LeeSt	United Asset Mgmt LLC	Teldar LLC	2/7	\$120,000
3 Lane 3	Neri Thea M Est and Santangelo, Theajona	Boiani, William	2/5	\$92,000	WARWICK				
841 Plainfield Pike	Alpha Holdings LLC	Pacesetter Group LLC	2/7	\$230,000	120 Spencer Woods Dr Lot 120	Robert K Dee Irt and Dee, Nancy A	Farugia, James C and Farugia, Alicia J	2/3	\$535,000
CRANSTON					126 Almy St	Lambert Louis J Est and Laporte, Margaret A	Miranda, Remo	2/4	\$385,000
106 Lakeland Rd	Campbell Deborah A Est and Campbell, Michael C	Campbell, Nathan S and Campbell, Deborah A	1/30	\$237,000	133 Abbott Ave	Smith, Krista	Dafonseca, Steven	2/7	\$300,000
11 Gray Coach Ln Lot 1113	Patriot Builders Inc	Hayward, Luz	1/30	\$390,000	19 Topaz Rd	Tarczuk, Raymond W and Tarczuk, Anne E	Woods, Danielle	2/4	\$515,000
119 Arnold Ave	Pinsker, Elizabeth and Pinsker, Joel	Iler, Lynn E	2/3	\$700,000	21 Spadina Ave	Jpmw LLC	Boudreau Jr, Scott J	2/7	\$545,000
133 Fordson Ave Lot 10	Brunetti, Widallys	Harrison, Gall	2/5	\$225,000	29 Hillcrest Ave	Hope Hm Solutions LLC	Donahue, Christopher J	2/7	\$278,500
1539 Hope Rd	Berry, Carol and Berry, Charlene	Octeau, Rachel L	2/3	\$450,000	33 Greenpost Ln	Gregory, Christopher R and Woodbine, Kara E	Delgado, Marilin	2/5	\$339,900
155 Garden Hills Dr	Bouchard, Michelle R	Smith, Jason E and Smith, Bridget C	1/31	\$555,000	35 Montana Ave	Vargas Hldg LLC	Murray, Kishory and Itkin, Eli	2/5	\$550,000
18 Roslyn Ave	Pease, Robert	Deng, Wei	2/5	\$445,000	35 Montana Ave Lot 124	Vargas Hldg LLC	Murray, Kishory and Itkin, Eli	2/5	\$550,000
194 Ausdale Rd	Aly, Adel M	Brown, Abigail S and Burnham, Sean E	1/31	\$355,000	3524 W Shore Rd Lot 214	Roe, Patricia A	Pacesetter Grp LLC	2/5	\$140,000
2 Carlo Ct	Taglianetti, Susan	Sylvester, Allison and Senra, Nicholas	1/30	\$649,900	4158 Post Rd Lot 15	Rinn Re Grp LLC	Quattrucci Jr, William	2/3	\$320,000
205 Main St Lot A3	Greenwood, Beth A	Lambert, Taylor and Lambert Jr, Raymond A	2/4	\$300,000	44 Love Ln	Portesi Jr, Thomas R and Mckinsey, Lori L	Lane, Edward A and Schwartz, Eva	2/6	\$710,000
21 Keith Ave	Marshall, Anne M	Straus, Katherine L and Berley, Marcus P	1/31	\$475,000	452 Harrington Ave	Ann C Broadhurst RET and Morinho, Stephen R	Sarkisian, Antranik	2/6	\$280,000
25 Villa Ave	Hetherington, Justin	Salinger, Aaron L and Salinger, Sherrie A	1/31	\$782,500	54 Irma Ave	Cunningham Henry G Jr Est and Cunningham, Henry G	Dasnabedian, Aram H and Dasnabedian, Jared A	2/3	\$327,500
27 Tabor St Lot 27, Case 3rd	William E and Case, Mary V	Salinger, Aaron L and Salinger, Sherrie A	1/31	\$314,900	72 W Shore Rd Lot 207	Rinn, Robert	Mailhot, Kevin	2/4	\$160,000
337 East St Lot 1643	Boscia, Michael and Boscia, Dawn M	Duffy, Kerri L	1/30	\$675,000	793 Williamsburg Cir Lot 793	Defusco, Bernard	Mcgarry, Ann D and Mcgarry, Robert E	2/5	\$240,000
337 East St Lot 1661,	Boscia, Michael and Boscia, Dawn M	David Building Co LLC	1/30	\$675,000	83 Ottawa Ave	Carberry, Jean M	Aslan Cap LLC	2/4	\$280,000
42 Franconia Dr	Stevenson, Ryan J and Stevenson, Rachel J	Peck, Kyla J and Peck, Graham	1/31	\$460,000	94 Montgomery St	Gregory, Joanne P	Gregory, Christopher R and Gregory, Kara E	2/5	\$375,000
43 Malden St	Feeney, Nancy M	Fitzsimmons, Pamela L	2/3	\$354,900	96 Walnut Glen Dr	Hassell Lewis C Jr Est and Hassell, Lewis C	Laplante Estates LLC	2/5	\$312,500
45 Beechwood Dr	Smith, Jason E and Smith, Bridget C	Aly, Adel M	1/31	\$870,000	98 Ogden Ave	Gloria, Alexis	Demedeiros, George and Demedeiros, Jennifer	2/5	\$320,000
47 Fairway Dr	Medeiros, Lori A	Medeiros, John D	2/4	\$245,200	WEST WARWICK				
543 Laurel Hill Ave Lot 944	Abel Susan F Est and Defelice, David J	Moscoco, Jordan P	1/30	\$750,000	Residences At West Vly Lot 25	Residences At West Vly In	Podgurski Irt and Muschiano, Amy B	2/6	\$454,900
543 Laurel Hill Ave Lot 945	Abel Susan F Est and Defelice, David J	Moscoco, Jordan P	1/30	\$750,000	Residences At West Vly Lot 29	Residences At West Vly In	Popaja, Marija	2/7	\$468,650
55 Ferncrest Ave	Stefanski, Elizabeth C	Dean, Clifford J and Murphy, Jane M	1/30	\$477,600	1300 Division St Lot 306	West Warwick Town Of	Resolute LLC	2/11	\$15,197
563 Laurel Hill Ave	Roberts Prince, Gladys J	Martinez, Isaac and Fajardo, Francia E	2/3	\$490,000	26 Woodside Ave	Best Life Homes LLC	Chapman, Spencer and Antao, Lauren	2/7	\$450,000
61 Winton St	Norton Jr, Johnell and Norton, Cynthia H	Touch, Matilda	1/31	\$362,000	34 Willow St	Elvira Manna Irt and Manna, Gaetano T	Sjnf Realty LLC	2/7	\$340,000
7 Noble St	Hernandez Fernando G Est and Hernandez, Alex B	Ventigan, Filmore	1/31	\$220,000	37 Elizabeth Ct	Bowler, Donte E and Bowler, Celeste	Deschane, Zachery P	2/7	\$445,000
7 Noble St Lot 164	Hernandez Fernando G Est and Hernandez, Alex B	Ventigan, Filmore	1/31	\$220,000	38 Cowesett Ave Lot 18	26 Investments LLC	Daac Re And Mgmt LLC	2/11	\$150,000
7 Noble St Lot 165	Hernandez Fernando G Est and Hernandez, Alex B	Ventigan, Filmore	1/31	\$220,000	440 E Greenwich Ave	Podgurski Irt and Muschiano, Amy B	Hall, Christopher J and Klanian, John K	2/6	\$480,000
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85 Alton St	Westcott Rlty Rigp	Bociek Jr, Joseph J and Bociek 3rd, Joseph J	2/4	\$1					
90 Richard St	Gibbs, Caroline D and Gibbs, Phillip C	Rodriguez, Christian S	1/31	\$470,000					
93 Keith Ave	Haskins, Donna J	Juskewitch, Ezra A and Britt, Rebecca T	1/31	\$405,000					
96 Arcadia Ave	Kielbasa, Robert J	Longoria, Fernando and Cloud, Riley	1/31	\$365,000					
EAST GREENWICH									
320 Sanctuary Dr Lot 320	Gaythorne Angell RET and Angell, Gaythorne	Sun, Yihao and Zhao, Siying	2/3	\$860,000					
40 Deep Meadow Ln Lot 40,	Trull, Kenneth I and Trull, Allison K	Ackmann, Lawrence L and Ackmann, Nina C	2/5	\$830,000					

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Shand expands the limits of sampling with 'Transmutations'

By ROB DUGUAY

The art of sampling to create other kinds of music has been going on since the '70s when disc jockeys in New York City were creating their own beats and rhythms. Eventually this approach became what is now known as hip hop, but sampling had made its way to a variety of other genres as well. Ranging from electronica and pop to indie rock and trip hop, it's had a substantial effect on a variety of styles.

For Providence based flutist, producer, composer and researcher Jessica Shand, she decided to utilize sampling in an entirely different way with her album "Transmutations" that came out on February 21. She elongated samples of her playing the flute, each barely lasting a second, into different sonic explorations.

The album is Shand's first official release and it has her performing only the flute and doing the composing while co-producing the endeavor with Joseph Branciforte. Branciforte did the engineering, mixing and mastering as well at Greyfade Studio in Mount Vernon, New York.

"'Transmutations' was born out of my research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology," she says about the album. "It consists of twelve tracks, each of which emerges entirely from a short sample of flute sound that is transformed by a constrained set of digital signal processing techniques. I did a semi-improvised live show based on the same compositional framework back in August, and I'm currently planning a small tour for the spring, including a performance at the Oh My Ears Festival [in Phoenix] in March. Some of my other recent work has included 'Motherbird', a piece for augmented flutes, electronics, and artificial life simulation, and 'Organology', an ensemble piece involving biometric sensors."

The catalyst for the songwriting and recording process began when Shand was selected among nine people for the inaugural fellowship put on by the Steve Jobs Archive, which is the home for all the in-

formation about the late co-founder of Apple and a resource for the creators of both the present and the future.

The fellowship supported Shand as she began her endeavor while conducting experiments with both humans and machines to target the variations between their listening abilities and their reactions to the sounds. Each track on the album is titled "Study No. 1", "Study No. 2" and so on with none of them lasting over four minutes while only a couple going past the three-and-a-half-minute mark.

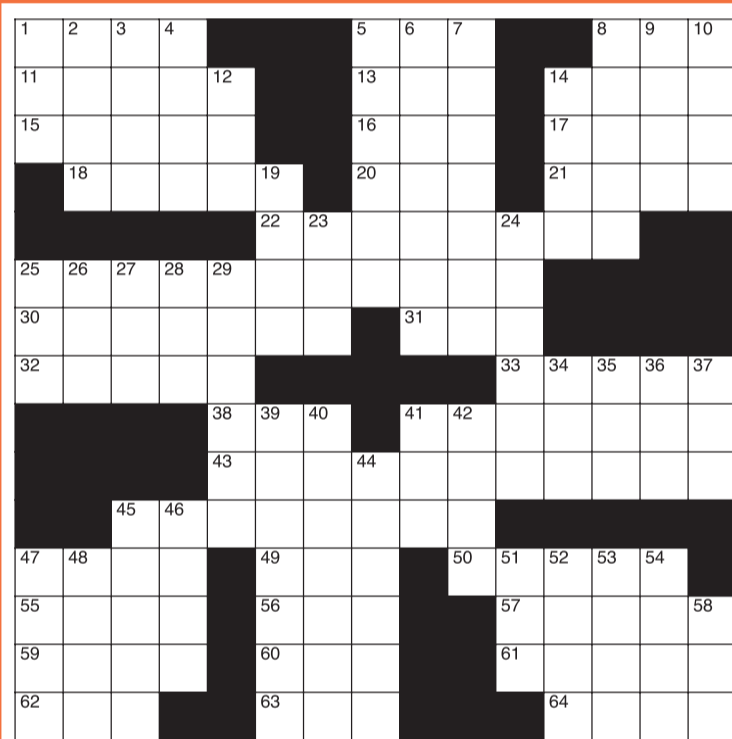
In a musical sense, "Transmutations" is meant to be listened to as an experience rather than a typical track-by-track release. I can see it being ideal for someone to do some meditating after pressing play, some work while having it being part of the background, or even as something to analyze in a scientific way.

To give Shand's new album a listen, log onto her Soundcloud page at soundcloud.com/jessicashand, or you can check out her Bandcamp page at jessicashand.bandcamp.com. "Transmutations" could very well be the most intriguing album to come out of Rhode Island this year, and that fact alone is enough of a reason to give it a listen.



JESSICA SHAND Submitted photo by James Day

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

1. Greek mythological figure
5. Small amount
8. Play a role
11. River in Georgia and Alabama
13. Water in the solid state
14. Ancient Greek sophist
15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
16. Fleece
17. Writer/actress Dunham
18. Behave in a way that belittles
20. Comedienne Gasteyer
21. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
22. Conceits
25. Slowed down
30. Nourishment
31. Midway between east and southeast
32. Fights
33. Comedienne Tyler
38. Standing operating procedure
41. Locks
43. Old
45. Song sung to one's lover
47. Whale ship captain
49. Moved quickly on foot

CLUES DOWN

1. S. American plant
2. Soul and calypso song
3. Fruit of the service tree
4. Continent
5. Albania's capital
6. Poisonous plant
7. Argues
8. Assists
9. Town in Galilee
10. Russian leader
12. Promotional materials
14. Wings
19. Not odd
23. Expression of creativity
24. Conceptualize
25. A digital tape recording of sound
26. Peyton's little brother
27. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
28. Difference in potential
29. Owner
34. I (German)
35. Chinese conception of poetry
36. The world of the dead
37. Sign language
39. Coincide
40. Religious observance
41. Confined condition (abbr.)
42. Polite interruption sound
44. Texas ballplayer
45. Type of sword
46. Abba ____, Israeli politician
47. Basic unit of a chemical element
48. Native American people in California
51. Swiss river
52. Hebrew calendar month
53. Easily swindled person
54. One point south of southwest
58. Small island (British)



JESSICA SHAND Submitted photo by Mara Rothman

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PADDINGTON IN PERU

WARWICK SHOWCASE
CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE
NEW WORLD

(More Marvel Mayhem)

A black Captain America and Harrison Ford as the president aren't enough to save this Marvel Comics movie from tedium and familiarity.

Anthony Mackie and Harrison Ford do their best, but it is still the same old "save the world" from destruction theme. Throw in assassinations and a few other surprises and you have lots of running around and destruction.

The plot is contrived and complicated, involving mind control, broken treaties and the familiar brink of total war, this time with the Japanese.

It goes on too long before the battle in the sky with Captain America trying to stop the jets from both sides from destroying each other to the final showdown between the captain and the Red Hulk (Guess Who) as they destroy most of Washington DC.

PADDINGTON IN PERU

(Delightful Family Adventure)

Paddington, that delightful, cuddly, marmalade-eating English bear is back, and this time he and the entire Brown family are off to find their aging aunt in Peru.

Aunt Lucy is missing from Home



See it on the
Screen

with Joyce & Don Fowler

for Retired Bears. The entire family hires a riverboat and along with the Mother Superior (Olivia Colman) heads up river through the jungle to find her, guided by the Captain (Antonio Banderas) and his daughter.

Their adventures are exciting and funny, delighting children and parents who watch llamas, giant spiders and piranhas hinder their journey.

The ancient Incan ruins look quite familiar as Paddington is finally reunited with Aunt Lucy, uncovers a villain, and leads everyone to safety.

NETFLIX
Zero Day

*** 1/2

(Politics, Terror and Intrigue)

Robert De Niro stars as former president Mullen who is called out of retirement just as he is starting to write his memoirs because of a serious cyber threat to the United States.

The cyber attack causes chaos in New York City as trains stop, lights go out, computers fail and thousands of people die.

Mullen, who is well-liked and respected is named head of the Zero Day commission by the current president.

He forms his team and begins the investigation, with the Russians becoming the top suspects.

The commission uncovers a group of local radicals, and the plot thickens.

Meanwhile, the former president is having some memory and reality problems, hearing voices and seeing things that aren't there.

His daughter, a congresswoman who wishes him to step down, is concerned about his mental abilities.

Chief of Staff issues get complicated, along with some prior sticky family situations.

The press, public and fellow politicians begin to doubt Mullens theories.

Before long, politics plays a major role and more suspects enter the complicated picture.

While the six-episode story has a few red herrings and far-out theories, the acting is superior, especially from De Niro.

● **SABITONI from - page 11**

Sabitoni has remained committed to the university and its students. "I've been here for 33 years, and a department chair for over 20," he said.

It's also where Mike met his wife, Karen Silva-Sabitoni, shortly after he returned to teach. For a while Karen was chairing the Sports Entertainment and Event Management departments, and their offices were situated directly across from one another. (Karen later moved upstairs when she became Chair of the school's business department, before retiring in 2019.)

Mike Sabitoni counts a number of students among his fans. "I love him. He reminds me of Dean Martin," says Diorling Nurse, a senior in the Food and Beverage Hospitality Management program. She met Sabitoni when she took his popular Beverage Appreciation course.

"He's very kind, very patient, and has a sense of humor. I'm not a wine person at all—I make pastries, I drink milk," she said. "But I really came out of the class with a bit of knowledge about wine, and now I know how to pair wines with pastries."

Nolan Sooy agrees with Nurse. A senior studying Food and Beverage Business Management, Sooy also took the Beverage Appreciation course.

"He's one of the most charismatic, personable people you will ever meet," Sooy said about his former professor. "He really got to know all of his students and he continues to foster that relationship even after the course is over." A soccer player, Sooy noted that Sabitoni pays attention to what his students are doing both in and out of the classroom.

Other department faculty also rave about him. Nick Makris teaches in the Food & Beverage Management department, and he wonders what will happen when Sabitoni retires. "He's a terrific individual, and very empathetic. Just a pleasure to work for. He's going to leave a big gap when he retires," said Makris.

Sabitoni will retire in May, at the end of the current semester, so the two awards he received this winter are a bit of a victory lap.

And what's next?

"I will be an adjunct Associate Professor for the College of Professional Studies, teaching online," he says, "as well as continue to maintain my Board of Directors position for the Apprenticeship Exploration School and as a hospitality industry consultant." He also plans to seek out volunteer positions and travel with his wife.



Last month Sabitoni was honored with an anchor-shaped award from the Rhode Island Hospitality Association (RIHA) *Beacon Media photo by Matthew Lawrence*

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