

JohnstonSunRise

Thursday, June 26, 2025

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Town sets terms for \$5.4M schools bailout

By TARA MONASTESSE
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The Johnston School Committee agreed on Monday to give the Town Council increased oversight over the School Department's finances in exchange for a \$5.4-million bailout from the town's reserve fund.

The one-time payment is intended to remedy the Johnston Public Schools budget deficit for fiscal year 2026, the first step toward improving the district's financial standing. In order for the funds to be dispersed, however, the committee must adhere to the guidelines laid out in a memorandum of agreement approved by both itself and the council during Monday's joint meeting.

While the budget deficit for fiscal year 2026 is now erased, these guidelines will remain in effect until the School Department has eliminated the two other kinds of deficit it faces: a structural deficit and a cumulative deficit.

The department must now submit quarterly reports to the town's finance director. In addition to comparing the anticipated budget to the department's actual spending, these reports will include updates on the current number of full-time employees in the district.

It also requires regular conferences between the School Committee's business manager and the town finance director, and for the latter to approve any new full-time hires that would cause the district to exceed 110% of the full-time employee positions budgeted for in fiscal year 2026. Any purchases or expenditures over \$25,000, barring emergency payments or those mandated by law, must now also be approved by the town finance director.

The agreement additionally stipulates that certain construction projects must be completed according to an established timeline. The district's new elementary school must be open to students by August 2026, and renovations to Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School must also be completed by this date.

The special meeting lasted over three hours and drew a large audience of parents and teachers to the Johnston Senior Center. While the meeting's agenda did not include a public comment period, town leaders permitted community members to speak throughout the evening on an unstructured basis.

Sandy Farone, a math interventionist at Winsor Hill Elementary, expressed concern over the terms of the memorandum.

"I have a problem giving all of the controls of the School Committee now to the town," she said. "It doesn't go away until there's zero deficit. So this could go on for years, correct?"

Council President Robert Russo asserted that the council's goal would be to eliminate the deficit as soon as possible.

"There's no incentive on our part to want to be part of this for infinity," he replied. "It doesn't benefit us."

Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. remained stalwart in assigning blame to the School Committee for the deficit. In his remarks Monday evening, he criticized the committee for incurring deficits in spite of what he said were significant increases in funding from the town, the state and other outside sources.

"You were not insolvent five, six, seven, eight years ago," Polisena said. "I don't know how you did it. I don't know what your previous business manager did, but your cumulative deficits have coincided with this massive increase in funding."

Bernard DiLullo, the outgoing schools superintendent, said the department has lost revenue in recent years due to students leaving for other school districts — which collect tuition from Johnston. He cited an increase in students requiring special needs education as another source of costs in recent years, emphasizing that budget increases were made to accommodate these circumstances.

"Those decisions are being made because that's what's necessary to treat those kids," DiLullo said.

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BEATING RECORD HEAT



... with splash pad, Del's & 'ice box'

By TARA MONASTESSE
Beacon Media Staff Writer

As a heat wave early in the week kept temperatures in Johnston in the 90s — often the high 90s — it became clear that last Friday's solstice wasn't just a date on the calendar. You could look at the heat advisory issued by the state, or you could simply try to buckle your seat belt after you'd left your car in the sun — either way, it was clear that summer was here in full force.

Whether at the playground, in the office or out working in the field, Johnston residents bonded over the shared misery of blisteringly hot steering wheels and sunscreen getting in their eyes. But life in the town went on regardless, and some even found ways to make it fun — whether by romping around in the town's newly opened splash pad or swinging by Del's lemonade for a bracingly cold treat.

With temperatures hitting 100 degrees at T.F. Green Airport, last Tuesday became the hottest June day on record for the Greater Providence area. Matthew Belk, a meteorologist based at the National Weather Service regional office in Massachusetts, said June 30, 1945 had held the state record at 98 degrees. He said temperatures in the high 70s are more

● HEAT to page 7



After the splash pad opened Saturday, it took no time at all for the children of Johnston to send the water flying. One-year-old Zoya was among the many children who came to break in Johnston's new splash pad. *Beacon Media photos by Tara Monastesse*



MATTHEW VELINO
Beacon Media photo by
Barbara Polichetti

Velino steps down as JSHS principal

By TARA MONASTESSE
Beacon Media Staff Writer

After three years of serving as principal of Johnston Senior High School, Matthew Velino announced last week that he is stepping down from the role. He will now serve as principal of Burrillville Middle School.

Velino confirmed his departure from Johnston Public Schools in an email to the SunRise on Saturday, describing it as an "extremely difficult decision."

"Leaving the kids was the toughest part," Velino said in an interview Monday. But despite his reluctance to leave, he said, certain obstacles had become impossible to work around.

"Trying to move the school forward was becoming extremely difficult," he said. "Pushing for new programs with the physical building we had is not possible, to be blunt."

He cited a lack of space and equipment as obstacles to ex-

● PRINCIPAL to page 6

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Historical Society Grant

State Representative Deborah Fellela recently presented a legislative grant check for \$1,000 to Dan Brown president of the Johnston Historical Society. Submitted photo



Area residents named to dean's list for the Spring 2025 semester at Quinnipiac

The following Johnston, Rhode Island students were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2025 semester at Quinnipiac University:

- Rebekkah Condon
- Aaliyah Gervais
- Emily Whitlock

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits

in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester. Names followed by an asterisk denotes with honors.

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, institution located 90 minutes north of New York City. The university enrolls 9,400 students in 110 degree programs. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and follow on X @QuinnipiacU.

Police Log

STOLEN VEHICLE

On June 5, the Johnston Police Department arrested a man wanted for larceny charges in connection with a stolen vehicle reported in February. He was processed and fingerprinted at Johnston Police Headquarters.

On February 11 at approximately 6:29 a.m., Patrolman Michael Strain had responded to the Amazon Fulfillment Center on 2120 Hartford Avenue following a call regarding a stolen motor vehicle. The calling party had discovered that her vehicle, a black Nissan Sentra, was missing from the parking lot after she exited her shift at the facility that morning. Her car keys were also missing from her purse. She said she did not know of any suspects who may have taken her vehicle, though she wished to pursue a criminal complaint.

At about 4:45 a.m. also on November 26, 2024, Patrolman Michael Strain responded to Paolino Street after another stolen motor vehicle was reported. The calling party had noticed the vehicle was not outside of the residence where it had been parked. One of the vehicle owners said she had left her keys inside the vehicle, as well as credit cards and business cards. A neighbor across the street had captured the vehicle on surveillance, though there was no clear visual on the suspect.

DRIVING WITH SUSPENDED LICENSE

On June 5 at approximately 10 p.m., Patrolman Patrick Gendreau along with Patrolman Maigret observed a motor vehicle traveling westbound on Hartford Avenue at a rate of speed estimated to be 43 MPH in a 30 MPH zone. A check of the vehicle's plates revealed that they were canceled and had been entered into the system as stolen. After the officers initiated a motor vehicle stop, the vehicle operator stated that the registration plate had been purchased from a scrap business.

STOLEN VEHICLES

On May 29, a man was arraigned before Judge Caruolo on charges of larceny, possession of stolen vehicle/parts and conspiracy. He was given a \$5,000 surety bail and will be presented as a superior court violator.

The charges pertain to two stolen motor vehicle reports. The first occurred on November 26, 2024, when a woman on Morgan Avenue reported her vehicle missing from the front of her residence. At approximately 3:58 a.m., the woman's ring security camera recorded a Mercedes SUV pulling up to the residence and then her vehicle being driven away alongside it. She could not make out any suspects in the darkness. A spare key had been left inside the vehicle.

The operator's license was revealed to be suspended. The operator had also been convicted for driving with a suspended license three times previously. A search of the vehicle also revealed several open containers of alcohol. The operator received a Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal Summons for Display of Plates, Speeding 1-10 MPH in Excess of Posted Speed Limit - 1st Offense and Operate Vehicle with Unsealed Alcoholic Beverage - 1st offense.



A chance to find a good deal while helping a good cause. The Johnston Senior Center held a community yard sale on Saturday to help raise funds for programs. Here, Vanessa Gonzalez (left) and Deb DelFino oversee some of the wares being sold. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*

Senior Center fundraiser draws shoppers galore

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The Johnston Senior Center likes to make all activities fun – even if it’s fundraising. So, a couple of days ago, Director Richard DelFino Jr. and his staff gladly gave up their Saturday morning to run a community rummage sale to help support programs offered at the center.

DelFino said the goal was to raise some additional money to help keep some programs going, such as genealogy seminars, field trips, and fitness classes. “We want to be able to continue to offer a lot of services for free or keep the requested contributions as low as possible,” DelFino said with a smile as he looked at people perusing vendor tables that offered everything from clothing to china and glassware.

The Johnston Senior Center is a non-profit organization that operates with funding from the town augmented by federal and state grants, plus donations.

DelFino said he appreciates the fact that the staff is always willing to give extra time if it means helping to support the center and the people it serves. “All I have to do is make the sale event more fun,” DelFino and his staff fired up a barbecue and sold hot dogs, hamburgers and other snacks. And the steamy weather didn’t stop a steady stream of shoppers from looking for hot deals – and most customers left happy with paper bags bulging with items.

Maria Mendoza of Providence has some successful shopping at the community event.



A little sparkle. Gennaro Colagiovanni — known more familiarly as “Poppy G” displays a wide variety of the jewelry he makes.





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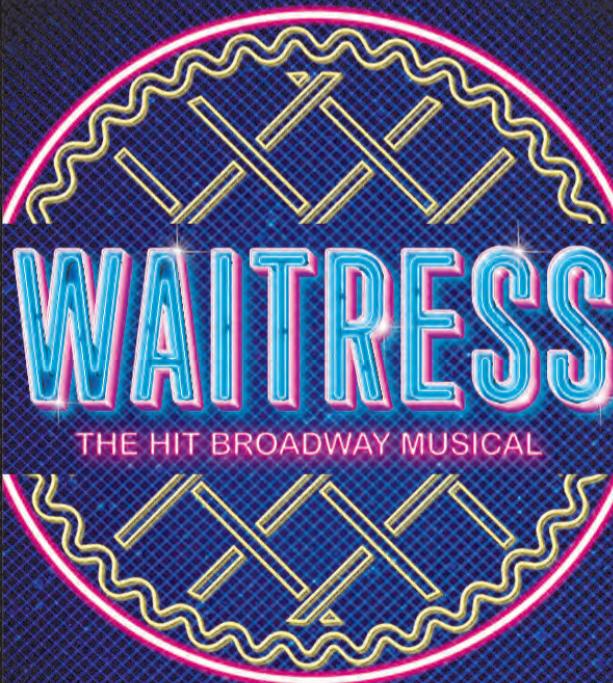
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Morgan Rehab honors vets with flag raising

By TARA MONASTESSE
Beacon Media Staff Writer

It was an overcast afternoon in Johnston on June 18, when the Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center held a flag raising ceremony in honor of its veteran residents. But grey skies were no matter: as the flag was raised, there was still plenty of good wind to unfurl the stars and stripes.

The flag rippled above a crowd of local politicians, Morgan Rehab employees and veterans accompanied by their family members.

Mark Roby, 70, has been receiving care at Morgan Rehab for about two years. As a veteran of the Vietnam War, he said that Flag Day always brings back memories — “some good, some not so good.”

“Wish more of my companions could have made it back,” the former Marine reflected before the ceremony began. Though memories of the war could be overwhelming, he welcomed the opportunity to honor the sacrifices made by veterans. “I think it’s a great, you know, tribute to the Air Force, or armed force people in general,” Roby said. “We were willing to sacrifice our lives and time to protect this country.”

Morgan Rehab provides subacute care to patients, helping them transi-

tion back into living at home after a hospital stay. Additionally, the facility offers skilled nursing for older adults as well as Alzheimer’s care. Through a partnership with Veterans Affairs, veterans can use their benefits to access Morgan Rehab as a care facility.

About 20 of the current residents at Morgan Rehab are veterans of the United States military, having served in various capacities across the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. For Robert Sechio, administrator of Morgan Rehab, honoring the veterans that reside in the facility was a no-brainer.

“All the freedoms that we have are always something that has been earned through the hard work of the veterans,” Sechio said. “So, we want to make sure that they are treated the way they deserve to be treated as veterans.”

In addition to commemorating Flag Day, which had passed the Saturday before, the flag raising celebrated the rededication of the facility’s Veterans Wall after it had been temporarily removed during renovations. The ceremony also included a 21-gun salute and a performance of Taps.

Framed photographs of every veteran currently residing at Morgan Rehab hang on the indoor Veterans Wall, alongside photos of veteran relatives submitted by other residents.

Some are recent color photographs that look like they could’ve been snapped just a day ago. Others are black-and-white portraits taken during the veterans’ days in the service, showing young men in uniforms meeting the camera’s gaze with solemn expressions. A podium in front of the wall also holds a photo album that contains the pictures of previous residents who have died.

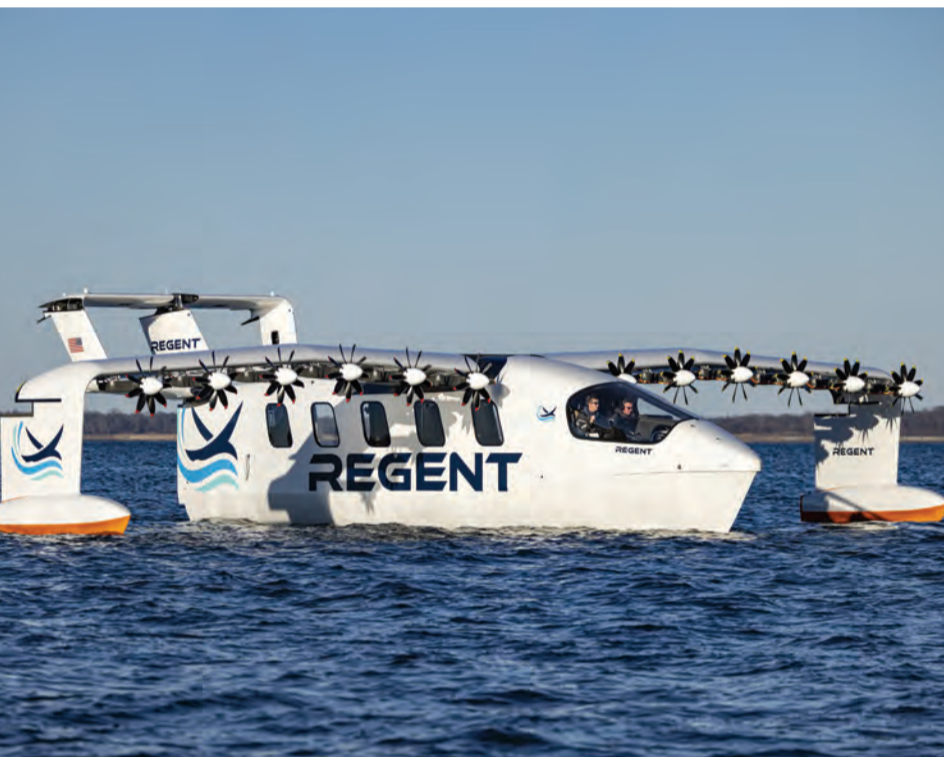
“We want to keep the story going,” Sechio said, noting that keeping the photos even after residents pass allows for their memories to be kept alive. “A lot of families come and visit, and they talk about and come see their loved ones,” he said.

Several local and state politicians gave remarks at the flag raising ceremony, including Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos. In her address, Matos stated that her personal journey from being a new arrival in the country to serving as an elected official was “only possible thanks to the veterans.”

“So I just want to say thank you,” she said. “Because you, your sacrifices, are what make this country great.”



The June 18 flag raising brought out an audience of local and state officials, as well as veteran residents at Morgan Rehab and their family members. *Beacon Media photos by Tara Monastesse*



Robert Sechio, administrator at the Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, highlighted the facility’s newly reinstated Veterans Wall.

SunRise Scoops

June 26 - Annual Freshwater Fishing Event: Learn how to fish in the freshwater ponds of Roger Williams Park alongside fishing experts from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All equipment will be provided. This event is FREE and open to the public. Registration required.

June 28 – Sweet 16 Celebration: Project Sweet Peas will hold an event to help those in the NICU community Saturday at 6 p.m. at Rhodes on The Pawtuxet, 60 Rhodes Place. Attire is semi-formal. For more information, visit projectsweetpeas.com/sweet16celebration.

June 28 -Moth Night: Experience the magic of the night at **Moth Night**, a special evening event celebrating our nocturnal pollinator friends! Hosted by the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Coun-

cil from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Goldsmith Street, Johnston (meet at the Fish Ladder).

July 9 – Storytime with a Furry Friend: Join RISPCA humane educators at 10:30 a.m. at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library for a special story time about shelter animals. Registration is required.

Editor’s Note: To submit your news to Scoops, send information and photos to Tim at timf@beaconmediari.com by Friday at 3 p.m. to appear in the following week’s edition. Items can include community and school event announcements and calls for volunteers. Submissions may be edited for space and are not guaranteed to run. To guarantee space, please call 401-732-3100 and ask to place an advertisement.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

The fairways just got safer

In a flurry of activity, the General Assembly finished its 2025 legislative session Friday night, passing many bills that will affect thousands of Rhode Islanders in the years to come.

Among those bills is a measure introduced by a pair of Johnston lawmakers and championed by the Johnston widow of a man who died on a golf course, and it deserves a moment of recognition.

The David Casey Act, named in honor of the Johnston man who died in February 2023 after suffering a cardiac episode at the Cranston Country Club, is an example of local advocacy and local government working together to address a correctable flaw in our society with a fix that could save lives.

Although no one will ever know for certain if Mr. Casey would have been saved by the presence of an automated external defibrillator after he went into cardiac arrest on that day, the science is clear that having fast and effective access to an AED can make a huge difference.

With that in mind, and knowing that AEDs are already mandated in pretty much every space where large crowds of people gather (including gyms, health clubs, stadiums and other sports fields), it makes perfect sense to include golf courses among those facilities where they are required.

And although there has been some resistance to the idea that golf courses should have to finance the purchase of an AED, or the training of employees to be able to quickly and effectively administer one during an emergency, we would argue this is a very light lift and burden of responsibility in the context of what the measure can achieve now that it has become state law.

Is a person's life really not worth the \$2,500 it could cost for a golf course to buy an AED? Is it not worth the small fee (which could be free if municipal fire departments are willing to provide training to golf course employees in private/public partnership efforts) to provide a brief training session to show employees how to use the devices, which are designed to be simple enough so that anyone can use one?

This bill being passed in advocates' second attempt, especially in light of so many other high-profile bills being discussed this year, represents a win-win for the state and those who enjoy our wonderful golfing amenities throughout it.

We commend the Johnston legislators, Rep. Deborah Fellela and Sen. Andrew Dimitri, as well as their colleagues who saw the potential benefits of the bill, and for the efforts of Mr. Casey's widow, Betsy, to advocate for its passage.

Through their efforts, they have made effective action the postscript of a tragedy.

And at the State House...



LETTERS

LA demonstrations obstructed 'lawful actions'

To the Editor:

Bob Sweeney seems to suggest that there is a moral equivalence between the National Guard and Marines deployed to restore law and order in Los Angeles and the rioters and anarchists who would burn the city to the ground. ("Let's cool the rhetoric in LA," June 12) I think he

is terribly mistaken.

These "demonstrations," as Mr. Sweeney refers to them, were planned to obstruct the lawful actions of federal ICE agents attempting to arrest illegal immigrants, some of whom were accused of committing violent crimes. ICE agents were acting in the interest of public safety.

Contrary to what Mr. Sweeney

suggests, it is not just the "rhetoric" that is causing these "possibly fatal incidents" to occur, it is the rioting. There should be zero tolerance for those who engage in violent demonstrations, no matter the reason for their alleged "discontent."

A.H. Liddle
Warwick

Time for us to show compassion, even humility

To the Editor:

Margaret Porter's letter of June 19 ("Please love your country, whoever is president"), while obviously heartfelt, states that Donald Trump was elected by "a big majority." In fact, he won by a mere 1.5 percentage points, the fifth slimmest winning margin in the 32 presidential elections held since 1900. Ms. Porter also faults the Democrats for holding nationwide protests on the same day as Trump's celebratory Army parade:

"Couldn't that have been done any other time?" to which I would reply "No, the one absolutely necessitated the other."

As a U.S. Army veteran who's about to turn 79, I was initially disgusted by President Trump's decision to celebrate the Army's 250th birthday by hosting a military parade on his own 79th birthday. He is, after all, a draft evader who has openly mocked WWII fallen soldiers as "suckers" and "losers." However, I must admit I found the televised parade surprisingly lowkey and entertaining, nothing on the scale of Soviet-era or North Korean tyrannical regimes.

Still, Donald Turmp has demonstrated, time and again, that bullying and intimidation are his calling cards. It's common knowledge the United States is the world's preeminent military power, by a long shot: Our military spending is more than the next 10 countries combined, and we possess four of the world's five largest air forces. We don't need to flex muscles to show the rest of the world how tough we are. What we do need is to show some basic compassion and humanity (dare I add "humility"?) to those who aren't lucky enough to possess the privileges and freedoms that we Americans have, and too often take for granted.

Like the rest of us, I don't know how many more birthdays I have left to celebrate. But, for me, one thing is absolutely certain: as long as the Trump administration continues its assault on our democracy, I will continue to protest – even if it's not by "taking it to the streets" in peaceful marches, as I was once physically capable of doing.

Peter Carney
Warwick

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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.

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Brielle MacDonald

Koda

Koda! When the ball is life! Koda is a combo of scruffy and roly poly! He is a three year old mixed breed with such a fun, playful temperament! He lights up when it's time to play fetch and just wants to be your best friend. Koda is looking for a quieter life, a yard to play fetch in, a couch to snuggle on and a home filled with love! If you have been searching for a new best friend (mohawk included) then go meet Koda at the RISPCA 155 Plan Way Warwick, RI or call 401-383-1900 for more information. We recommend you go meet him in person and spend some time getting to know his heart!

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at



animaltalk1920@gmail.com



Saturday, June 28th

Vendors
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Jordan's Jungle
545 Pawtucket Ave., Pawtucket, RI

Paws in the Jungle

Town Solicitor William Conley Jr. addressed local leaders during a joint meeting of the School Committee and Town Council on Monday evening. *Beacon Media photo by Tara Monastesse*



● BAILOUT from page 1

In a statement sent to the SunRise on Tuesday, Polisena stated that the meeting “ended in the best possible outcome for the taxpayers.” “With these safeguards in place — along with new leadership within the school department — the

Town of Johnston can ensure the school department will end its run of annual deficits, and the school department can take its first steps toward solvency,” he wrote. This agreement is the first step in our deficit reduction plan, and it gives us a clear path to financial health,” School Committee Chair-

man Joseph Rotella said in a written statement. “Some may say this agreement is not perfect, but we want to acknowledge all the hard work that went into it and thank the mayor and council for providing us with a foundation to build on to move forward on solid financial ground.”

● PRINCIPAL from page 1

panding the school’s career and technical program offerings, which had been one of his biggest goals. “In my opinion, you can’t run a full CT program in a classroom,” he said. “You need a dedicated space for it. So not having that dedicated space was – it was just frustrating.”

In a letter announcing his departure to faculty and staff, Velino elaborated on the building conditions he saw as unsatisfactory. “No staff member should have to work in a facility with unreliable heating, no air-conditioning, leaking ceilings, and rooms that are simply not fit for the level of education and care we strive to provide,” he wrote. “I hope that, moving forward, the town and district will recognize the need for a change and prioritize the well-being of the staff and students.”

Reached by phone Wednesday morning, Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. said that the town provides only funding to the School Committee and has no control over day-to-day operations of school facilities, including building maintenance.

“I’m not disagreeing with anything he’s saying, but that’s on the School Committee,” Polisena said regarding Velino’s statements about the building’s condition. “I wish [Velino] the best,” he said, though he also voiced this criticism: “Out-of-district tuition has gone up every year since he’s been there.”

Since becoming principal in 2022, Velino said his proudest achievement has been bolstering the school’s sense of community. “That’s really what I’m most

proud of, is that we’ve kind of brought the pride back and the morale back,” he said.

In addition to reviewing individual report cards to monitor academic success, Velino said he sought to introduce students to extracurricular activities so they could connect with their peers outside of the classroom. He also cited positive results from the annual survey conducted by the Rhode Island Department of Education, which indicated in spring 2024 that teachers at the high school had adopted a much more favorable view of building leadership.

A Johnston resident and graduate of the high school, Velino began his career in Johnston Public Schools as a physical education teacher at Brown Avenue Elementary School. While studying for a master’s degree in education administration at Providence College, he completed an internship at Winsor Hill Elementary School as a behavioral specialist. After serving as an assistant principal at West Broadway Middle School in Providence, he returned to Johnston in 2022 to serve as principal at the high school. He also coached football for seven years.

Throughout his time working in the district, Velino credits outgoing superintendent Bernard DiLullo as an important mentor. He said DiLullo’s retirement was “a major factor in my decision as well.”

DiLullo praised Velino for his service to the district. “His goal was always to better the school, to create a climate where both teachers and students were comfortable,” DiLullo said. “Matt’s leaving the high school is a loss. It’s a loss for the district. It’s a loss for the students and the teachers at the high school.”

But DiLullo empathized with Velino’s decision. “It’s understandable when you hit a roadblock and you feel like you know the right thing to do, but you’re not allowed to do it,” he said. “Your skills may be more appreciated elsewhere.”

“It’s unfortunate that Johnston is losing this leader, and Burrillville is very lucky to have hired him,” DiLullo said. “And I know he’ll do well there as well.”

A replacement principal for the high school has not yet been selected. DiLullo anticipates that the responsibility of selecting a new principal will fall to the next superintendent, who is yet to be chosen.

Though his time at Johnston Senior High School is over, Velino says he will continue to reside in Johnston and remain an active member of the community.

“I’ll always be here for the kids and staff,” he said, “no matter what they need, and their families.”

Legal Notices

Town of Johnston	Location:	1208 Atwood Avenue Unit 1 Johnston, RI 02919
	License Type:	Class C - Liquor License
Notice is given pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 3-5-17 that the Johnston Town Council, sitting as the Liquor Licensing Commission under Title 3 Chapter 5 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended, shall hold a Public Hearing on July 14th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Johnston Municipal Court Building, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following application for a liquor license.	Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of the license.	Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.
Applicant: Ronald T. Webster	Per Order:	Johnston Town Council
Business Name: 1208 Atwood, LLC		Robert V. Russo, Council President
d/b/a Classic Martini Bar	6/19, 6/26/25	

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



● HEAT from page 1



(Above) Josh Gorton, owner of the Del's location on Hartford Avenue, said on Monday that heat waves bring in lots of customers: "We're nonstop here." Ironically, he said, the freezers throw off a lot of heat at the front of the shop — but after 10 years of working there, he'd gotten used to it. *Beacon Media photo by Tara Monastesse*



(Left) Linda Kennedy lives in Connecticut, but she was born and raised in Foster — which means she couldn't pass through the state on Monday without stopping by Del's. After getting frozen drinks for her and her daughter at the Del's on Hartford Avenue, she revealed that her local sensibilities hadn't left her either: "You can't drink Del's with a straw!"

(Below) Temperatures in the high nineties couldn't stop these young entrepreneurs. Lifelong friends Joleen, 13 (left) and Izzy, 11, set up a lemonade stand in the shade at Johnston Memorial Park on Monday to cash in on the heat wave.



typical for the region in late June.

"Like any other heat wave, we encourage people to stay inside from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.," said Courtney Marciano, chief of information and public relations at the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency. "Make sure that you're hydrating, and if you're feeling any symptoms of heat stroke you need to take it easy because these temperatures get dangerous very quickly." (See accompanying tips from the state Department of Health.)

According to the RIEMA website, the Johnston Senior Center, at 1291 Hartford Avenue, will be available as a cooling center Mon-Fri from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Just in time for the heat wave, the town opened its new splash pad in Johnston Memorial Park on Saturday. After brief remarks by Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr., a group of local kids quickly set about discovering all the different ways they could drench each other with the new equipment. Not even parents spectating from the sidelines were safe from the jets of water that went soaring as the children shrieked with laughter.

The splash pad will remain open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day of the week, weather permitting, until the end of August.

Though Tuesday was a perfect day to stay inside and sip something cold, local workers still braved the heat to show up for outdoor shifts. Josh Ferrer, the project manager overseeing construction on Johnston's new elementary school complex, said that his team had a secret weapon for workers to combat the heat: "ice box" — a double-door freezer holding 50 to 60 five-pound bags of ice for drinks and any other method of cooling the workers choose.

As the dirt piles outside wobbled in a heat mirage, Ferrer said that his team had been advising employees about the risks of heat exposure and the importance of staying hydrated. Keeping ice on site, he said, was "well worth the money" to keep about a hundred daily construction workers safe.

"Days like these, it pays off," Ferrer said. "What's a couple hundred dollars to prevent a heat casualty?"

TIPS FROM THE DEPT. OF HEALTH

When you are outside during extreme heat

- Stay out of the sun.
- Wear a hat with a brim and sunscreen for protection.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol and caffeine.
- If you exercise, pace yourself.
- Schedule outdoor events early in the morning, when it is cooler and the air quality is better.
- Wear light-colored and lightweight clothing.

When you are inside during extreme heat

- Use air conditioning or fans, and window shades or curtains to keep your house cool.
- Take cool showers or baths. Avoid cooking food indoors.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol and caffeine.
- Never leave children, pets or older adults in unattended cars.

Watch for warning signs

Check on friends, family and neighbors during periods of extreme heat. Signs of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating, cold, pale and clammy skin, nausea or vomiting, fatigue, dizziness or headache. If someone is showing signs of heat exhaustion, move them to a cool place and remove unnecessary clothing; put cool, wet cloths on their body (neck, under the arms and groin), use a fan and have them sip water or a sports drink. Call medical help (911) if symptoms get worse or last longer than one hour.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Residents of Briarcliffe Gardens, an Assisted Living Memory-Care Residence in Johnston, will find a welcoming place to reside or to visit with loved ones and neighbors in this well-appointed living space in Johnston.

Briarcliffe Gardens

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By JENNIFER COATES

The summer sun pours through the skylights of the spacious common areas at Briarcliffe Gardens, casting a warm glow on the residents below. The residents of this busy memory-care Assisted Living Residence have gathered here for a day of socialization, activity and routines that are a part of their daily lives. This room, with a large stone fireplace as its centerpiece, is where they come to pass the time surrounded by attentive caregivers and staff who have devoted themselves to the care

and nurturing of those for whom memories of days gone by have faded, and life has taken on a new meaning.

Beyond this casual and welcoming gathering space, there are many other features of this state-of-the-art memory care residence in Johnston that have been implemented to make life more comfortable for its many residents. One such thing includes upholstered "rocking" armchairs! Residents can sink into these chairs and gently rock or swivel, creating soothing and calming effects. Research has shown that these "rocking chairs" have many significant health-promoting benefits, especially for individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's and other memory-related conditions.

According to a study conducted at the University of Rochester, "Rocking Chair Therapy" reveals an increase in the "psychological well-being of nursing home residents with severe forms of dementia." The study suggests that rocking causes a "release of endorphins that elevate the mood of these patients, in addition to relieving pain." The author of the study affirms that rocking has long been known to soothe infants, and it seems to provide the same therapeutic benefit for adults.

Some of the other known benefits of rocking include the reduction of anxiety and depression in seniors. The University

of Rochester explains that this reduction also "reduces the need for medications that treat anxiety and depression, thus mitigating any of their debilitating side effects." The motion of rocking has also been shown to stimulate the body to maintain balance which is useful for older individuals who face the increased risk of injury by falling.

These chairs, which are designed to be wider-than-average for safety reasons, and brightly-colored for easier recognition, represent Briarcliffe's ongoing commitment to improving the lives of its residents and to enriching, nurturing and fostering the highest quality of life. This philosophy is, and always has been, what sets the Briarcliffe "family" above the rest.

If you or a family member are considering a possible long-term stay for a loved one who suffers from health concerns like Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia, Briarcliffe Gardens offers so much more than exceptional care. It exemplifies everything that a memory-care residence should be — and can be — in this modern age.

Schedule your personal tour of Briarcliffe Gardens, located on a quiet and wooded campus on Old Pocasset Road in Johnston. Call the Admission's office at 401-944-2450, ext. 202. For more information, you can many questions answered by visiting them at www.briarclifferi.com.

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Sports

Cardinals win JLL Majors crown

By ALEX SPONSELLER
SunRise Sports Editor

The Johnston Little League Cardinals topped the Yankees 9-3 to win the Majors championship.

The Cardinals, which featured most of last year's team, returned to the big game after coming up short against the Expos last season. Pitching was key for the champs all spring, and the strong staff helped the Cardinals rise to the top of a competitive field in the JLL Majors division.

"At the beginning of the season, we were well set. In this league, you need to have good pitching and we had five good pitchers. We were set for it. It was a close season, one of the closest seasons I've seen at the top. There were four teams that could have been in first place and it was tight until the end," said Cardinals manager Steve Wood.

Not only could the Cardinals pitch, but they also had a potent offense and received timely contributions at the plate from all rostered players.

"With this team, there was talent around the board. In Little League, you usually see talented hitters from 1-5. We had talent from 1-9, even the new kids we got in the draft," said Wood.

With so many returning players, including three 12-year-olds, Wood was thrilled to see the players get a taste of championship glory after experiencing a bitter end in 2024.

"For us to get back there this year and win it, it was important to not only me because I wanted the boys to have it, but it was important to the coaches to get them back there for the ones that were there last year and felt that heart break. It was important to get them back there and on the other side of it," said Wood.

The champion Cardinals were sponsored by Ward, Fisher & Com. Players included: Dante Mooradian, Gavin Poole, Jack Kelly, Jackson Gray, Oliver Healy, Nolan Rego, Michael Rondeau, Anthony Vieira, Boston Wood, Bryson Ramos and Marcus Rego. Coaches were manager Steve Wood and assistants Rob Poole, Bryan Rego, Brian Ramos and Kevin Kelly.



The Johnston Little League Majors champion Cardinals. Submitted photo



Samantha Mazzie (center) presents Logan Martins and Lauren Dixon with the annual Gary Mazzie memorial scholarships for their performance on the field, in the classroom and impact on the community. Gary Mazzie was a longtime teacher and athletic director at Johnston High, and the annual golf outing in his honor raises funds toward the JHS Athletic Hall of Fame. Submitted photos

Mazzie golf tourney honors JHS legend, celebrates two student-athletes

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Many local golfers celebrated and competed in the annual Gary Mazzie Memorial Golf Tournament, adding another big year to its continued history as one of the town's most beloved sporting events.

The Mazzie golf outing is held at Valley Country Club and is organized by various members of the Mazzie family as well as returning contributor John Graham, who is a member of the Johnston High School Athletic Hall of Fame committee. The tournament is the lone fundraiser for the JHS Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony as well as the Mazzie scholarship, which goes out to two graduating seniors.

Mazzie was a longtime teacher, coach and athletic director at JHS and was pivotal in establishing the athletic hall of fame back in 2011.

Thanks to many perennial supporters, the tournament field filled quickly once again, and thanks to their contributions, along with a generous donation to the tournament from Laborers' International Union of North America, the Hall of Fame committee was able to present \$1,000 scholarships Logan Martins and Lauren Dixon. Mazzie's youngest daughter, Samantha, handed the awards out to the two student-athletes.



Brent Karpowich in the state championship. *File photo by Alex Sponseller*

Karpowich nabs Gatorade POY honors

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Bishop Hendricken soccer player Brent Karpowich was named the Gatorade Player of the Year, becoming the program's first-ever athlete to earn the award.

Karpowich, of Cranston, led the Hawks with 23 goals and 20 assists last fall. He saved some of his best work for the championship game against rival La Salle, where he scored a goal in regulation then another in the shootout to help the Hawks win their first title since 1996.

He was also named to the Rhode Island Soccer Coaches Association's First Team and was a United States Soccer Coaches All-American selection. Karpowich will take his talents to Wheaton College this fall.



Abby Adoian, Marisa Gould, Kaylianna Downing and Daphne Cardillo, who make up Team Violet Storm and raise funds toward Epilepsy research. *Submitted photos*

Team Violet Storm raising funds for Epilepsy research

Abby Adoian is a girl on a mission. So are her two pals, Marisa Gould and Daphne Cardillo.

And they have one thing in common; they are all affected by epilepsy.

But these three young ladies want to do something about it. They want to raise awareness of the fact that 13,000 Rhode Islanders are affected by epilepsy, and they also want to raise funds to help families and continue research into this "neurological condition characterized by recurrent seizures, caused by abnormal electrical activity in the brain."

A condition that cannot be cured, but it can be managed.

So, why not rappel down a 35-foot building in Boston to raise those needed funds?

That happened at the Hyatt Regency Boston/Cambridge in what the Epilepsy Foundation New England (EFNE) said was a "thrilling once in a lifetime chance of rappelling in an exciting and completely safe environment."

A little background on the three pals who are members of "Team Violet Storm."

Daphne Cardillo (Team Captain) 19, hails from Warwick and is celebrating her 19th birthday and graduation from Toll Gate High School.

She is a member of the Toll Gate Unified Titans Basketball and Volleyball teams and the Toll Gate Drama Club.

Marisa Gould, from Cranston, is an Epilepsy Foundation New England Teen Speak-Up/Public Policy Institute participant and Hope two-time scholarship recipient. She is a CCRI student and talented artist and singer.

And, Abby Adoian, whom I have known for many years, is the team manager for the Toll Gate Unified Titans Basketball and Volleyball teams, and a member of the Toll Gate Chorus and Drama Club. She is an honors student and karate enthusiast.

Like most folks, I didn't know a lot about epilepsy, so I thought that I would sit down with Abby to learn a little more about it, and the effect it has on thousands of families in our state.

I learned that the causes are many, and include genetic factors, brain injury, infections like meningitis and encephalitis, brain issues at birth and other diverse factors.

Remarkably, in 50 to 66% percent of the cases, the cause remains unknown.

Abby, who lives in the Old Buttonwoods section of Warwick, had her first seizure when she was about 18 months old.

The daughter of Jed and Mary Adoian, Abby learned later in life that her dad was affected by the condition as well.

In her case, thankfully, she has had only three or four seizures in her whole life, the last being in 2023 while attending a Christmas play at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

She was pretty sure that the cause was the flashing lights that were part of the performance.

Abby, who is always upbeat and full of energy (like her brothers William and Joseph), decided to get involved with the EFNE.

Meeting with Mike

by Mike Levesque



Asked what her motivation was, she said, "my best friend Daphne has it. I wanted to support her, so I started going to epilepsy events throughout New England. When I found out that I had it, I not only wanted to support Daphne, but to also support my dad and others."

So, she went to various events primarily in RI and Massachusetts for walks and camps, which provided her with an opportunity to "know more about them and to learn new life skills. I also met a lot of people through social media."

She also joined her two pals in organizing a couple fundraisers at Papa's Ice Cream on West Shore Road in Warwick, as each participant in the Boston event had to raise a minimum of \$1,000.00.

Though fundraising is not high on her list of fun things to do, "I struggle with this. I'm good at talking to people, but it's difficult to ask people to donate because you know that sometimes you can get rejected."

I was curious about what this talented young 16-year-old would like to do after she graduated from Toll Gate, and as usual, Abby was not lost for words.

"I would like to do two years at CCRI for general courses. I'd like to see how I progress and maybe after that, URI"

She continued, "the career option that I am currently interested in is modeling or acting, so maybe another option is to go straight to acting school."

Why acting?
"Growing up, my family said I have the capability to be an actress. It's kind of stuck with me."

"I was afraid to take the leap at first and was hesitant to do it. Then I got into the Drama Club this year, and was worried about not remembering lines, but I performed in the play "The Alibi" and remembered all the lines. They said my acting was good and I got a lot of good feedback!"

"Now that I've done it, I have a lot more confidence."

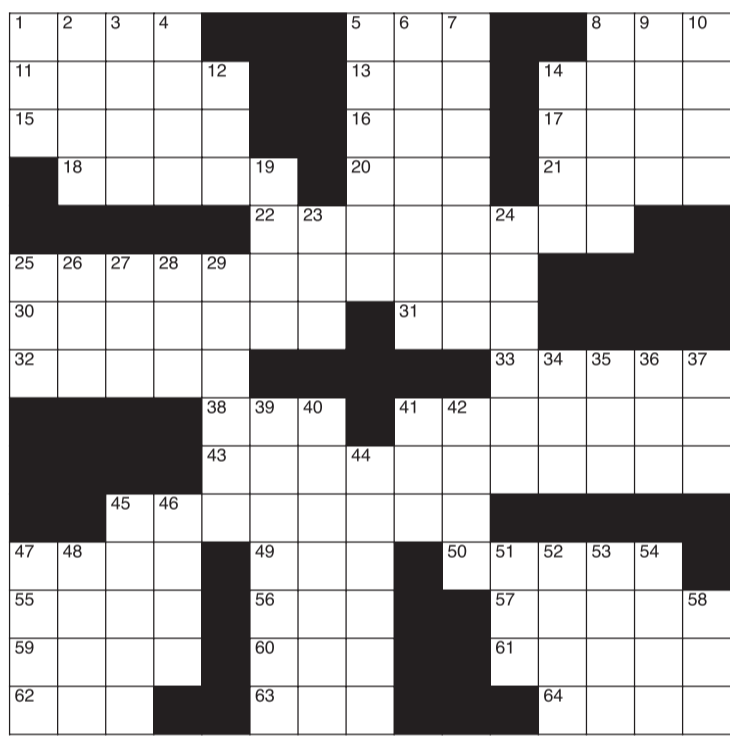
And modeling?
My grandma and people at school tell me I should, so why not look into it?"

But for right now, Abby is most interested in raising money and awareness for the Epilepsy Foundation New England through Team Violet Storm with her two friends Daphne and Marisa. They also inspired another young lady from Massachusetts, Kaylianna Downing, to join the team at the last minute.

"The money is all going to the Epilepsy Foundation so kids can go to camp, or for research to look more into what epilepsy is."

And if it takes rappelling down a dozen stories of a Boston building to raise that awareness, Abby, Daphne and Marisa were all in.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

1. Computer manufacturer
5. Noted space station
8. Kurt Russell film "Captain"
11. Automaton
13. Everyone has one
14. Incline from the vertical
15. Fights
16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
17. Finishes off
18. Places to store things
20. Dutch painter Gerard ___
21. Smaller quantity
22. There's a North, South and Central of these
25. In an early way
30. More spacious
31. Short-term memory
32. One who possesses

33. Sesame
38. Forbid
41. A way to explain
43. Not around
45. Evoke or suggest
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Dekameter
50. Fencing sword
55. "Luther" actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Arabic name
62. Hong Kong food stall: ___ pai dong
63. Not the start
64. Post

CLUES DOWN

1. Creative expression
2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
3. City in ancient Syria

4. College army
5. More disturbed
6. Pays no attention to
7. Restored
8. Competitions
9. Lyric poems
10. Famed American lawman
12. Expression of disappointment
14. Scars
19. Satisfy
23. Central European river
24. Brass instrument
25. One who gets paid to perform
26. Propel with oars
27. Long period of time
28. Woman (French)
29. Type of plane
34. Pitching stat
35. Pointed end of a pen
36. Pro sports league
37. Body part
39. Inoffensive
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Feline
42. Does not tell the truth
44. Set out to attract
45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
46. Abba __ Israeli politician
47. Repair
48. Genus of flowering plants
51. Tributary of the High Rhine
52. Prejudice
53. C. European river
54. Restrain
58. Father



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Advocating for fisheries in Washington, DC

By **CAPT. DAVE MONTI**
Special to the SunRise

Last month, I had the chance to advocate for full funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Washington, DC.

I was with Gretchen Spiers, Vice President of the Cape Cod Salties; Scott Travers, Executive Director of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association; George Baldwin, Past President of the Connecticut Surfcasters Association; and seven other charter captains and anglers.

NOAA is under attack to reduce its staff and budget by about a third. We were in Washington to share with congressional offices how these drastic cuts would impact recreational fishing and the economies of our states. Both the Administration's budget proposal and the budget Continuing Resolution now in Congress would be devastating to NOAA.

"We spoke with House and Senate staff about supporting NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation and Restoration, the National Estuary Research Reserves, and the inter-jurisdictional fisheries grants. Since Massachusetts has the largest commercial and recreational fishing economy in New England, and is the third largest producer of seafood in the country (behind Alaska and Washington State), these cuts will disproportionately impact Massachusetts," said Spiers of the Cape Cod Salties.

Rhode Island has benefited greatly by these programs including our National Sea Grant Programs at URI Graduate School of Oceanography and Roger Willimas University, Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and many of the programs run by the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. Most of these programs would simply go away.

In Massachusetts NOAA funding supports the Waquoit Bay Estuary Research Reserve in Falmouth and Mashpee, grants assessing the impact of wastewater discharge from the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant into Cape Cod Bay, grants for offsetting losses due to the decline in Atlantic herring stocks, and many other local initiatives," said Spiers. "NOAA dollars also fund ongoing science-based research projects at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, such as those for the National Sea Grant Program and the Ocean Acidification Program."

With budget cuts data-based stock assessments and fisheries cannot effectively be managed. The loss of funding for the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) – direct mail and interview intercept surveys - will significantly harm the ability of NOAA to manage fisheries.

Spiers said, "A reduction in new and more accurate data collection efforts may lead to moratoriums and seasonal closures based on even more uncertain data, or possibly worse, increased deregulation."

Our congressional delegation relies on anglers to keep them informed about what they are experiencing on the water, what the issues are and how these NOAA cuts will impact our industry. So please take the time to email them your concerns about NOAA cuts.

Top three tips to catch bigger fluke

The summer flounder (fluke) bite is on. Anglers are hooking up with keeper fluke off Newport, in lower Narragansett Bay, Mt. Hope Bay, along our coastal shore and around Block Island.

My three top tips

First you need to plan, plan, and plan your fluke trips. The idea is to select six to eight places you will fish based on wind and tide being in line. This is important as you want to drag your bait over the front of the fluke as they set up looking into the current. I then go to the first place I hope to

catch fish based on catching experience and recent fishing intelligence and then go the second, third, fourth places, etc. until we catch fish.

Second, larger fish usually come on edges of structure. This includes inclines and declines around channel banks and ledges, the foot of jetties where it meets sand, between ledges, drifting over humps and bumps, fishing bridge abutment areas where bait gets tossed, etc.

Third, be ready to fish multiple rigs and baits. This means being ready to use multiple-colored rigs, jig types and stingers. And, be ready to tip them with a variety of baits including squid, gulp or the ground fish you have starting to catch and strip up i.e. sea robins, scup, bluefish, etc. The idea is to try a number of rig and bait arrangements until you discover what the fish want on any given day.

Fluke regulations in Massachusetts include a minimum size of 17.5" from a vessel and 16.5" from shore with a five fish/person/day limit. In Rhode Island the fluke regulation is a 19" minimum size, six fish/person/day with special shore areas where anglers are allowed two 17" fish.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass/bluefish. Nick Krajewski, an associate at Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown, said, "The fishing in Narragansett bay for striped bass is spread out, most fish seem to have migrated to the lower Bay around Newport and off Newport at Brenton Reef and the Jamestown Beavertail area."

Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marine, South Kingstown, said, "The stiped bass bite has been pretty good on ells or with soft plastics that mimic ells. Nice fish are being caught at Block Island and here along the coastline."

"Customers are catching striped bass with flutter spoons, ells as well as trolling tube & worm and umbrella rigs," said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick.

Black sea bass, summer flounder (fluke), squeteague and scup. Angler Matt Haczynski reports on the RI Saltwater Anglers blog, "Last week the bite was insane off Newport. The fluke tossed up squid all over the boat when they came on board. We had our limit before noon each day. However, this Saturday the bite was way off. Possibly due the big blow on Friday."

"The scup bite if very good just about everywhere, however, we did not get a lot of reports on anglers catching fluke this weekend," said Nick Krajewski of Quaker Lane.

Conti of Snug Harbor Marina, said, "We have a good fluke bite along the Southern coastal beaches however, you need to be fishing when wind and tide is moving in the right direction. At Block Island we are waiting for a second round of summer flounder. The bite last week was not good there. And the black sea bass have been small all around."

Freshwater. "The largemouth bass bite for customers who like to use shiners seems to be very good. Wardon Pond, South Kingstown is producing for anglers," said Krajewski of Quaker Lane.

"The largemouth bass bite is very good with anglers using plastics and shiners. Ponds producing six plus pound largemouth bass for customers include Gorton, Little and Sandy ponds," said Giddings of the Tackle Box.

Dave Monti holds a captain's master license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verizon.net, visit www.noflukefishing.blogspot.com or www.noflukefishing.com



Advocating for NOAA are Capt. Dave Monti; George Baldwin, Past President, Connecticut Surfcasters; Gretchen Spiers, Vice President, Cape Cod Salties; and Scott Travers, Executive Director of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association.

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Pictured above are Gary Mazzie's three daughters (from L to R) Samantha Mazzie, Kira Mazzie and Becky Ansaldi. In back are two of Gary Mazzie's grandsons, Zachery Mazzie-Smith and Cooper Ansaldi. These family members along with the JHS Athletics Hall of Fame committee have been vital in the tournament's annual success.

● MAZZIE from page 9

"My dad certainly left his mark on this world, and in many hearts right here in Johnston. Being able to present an award in his name, and give back to student athletes who exemplify all that my dad stood for, is an absolute pleasure. I know he would be so pleased with our selections," said Samantha at the ceremony.

Dixon has been a member of the track and field team as well as the tennis team for JHS. She has achieved high honors in the classroom and volunteers in the

town, including playing guitar at the senior center. She plans on majoring in music and minoring in business at Rhode Island College.

"Playing piano and singing in the Narragansett Bay Chorus were two of my dad's favorite pastimes, so he certainly would love to know that those are her plans and hopefully this scholarship will assist her on her journey," said Samantha of Dixon.

Martins was a four-year wrestler for the Panthers and hit the 100-win mark this past year as he reached the podium once again at states. He has served as

class president and volunteers his time at Johnston Youth Wrestling. He will be heading to the University of Southern Maine next year, where he will wrestle and study occupational therapy.

"As a passionate biology and science teacher at Johnston High School, my dad would certainly be pleased to hear that he will be attending the University of Southern Maine, where he plans to study Health Sciences with a concentration in Occupational Therapy and looks forward to wrestling for the Huskies," said Samantha.



Ron DeFusco checking into the tournament. A member of the first class of JHS Hall of Fame inductees in 2011, DeFusco now serves on the Hall of Fame Committee and plays in the tournament every year.

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23 Hampton Rd Lot 23	Apponaug Properties Inc	Goral Ft and Goral, Bruce J	6/6	\$1,086,951	138 Spofford Ave	Deluca, Joseph	Reels, Faye-Ann and Hope, Denise	6/2	\$369,000
24 E Shore Dr	Verdelotti, Lora A	Grudzinski, Jamison S	6/3	\$342,000	148 Haswill St	Vizzacco, Joseph M	Tucker Jr, James B	6/3	\$260,000
28 Chandler Dr	Smith, James and Smith, Irene	Havican, Michael J and Havican, Linda J	6/2	\$475,000	15 Overbrook Ave	Estes, Danielle	Beaudion, Lacey J	5/29	\$140,000
35 Lydia Rd	Tavares, Kimberly	Haney, Amaya and Haney, Dustin	6/6	\$490,900	16 Omaha Blvd	Velleco, Cheryle A	Revive Re Solutions LLC	5/30	\$290,000
53 Park Ln	Featherston, Jamie	Solorzano, Edy P	6/4	\$50,000	188 Wood St	Patriot Hm Buyers LLC	Mery, Eva	5/30	\$224,000
59 Wood Cove Dr	Nacci, Judy M	Zeramby, Justin and Zeramby, Juliana	6/2	\$570,000	19 Bates Ave	Joan A Sickinger Irt and Galasso, Jennifer J	Orodenker, Judith and Debinder, Mark	5/30	\$365,000
64 Laurel Ave	Tavino, Jennifer L and Tavino, Gregory M	Poulin, Ewa M	6/6	\$442,500	20 Irondale St	Lucier, Robert and Lucier, Karin E	Dyer 2nd, Daniel R	5/29	\$510,000
734 Washington St	Traversie, Michael D	Beaulieu, Steven D	6/6	\$205,000	234 Leroy Ave	Kirk, Constance S	Mccrillis, Susan B	5/30	\$513,000
CRANSTON									
105 Roslyn Ave	Ulak, Jared C and Ulak, Ariana	Peipert, Jeffrey and Peipert, Leah	6/2	\$479,000	244 Harmony Ct	Mascoli Ft and Mascoli, Jeffrey W	Tyner, Steven J and Yetman, Alexandra D	5/29	\$465,000
110 Westcott Ave	Flynn, Kimberly A	Reasonable Realty LLC	6/5	\$10,000	290 Larchwood Dr	Consalter, Arthur and Danielski Ramos, Adriana D	Waller, Robert and Waller, Staci	6/2	\$1130,000
116 Burnside St	Ayala Properties LLC	Wino, Ryan P and Russo, Ciarra L	6/5	\$480,000	31 Eagle Run Lot B	Gorham, Catherine	Mueller, Thomas A and Mueller, Cynthia A	5/30	\$390,000
12 Winthrop St	Vera E Uttley Irt and Uttley, Frederick K	Capital Square Group Inc	6/5	\$386,000	3524 W Shore Rd Lot 214	Axd Invest LLC	Karas, Kenneth J	5/30	\$310,000
135 Columbus Blvd	Contreras, Omar A	Tejada, Francisco	5/30	\$360,000	367 Long St	Hattoy, Raymond E and Hattoy, Laurie R	Hattoy, Brittney and Ferri, Richard	5/30	\$525,000
14 Ausdale Rd	Malone, Thomas J and Malone, Linda E	Dejesus, Eliezer M and Avila, Dayra J	5/28	\$415,000	41 Darling St	Hattoy, Brittney E	King, Lisa J	5/30	\$475,000
14 Grove Ave	Masse, Beth A and Masse, Robert D	Mata, Marishell and Rosario Savinon, Oscar A	5/30	\$365,000	434 Harrington Ave	Dibenedetto, Victoria	Cooney, Sean	5/30	\$344,000
15 Country Meadow Dr	Peiczarek, John A and Peiczarek, Rita L	Caron, Samuel	6/3	\$825,000	44 Craig Rd	Nadeau, Ida E and Nadeau, Elizabeth	Waters, Kyle	5/29	\$368,000
16 Winthrop St	Kenneth F Uttley Irt and Uttley, Frederick K	Lrv Properties LLC	6/5	\$330,000	4430 Post Rd Lot E60	Dufresne, Kyle	Maiorano, Joann	5/29	\$300,000
186 Elsie St	Cox, Jonathan P and Gerstein, Haley E	Sibunroeng, Tommy and Rasasy, Rungthawun	5/30	\$534,000	48 Natick Ave	Angelini, Jane M	Dolan, Sarah and Kelly, Owen D	6/2	\$360,000
189 Kearney St	Hasaba, Hassan	Alvarez, Lary M	5/30	\$580,000	54 Paddock Dr	Slocum, Dustin	Julia R Janikies Irt and Casacalenda, Philip	6/2	\$759,900
20 Robinlyn Dr	Mcintyre, John E and McIntyre, Nancy R	Costa Jr, Richard A and Costa, Brittany L	5/30	\$610,000	55 Fern St	Santos, Jason	Masi, Stephen and Perry, Ashley	5/29	\$410,000
21 Clarion St	Pitman Partner LLC	Stewart, Matthew E	6/2	\$1	55 Knowles Dr	Caron, Samuel and Wickham, Jaclyn	Klammer, Sean and Gigliello, Angelica	6/3	\$535,000
236 Mayfield Ave	Perez, Katherine and Giron Urizer, Maria Y	Leonguerrero, Stephen	5/28	\$392,000	71 Wilson Ave	Hundley Nancy V Est and Arruda, Jaclyn	Flores, Esther S	6/2	\$325,000
237 Pontiac Ave	Cs Construction LLC	Duarte, Layllah	5/28	\$427,125	750 Quaker Ln Lot B302	Vendettuoli, Robert	Williams, Jennifer and Williams, Eric S	6/3	\$245,000
25 Summit Dr	Summit Estate LLC	Desimone, James	6/2	\$765,000	752 Quaker Ln Lot C111	Xenia & Deron Lt and Murphy, Xenia A	Vendettuoli, Robert	6/3	\$255,000
28 Chassett Ln	Desimone, James G and Desimone, Toni M	Orlandi 2nd, Ralph E and Lepore, Sabra M	5/30	\$829,900	8 Slater Ave	Rhode Island Custom Bldrs	Castro, Michelle A and Castro-Lavenant Jr, George	6/2	\$585,000
288 Woodbine St	Serpa, Kayla M	Feiz, Farnoosh and Ghane, Amir	5/30	\$526,000	845 Williamsburg Cir Lot 845	Mccartney Patricia A Est and Plante, Melissa A	Desjarlais, Christina M and Desjarlais, Carl L	5/30	\$351,700
33 Farwell St	Guglielmetti, Susan	Labianca, Matthew and Labianca, Cara	5/29	\$600,000	86 Glen Dr	Loren, Jeanne M	Ravikumar, Manoj and Kasula, Thrisha	6/2	\$250,000
35 Rosemary St	Wu, Wei H and Yu, Yan J	Liu, Candong and Yu, Yanhua	6/5	\$448,500	881 Greenwich Ave Lot A1	Delack, Sandra J	Patel, Hansa G and Jivani, Gaurang G	5/30	\$428,000
357 Smith St	Livingstone, Quoiquoi and Schubert, Angelina L	Alvarado-Ramos, Frankli	6/6	\$375,000	94 Holmes Rd	Mathenia, Courtney	Mancini, Victor	5/30	\$315,000
400 Meshanticut Valley Pkwy Lot 5	Carter, Thomas P	Piccione, Taya and Piccione, Linda	5/29	\$535,000	WEST GREENWICH				
47 Fairway Dr	Medeiros, John D	Godar, Shamser	6/3	\$490,000	19 Outlook Way	Ambrosino, Susan L and Ambrosino, Mitchell T	Barney, Steven and Barney, Christina	6/2	\$605,000
5 Exchange St	870 Oaklawn LLC	Sanginario, Timothy P and Sanginario, Diana S	6/2	\$250,000	849 Hopkins Hill Rd	Jones, Erin M and Ehret, Suzanne M	Wolstenholme, Paul and Wolstenholme, Keiry	6/6	\$715,000
51 Ivy Ave	Odonkor, Quenster	Henderson, Jane	6/5	\$380,000	WEST WARWICK				
51 Quail Hollow Rd	Ducharme, Warren J and Ducharme, Steven	Koller, Michaela A and Mcgladrigan, Clare M	5/28	\$475,000	19 Peters Ln	Fratus, Stephen R	Read, Derek and Read, Melissa	6/6	\$485,000
62 Calaman Rd	John R Warner T and Smith, Robert E	Spinden, Gwyneth	6/3	\$412,025	26-30 Vine St	Thompson, Zachary W	Thompson, Jennifer C	6/4	\$473,552
62 Greylock Ave	Johnson, Dean A	Damato, Joseph	6/3	\$443,000	28 Downing Dr	Maxey, Kyle S and Maxey, Ashley N	Durfee, Melissa N and Kierna, Mitchell J	6/9	\$533,500
66 E Bel Air Rd	Casall Albert Sr Est and Casall, Albert A	Giovannone, Nikole and Saltzman, David	6/6	\$610,000	32 Wendy Way	Franklin, Jakob F	Napoleoni, Mark	6/6	\$510,000
70 Humbert Ave	Miley, John and Miley, Nancy	Turner, Jennifer L and Bussell, Allen	6/6	\$395,000	33 Hilltop Ave	Coken Ft and Coken, Carl A	Marciano, Monica A	6/4	\$123,300
74 Leslie St	Manco, Matthew	Valley Construction Inc	5/30	\$335,000	33 Hilltop Ave	Mansour, Julie A	Marciano, Monica A	6/4	\$246,600
84 Wales St	Blake Jr, Gerald D	Rhode Island Custom Bldrs	6/6	\$405,000	650 E Greenwich Ave Lot 7-202	Cardi Properties LLC	Viti, Ryan and Labossiere, Kelly	6/6	\$352,500
EAST GREENWICH									
10 Prospect St	Joseph N Zenga Ft and Zenga, Christina A	Mosley, Scott B and Pescatello, Meredith S	6/4	\$750,000	888 Providence St	Stb Ventures LLC to Boudreau Jr	Cory A and Boudreau, Amanda,	6/9	\$519,900
13 Prospect St	Cullinane, Paul M and Cullinane, Judith R	Wilson, Tyler and Wilson, Allison S	6/6	\$1,175,000					
14 Howland Farm Rd	Fridley Ft and Fridley, Jared S	Malgieri, Christopher and Malgieri, Catherine	6/2	\$1,550,000					
15 Blueberry Dr	Jones, Rosamaria and Laughlini, Jealani	Chandra, Ezekiel C and Chandra, Kara S	6/2	\$860,000					
221 Cindyann Dr	Scott, Adam M and Scott, Jennifer M	Bacigalupo, Matthew	6/6	\$770,000					
23 Hampton Rd Lot 6	Apponaug Properties Inc	Goral Ft and Goral, Bruce J	6/6	\$1,086,951					
79 Duke St Lot 1	Lattmann, Alexander and Lattmann, Carol A	Pare, Lindsay	6/4	\$360,000					
JOHNSTON									
15 Water St	Guertin, Ryan	Vani, Samuel P	6/4	\$470,000					
2631 Hartford Ave Lot 4	2631 Hartford Ave LLC	Scotti, Louis and Scotti, Gina	6/6	\$259,000					
29 Pleasant View Ave	Saadeh, Tony and Ghanem, Shinelle	Joseph, Faton C	6/6	\$435,000					
31 Mathew Dr	Apici, Ralph and Apici, Mary E	Camara, Toumany	6/5	\$745,000					
4 Cantone Dr	Carnevale, Frank A	Rotella, Lisa and Cote, Victoria	6/5	\$380,000					
44 N Williams St	Rhody Rentals LLC	Ovalle, Carlina P and Mendez, Enercido A	6/10	\$424,000					
67 Peck Hill Rd	Venditelli, Stephanie and Venditelli, Michael R	Chhuani, Ruth and Thanga, Vaiphei	6/10	\$640,000					
8 Ashby St	Vargas, Robinson and Gonzalez, Brunilda	Emile, Jeanne	6/9	\$475,000					
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Lifestyles



Reclusive musician on album 57 and counting

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

You've probably seen his face on billboards around the state. You might have heard his music in commercials aired on Channel 10. And if you're an eagle-eyed driver, you may have even noticed the stretch of Route 95N adopted by Phil Vincent, a hardworking local rock musician with a quirky marketing

strategy and an even more unusual work ethic.

"They worked!" the Cranston native exclaims over the phone when I tell him I was curious about the billboards, needing to get to the bottom of who this guy is. He tells me a few minutes later that he plans to expand the billboard campaign into Massachusetts and Connecticut, though outdoor advertising is considerably more expensive in those markets.

Touring isn't as lucrative as it used to be for most bands, but that's not really an issue for Vincent since he rarely performs in public. That partly explains his need for creative marketing solutions. "I'm really a recluse," he says. "I don't like performing in front of people. If I know people, it's kind of stressful. It's not a stage fright thing, it's just uncomfortable."

Instead of touring, he spends time in the studio working on new material and releasing two or three albums a year, between solo work and several bands, each with different line-ups. He fronts the British band Legion, an American band called D'Ercole, and also a two-man band he named Cranston, who have a third album in the works.

There was also a band called ZVP, a trio that released two albums before the passing of guitarist David Zycek. (Texas Monthly called Zycek "the greatest guitar player you've

never heard of.")

Vincent released his 57th overall album in late May, the thirteenth release for his quartet Tragik. "I'm gonna say what every artist says, it's my best one yet," he laughs.

The music is melodic hard rock with a metal influence. Vincent sings and plays guitar, bass, keyboards and drums on the album. He says his influences include Judas Priest, Black Sabbath, Soundgarden, the Beatles, and Dokken. He also likes Queen.

"Queen albums are great," he says. "Queen would do one hard rock song, one ballad, one song that sounded like the 20s. Everything on the album was different from what came before it."

Vincent learned the drums first. "Much to my parents' chagrin," he says. "We lived in a big house, and they redid the attic, and I made a lot of noise up there. Drums, then guitar, piano lessons... And then singing. I just started singing, I didn't take any lessons or anything. I should have, maybe, depending who you ask."

"A friend of mine said music is a continuing recycling project," he adds. "You can't really create new music, all of the note configurations have already been done."

Vincent's label, Rock Company Records, is based in the Netherlands. "I've been with them since 2000," he says. "They've been really helpful with the promotions. Financially they back it up. It's not cheap having billboards, commercials, and streaming."

Sales of physical music is way down from twenty or even ten years ago. In the United States, streaming services accounted for about 84 percent of album listening in 2023,



Phil Vincent album covers. Submitted by Phil Vincent

● VINCENT from page 15

According to data journalist Florian Zendt, while streaming pays only a small fraction of what physical sales or radio royalties provide to an artist, there are upsides to streaming since international shipping is considerably more expensive than it used to be.

"Most of my music sells overseas," he says. "In 1998 when I started this, a guy in Germany bought a CD from a magazine ad I put out, and he told people about me, and it spread from there. Whenever I put an album out, there are 1200 to 1500 people in Europe who buy it right away because they already know me and know what I do."

Vincent says he mostly receives positive feedback. "My thing is, if you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything. You might not like something somebody does but if that's their passion, don't slam their passion. But if the people complaining are that unhappy with their lives, let them complain. Freedom

of speech, right? Let them do it. Would they come up to me and say it to my face? Probably not."

He brings up one comment on the social forum Reddit. A few months ago, the user called u/quasicoherent asked "Who is this Phil Vincent dude and where does he get the means to self-promote his music on billboards and television commercials?"

In a follow up reply, he calls Vincent's music "silly hair metal." Visually, a lot of the album art is certainly reminiscent of the hard rock wave of the late 1980s and early 1990s—flames, scantily clad women, and sci-fi imagery all make multiple appearances.

"I don't know what the problem is," Vincent says. "Maybe the billboard's right outside his window and I'm the first thing he sees in the morning. I could see not liking me if that was the case."

Tragik's new album Crescendo is out now, and can be found through Bandcamp and on streaming services.



Phil Vincent at the drums in his home studio. Submitted photo courtesy of Phil Vincent



Phil Vincent in his home studio. Submitted photo courtesy of Phil Vincent



Phil Vincent in a rare on-stage appearance. Submitted photo courtesy of Phil Vincent



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