

## What the Flock?

### Traffic 'safety cameras' may be the reason you're getting pulled over

By RORY SCHULER

Have you driven on Hartford Avenue recently? If so, your license plate was likely one of 162,180 vehicles detected in the last 30 days by one of three Flock Safety cameras monitoring traffic in Johnston. There's two more cameras in town, and all three are on the lookout for "hotlist" vehicles.

On the evening of March 12, Johnston Police dispatch "advised patrol units of a flock hit" in the area of Hartford Avenue and City View Parkway.

A "flock hit" refers to a triggered response signal sent from a Flock Safety traffic camera in town. The cameras record the license plate information from passing vehicles and, according to the company, cannot identify people by gender or race, or utilize facial recognition. And according to local law enforcement, the cameras will only detect and store license plate data and general vehicle descriptions for 30 days.

CAMERAS - PAGE 8



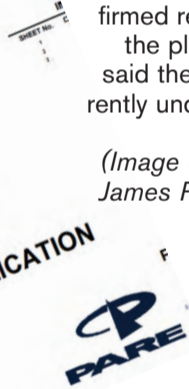
**FALCON OVER JOHNSTON:** The town purchased three Flock Safety Falcon Flex cameras, last year. Since, they've helped police make at least four arrests, and detect nearly 200,000 vehicles on Johnston's roadways each month. (Photo courtesy Flock Safety)

## RIDOT confirms receipt of Market Basket traffic fix plan

Proposed Site Improvements  
**MARKET BASKET**  
Johnston, Rhode Island



PHYSICAL ALTERATION PERMIT APPLICATION  
FEBRUARY 2024



By RORY SCHULER

**THE PLANS:** Market Basket's hired engineering consultant, James R. Lamp said spring-time is still the target for road improvements outside the Johnston store. RIDOT confirmed receipt of the plans, and said they're currently under state review. (Image courtesy James R. Lamp)

The residents got sick of all the road rage and head-on collision close-calls. So they got together and started attending Johnston Town Council meetings. Then their local newspaper finally wrote about their struggle to fix a clumsy section of signage leading to busy grocery store parking lot shortcut. And now, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has confirmed receipt of "Proposed Site Improvements" outside Market Basket on Hartford Avenue.

"Whether a project a project is large or a small there is a process which needs to be followed and the process takes time," explained Market Basket's hired engineering consultant, James R. Lamp. Late last year and a few months back, Lamp attended a pair of Johnston Town Council meetings, where he listened to concerns voiced by residents and Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira.

Town Council members were all fairly vocal in their support for the residents. When BJ's Wholesale Club operated a store at the same site on Hartford Avenue, they had a gate that blocked customers from entering the back of the lot.

TRAFFIC - PAGE 6

## Core Training



### It all starts with a strong middle

**TO THE FUTURE:** The Ferri girls basketball team enjoyed a big 2024 winter, finishing the regular season undefeated and winning its division. The Jaguars are set to return much of its roster and is looking to provide a strong feeder system to Johnston High School, whose varsity team just reached the state championship game. Read the full story, starting on page 15. Shown here, Ferri's Brooklyn Russillo takes the ball earlier this season. (Sun Rise photo by Alex Sponseller)

## Cranston veteran aims to revive VFW Post

By RAYMOND BACCARI



**HE AIMS TO KEEP THE DOORS OPEN:** Garry Crum standing in front of VFW Post 4651 located at 7 Haven Ave. (Photo by Raymond Baccari)

The Nelson-Mack-Narragansett Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4651, one of three VFW posts in Cranston, was on the verge of closing until Garry Crum became the commander.

Crum, a 45-year-old Iraq war veteran, father of four and Cranston resident for over 30 years, started this role in January as the post faced closure due to declining membership and finances.

"We were probably a week or so within closing down, maybe even

closer than that," Crum said. "We had to have an emergency meeting - I had to reach out to all the previous members of this VFW, so I had to send them all letters. Then I also had to reach out to all the guys that I did have communication with and that I thought would show up and join and be a part of it, which did happen luckily."

On the financial side, Crum describes the VFW Post's financial health since taking over as "not the greatest, but it is trending in the right direction."

One of the issues facing the post,

low membership, contributed to it being under suspension since last year. A suspension typically happens when there is a violation of bylaws and can be implemented by either the state's VFW department or the national organization.

Alongside increasing revenue and membership, Crum sees getting several much-needed repairs done as a piece of the puzzle to keep this post afloat.

"We need to rehab these bathrooms, they're in really rough shape," he said. "The kitchen as well because

VFW - PAGE 8



# More at Mohr Library

Join Ms. Melyssa for STEAM on Thursdays through April 4.

STEAM: Thursdays at 5 p.m., through April 4

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Register at <https://mohrlibrary.org/forchildren.php>.

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See [mohrlibrary.org](http://mohrlibrary.org) or call 401-231-4980 to register.

There is an ongoing book sale in the lower level, whenever the library's open.

Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Required registration opens March 6 for art and science programs for elementary-school-age kids with Ms. Melyssa.

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# Johnston Senior Center Highlights

### Weekly Fun

- Monday — Arts and Crafts
- Monday & Wednesday — Hi Lo Jack
- Tuesday — Quilting
- Wednesday — Poker
- Thursday — Mar Jong
- Thursday & Friday — Bingo

### Upcoming Activities

- Mondays — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Arts & Crafts, 10:30 a.m.; Hi Lo Jack, 12:30 p.m.
- Tuesday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Quilting, 9:30 a.m.; Zumba, 10 a.m.; Fit & Strong -Chair, 11 a.m.
- Thursday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Mahjong, 9:30 a.m.; Chair Yoga, 10 a.m.; Bone Builders, 11 a.m.
- Friday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Line Dancing, 10 a.m.; Fit & Strong-Chair, 11 a.m.

### Trips & Events

- Tuesday, March 26, Book Club with Mary, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 26, Lunch & Movie (\$10 per person)
- Wednesday, March 27, Mystery Lunch (\$10 per person)
- Wednesday, March 27, Paint with Sue, 6 p.m. (\$20 per person)

# JHS

# Panther of the Week



**POTW:** Lucas Simpson is a responsible, respectful tenth-grader at Johnston Senior High School who is very much involved in the Arts. Most recently, Lucas won an award, "Best in Category" for his "Turtle Heist" Film and Animation project at this year's RI Anchor Art Awards. His artwork will be on display in the Alex and Ani Hall at Rhode Island College from March 15-22. Lucas is currently involved in the RI Youth Philharmonic and was selected to participate in RIMEAS's All State Music Concert in the Senior Orchestra. In addition to these extra-curricular activities, Lucas is enrolled in our Computer Science pathway and excelling academically. Keep up the great work! *(Photo submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School Principal)*

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

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- Cayenne Sushi
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- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Chicken Coop
- Dr. Duffs Lost and Found Project
- Escada Restaurant and Bar
- Fu Ming Jade East Chinese Restaurant, Inc
- Golden City Chinese
- Hei Place
- J.Palmieri Pizzeria
- Johna's
- Knight's Liquor Warehouse

- La Nouva Pizzeria
- Luigi's Restaurant
- Market Fine Wine & Spirits
- Mr. Bigg's Saloon
- Panderia El Paisano
- Pat's Italian Restaurant
- Red Ginger Restaurant
- Sura Restaurant
- The 78 Pub at This Guys Pizza
- The Ave Bar & Grill
- This Guys Pizza
- The Punjab Indian Cuisine
- Trattoria Romana
- Tri Town Wine & Spirits
- Uncle Tony's Pizza & Pasta
- Underground Billiards, LLC
- Vivaa Mexico



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# Senior 'Spotlite'



**DOLORES THE EXPLORER ALL GROWN UP:** Dolores Fagnolli has lived a life full of adventure, from camping in the Midwest to serving on Johnston's Board of Canvassers. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

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 • Helena Moronta - BayCoast Bank  
 • Angelica Penta - Gel's Kitchen & Shriners of Rhode Island Charities Trust  
 • Mike Philibert - Amgen  
 • Anny Robert-Fernandez - Bank of America  
 • Amy Sloan - Ocean State Kidz Club  
 • Marisa Sprague - Washington Trust  
 • Jason Williams - Greenwood Credit Union  
**HOSTS**  
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 Amy Pontes - Middays on Lite 105, WWLI  
  
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 Tickets: \$125 each | \$225 couple  
 Reserve by March 22, 2024

# The Adventures of Dolores the Explorer

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

**T**he Johnston Senior Center Spotlite this week shines on Dolores Fagnolli, a nearly lifelong resident of Johnston (with the exception of 10 years she spent out of state accompanying her husband who served full-time in the U.S. Air Force).

Proud military service runs in the family, as her son served full-time in the U.S. Navy and her granddaughter serves full-time U.S. Air Force.

Dolores started coming to the JSC in 2008, after retiring as an accounts payable clerk. She began almost immediately serving as a volunteer, sometime five days per week. She keeps up a similar schedule even today, serving meals, chaperoning trips, putting together newsletters, and serving in whatever capacity necessary.

Dolores is another example of members who have a fascinating story to tell. She is someone certainly not short on energy and enthusiasm. One certainly would not have guessed that as a younger woman, she worked along side her father and husband in the heavy construction field.

When not providing bookkeeping services, she could regularly be seen operating heavy equipment like 10-wheel dump trucks and bulldozers. She claims her father put everyone to work, regardless of the task, to fill the need wherever it may exist.

If that wasn't enough of a surprise, Dolores revealed she hunted wild game in Montana, camped on the Louis and Clark Trail, and lived off the land in the deep Midwest.

In a much less adventurous manner, Dolores served on the Johnston Board of Canvassers, and has a long history of civic and community service.

Dolores enjoys family relationships, especially her three children and six grandchildren. Dolores has made many friends over the years here at the JSC.

As the saying goes, "you can't judge a book by its cover," nor should you assume the content can be guessed by the title alone. Dolores might appear small in stature, quiet and unassuming, but she has certainly lived a life of adventure and intrigue — a break from perception and expectation.

Dolores is another in a long list of volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of the members here at the JSC.

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

LEAD SPONSORS



# POLICE LOG

## WARRANT ARREST

Around 6:50 p.m., Feb. 24, Johnston Police Patrolman Matthew D. Murphy spotted a red Buick Lacrosse traveling north on Atwood Avenue. The vehicle had a malfunctioning head lamp, according to the arrest report. The inspection sticker had also expired in February 2022.

Murphy initiated a traffic stop in the parking lot of the Stop & Shop Plaza at 11 Commerce Way.

Police identified the driver as David P. Trofi, 61, of 30 Myra St., Apt. 1R, Providence. Police discovered the vehicle's registration was suspended, and found two active Superior Court Full Bench Warrants — one for failing to appear at an "arraignment stemming from an assault of a police officer charge" and the other, a cyberstalking/cyber harassment charge, both filed by Johnston Police.

Trofi was arrested and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters, where he was processed and held pending transport to the Men's ACI Intake Service Center.

Trofi was cited for Violation of Inspection Laws, Operation of Vehicle when Registration is Suspended, and Head Lamps Required.

## DUI

Around 1 p.m., Feb. 22, Johnston Police responded to the report of a crash with injuries at the intersection of Shun Pike and Green Hill Road. Upon arrival, police found two vehicles in the middle of the intersection.

Police identified one of the drivers as Kerri-Anne Smiddy, 58, of 45 Pawsey St., Quincy, Massachusetts.

In the arrest report, Johnston Police Patrolman Richard Xon wrote that "Smiddy was unable to walk on her own and her eyes appeared bloodshot and glossy. Xon also "detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from her breath."

Police "immediately summoned a rescue to respond for the well-being of Smiddy."

The other driver, who had a child in the car, told police that Smiddy's vehicle approached the stop sign "at a high rate of speed, without stopping." The vehicles collided and one vehicle was pushed off the eastbound embankment. Both vehicles' front and side air bags deployed.

"While on scene, other members of the Johnston Police Department responded allowing me to further investigate this accident," Xon wrote, noting that he found "numerous High Noon/White Claw empty alcohol cans and cartons on the driver and passenger side floor boards."

Johnston and Cranston Fire and Rescue arrived and began to treat Smiddy for her injuries.

Xon entered a Cranston Rescue vehicle and gave Smiddy the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) sobriety test. According to police, she was unable to perform the "Walk and Turn and One-leg Stand" tests, due to "her injuries and condition." Following the HGN test, Smiddy was arrested for the suspicion of DUI. Police read Smiddy her rights and she was transported to Rhode Island Hospital where she refused to submit to a blood test.

Smiddy was mailed citations for Obeyance to Stop Signs, Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test and Operating a Vehicle with an Unsealed Alcoholic Beverage (first offense). She was also charged with DUI (first offense, BAC unknown).

## RESISTING ARREST

Around 8:30 p.m., Feb. 25, Johnston Police on a fixed post along Plainfield Street spotted a red Toyota Corolla with a shattered windshield traveling east. Johnston Police Patrolman Michael P. Strain initiated a traffic stop. Police also noted a non-working rear tail light.

Police identified the driver as Pedro Diaz, 28, of 49 Steuben St., Providence. Police learned the vehicle's registration was suspended and Diaz had a suspended license. Police contacted a tow company to impound the vehicle.

"When Mr. Diaz observed the tow truck arrive on scene, it prompted him to attempt to complete a 180 degree turn and flee from the scene," Strain wrote in the arrest report.

Diaz, however, was "unable to flee the scene" because two other Johnston patrolmen positioned their cruisers around the suspect's vehicle. Police ordered Diaz out of the vehicle, but he took the keys out of the ignition and locked himself in the vehicle, refusing to exit.

Officers on the scene called a supervisor. After several minutes, Diaz stepped out the vehicle, but "began to actively resist arrest by tucking his hands into his chest and turning his body making it difficult to apply hand restraints," according to the arrest report.

"Multiple officers had to restrain Mr. Diaz to successfully get him into hand restraints," Strain wrote. According to police, neither Diaz nor the officers on the scene suffered injuries.

Diaz received citations for Windshield Visibility, Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended Registration, and Tail Lamps Required. His vehicle was towed from the scene.

Diaz was arrested and charged with Resisting Arrest, Obstruction Officer in the Execution of Duty, Disorderly Conduct and Driving with a Suspended License (fourth offense).

## POSSESSION OF STOLEN VEHICLE

Around 2 p.m., Feb. 7, Johnston Police responded to 14 Green Earth Ave. for the report of a stolen motor vehicle. The manager of the facility told police that a man arrived at the scrap metal yard with a stolen motor vehicle on the back of his flatbed truck.

The driver of the flatbed, Jose O. Reyes Rodriguez, 47, of 30 John St., Apt. 1R, Johnston, told police that he paid cash for the car, a Nissan Sentra, for scrap, from a man named "DJ." The vehicle had no wheels, front doors, plates or engine.

Following a background check, police discovered the vehicle was reported stolen out of Providence.

The driver was arrested and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters without incident. The truck and the Nissan were both towed from the scene. Reyes Rodriguez was charged with Possession of a Stolen Vehicle (first offense, a felony). He was arraigned later that day and released on \$5,000 personal recognizance with a May 6 Third District Court date.

## POSSESSION OF STOLEN VEHICLE

Around 6:20 p.m., March 12, Johnston Police dispatch "advised patrol units of a flock hit" in the area of Hartford Avenue and City View Parkway.

"Flock hit" refers to Flock Safety traffic cameras, which record the license plate information from passing vehicles. According to a Johnston Police arrest report, dispatch advised Patrolman Matthew D. Murphy that a stolen 2021 Toyota Camry with Maine plates was detected traveling west on Hartford Avenue.

After arriving on the scene, police were unable to locate the vehicle, so they looked around the surrounding neighborhoods.

Murphy spotted the vehicle parked on Ivanhoe Street. He checked the car for occupants but found none.

Police spoke to Matthew S. Breton, 33, of 12 Wilson Ave., Johnston. According to the arrest report, Breton "spontaneously uttered that the vehicle is an Enterprise Rental, and that it is rented to him."

Breton told police he had been driving the car and recently arrived home. According to police, "without provocation" Breton allegedly also told them he was "behind on his payments to Enterprise."

"Based on (Breton's) statements," he was arrested, searched and secured in the back of a patrol cruiser. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Breton was transported back to Johnston Police Headquarters, where police say they found two additional active Third District Court Bench Warrants, one of which instructed authorities to "Hold Without Bail."

Breton was charged with Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, a felony (first offense). Following arraignment, Breton received \$5,000 personal recognizance (for the new charge), held without bail (on the bench warrants), issued a pre-arraignment court date of June 10, and transferred to the ACI Men's Intake in Cranston.

# 'Outstanding Service'

**NOMINATED:** The Johnston Police Department (JPD) proudly announced "Officer Mario Mennella's nomination for this year's Elwood Johnson Outstanding Service Award presented by Special Olympics Rhode Island," in a post on social media. "For the past decade, Officer Mennella (center) has been instrumental in organizing our department's participation in the Special Olympics Rhode Island Law Enforcement Torch Run, Motorcycle Run, and helped raise awareness and funds for the athletes of Special Olympics Rhode Island," according to the JPD post. "His dedication and commitment to our community are truly commendable. We appreciate Officer Mennella's outstanding efforts, thank you." (Photo courtesy JPD)



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## Traffic

(Continued from page 1)

Since Market Basket renovated the site and opened their store in 2022, residents utilizing a nearby strip mall and neighbors living on Hargreaves Street have been encountering motorists head-on as they try to legally turn onto their own street.

"Our Traffic/Highway Engineer, Pare Corporation, has completed the design plans and is in the process of preparing the documents for submission to the RIDOT," Lamp said. "The RIDOT is aware of the proposed improvements, which are based on their feedback."

RIDOT Chief of Public Affairs Charles St. Martin confirmed receipt of the plans.

"Yes, we have since received the permit application related to the Market Basket in Johnston," St. Martin wrote via email Tuesday. We are currently reviewing it."

RIDOT, however, refused to provide an estimated timeline.

"I can't comment on Market Basket's timeline," St. Martin wrote.

Lamp provided a copy of the proposed site improvements, which became public documents once they were submitted to RIDOT.

Two weeks ago, the RIDOT spokesman said they were aware of concerns at the site, but had yet to receive formal plans.

"We are aware that Market Basket officials have been in discussions with a traffic engineering consultant, but we have not yet received a request for a permit which would be necessary for the improvements they proposed, which the police chief mentioned in your story," St. Martin wrote earlier this month. "We would certainly review any such request for changes which would be done at Market Basket's expense."

Local police said their hands were tied; "Do Not Enter" signs on Market Basket property were unenforceable. Although the arrows and striping on

the state roadway was unclear to motorists on this stretch of Route 6, any road improvements would have to clear RIDOT.

"It continues to be my understanding that Market Basket, through the Rhode Island DOT, intends to pursue the modifications they previously mentioned at the Jan. 8 Town Council meeting," Vieira confirmed a week after the story was first reported. "I am not aware of a target date provided by Market Basket as to when they planned on submitting their requests to R.I. DOT for the necessary permits to install the modifications."

After receiving a request for comment, Lamp confirmed the plans were nearly complete and would soon be submitted to the state.

"Once approved we intend to get the work completed as soon practicable," Lamp said. "We are still targeting to complete the work this spring, as discussed with the Town."

Lamp described the proposed site improvements.

"The proposal provides an exclusive east bound left turn lane for Hargreaves Street and includes the installation of a 'delta' island within the Market Basket service entrance (the eastern most access to the site)," Lamp wrote via email. "These improvements are intended to prohibit passenger vehicles from making westbound left turns, into the service entrance, and eliminate opposing left turn conflicts, in the center lane."

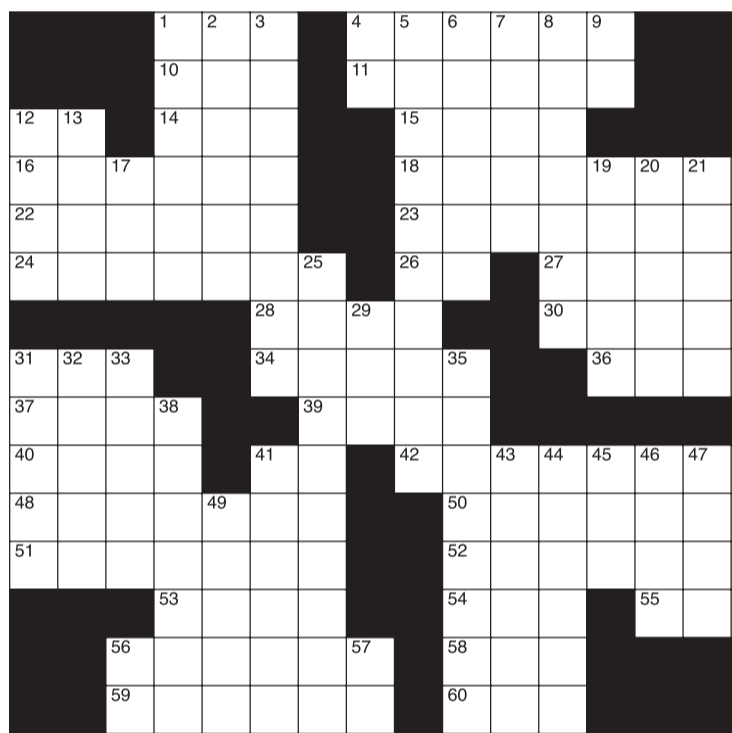
On Tuesday afternoon, Lamp estimated the road improvements would cost around \$34,000. He also confirmed that Market Basket planned to pick up the construction tab, if the project is approved by the state.

"The RIDOT is correct," Lamp wrote. "Market Basket will be paying for these particular improvements."

Hargreaves Street residents Deb and Mike Keough, who have urged town officials to act before a serious accident occurs outside Market Basket, welcomed the news.

"I'll take that," they wrote via email. "We are not giving up."

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Irish county
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province (abbr.)
14. Human gene
15. Two
16. A famous one is blue
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Ring-shaped objects
23. Spoils
24. Occurs
26. Commercial
27. Near
28. Products you may need
30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge
31. TV network
34. Silk or cotton garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republics
37. Retired American football coach Dean
39. Hot dish
40. A type of gin

41. Atomic #84
42. Sawhorse
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. Capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. By the way (abbr.)
56. Bicycle parts
58. Barbie's friend
59. Moved one's neck to see
60. Commercials

### CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Salary
4. Influential world body
5. Engravers
6. Declared as fact
7. One who steals
8. Jewelry
9. Hospital employee (abbr.)
12. Nonsense (slang)
13. Town in Galilee

17. Value
19. A fake name
20. Sheep in their second year
21. Town in Surrey, England
25. Appropriate for a particular time of year
29. Creative works
31. Recesses
32. W. Pacific island group
33. Tolkien character
35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
38. Pioneer
41. Scribe
43. Painted a bright color
44. Lowest members of British nobility
45. Actress Thurman
46. Type of sugar
47. Crest of a hill
49. N. American people of British Columbia
56. Device
57. The Mount Rushmore State



### USELESS SIGNS:

According to Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira, signs like these are unenforceable, giving police little leverage to stop vehicles from entering the wrong Market Basket entrance. Motorists either don't see them, or ignore them. (Photo courtesy Alex Psznowsky)

## BEACON COMMUNICATIONS

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# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Saving the quahog

There are few industries as quintessentially tied to the identity of a state as quahogging in Rhode Island. Over the decades, the industry has ebbed and flowed with changes to regulations, the number of people actively involved in the hunt, and to a changing environmental reality itself. But throughout all the tumult, the time-honored tradition has continued on, regardless of the circumstances.

Troubling signs of lower-than-normal quahog harvests in recent years has, thankfully, prompted a governmental interest in assessing the problem and identifying solutions, with Warwick's own Rep. Joseph Solomon Jr. co-chairing the legislative committee whose report on the quahog situation is expected to be released soon. This is a good, proactive measure, and we look forward to the recommendations made and the insight of research gathered.

• WHERE TO WRITE:  
1944 Warwick Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02889  
RoryS@RhodyBeat.com

Unfortunately, like most complex problems, there isn't likely to be any one easy answer.

Quahogs, like all marine life in Narragansett Bay and our surrounding waters, are part of a vibrant and ever-changing aquatic ecosystem; one that, like everywhere else across the globe, is under constant threat from rising temperatures, increased carbon dioxide levels, and environmental pollutants making their way into that delicate ecological balancing act.

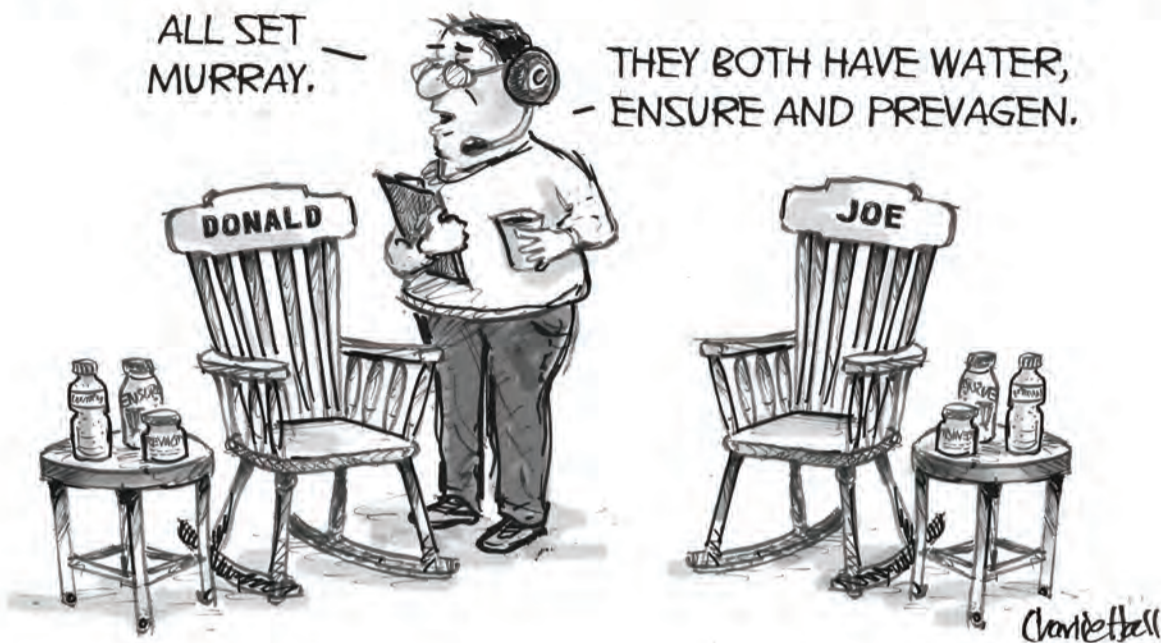
All of those factors likely contribute to the decline of the quahogging industry, as does a declining interest in younger people to get into the profession that requires constant hard work, dedication, and the ability to deal with the highs and lows of such a volatile cash crop.

Ironically enough, one of the possible causes being investigated for the decline in quahogs is the very same measure that has led to better quality water in the bay for other purposes and other marine life – the allowable cap of nitrogen-laden discharges from wastewater treatment plants. That action, made in good ecological faith to improve water quality, had its intended effect, but also may very well be capped to a point of stifling the food that quahogs rely on. It will be interesting to see if a partial or strategically timed lift of that cap is considered an option for the quahog problem, or if doing so would do more harm than good.

This weighing of numerous interests, it seems, is going to be the core responsibility of the scientists, politicians, and other various stakeholders who are involved in the process. What decisions will be made, who it will impact, and what effects it will have are all yet to be seen.

One thing is for certain though. Of the relatively few quahoggers who remain, and saddle up each day to hit the open waters of the bay in search for their "black gold," their hunt will continue. As the beneficiaries of their tireless efforts, we should all be rooting for brighter days ahead for them.

## READY TO ROCK IT'S OFFICIAL: A BIDEN - TRUMP REMATCH AS CREWS SET UP FOR THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE



LETTER

## Green bond bill not so green?

To the Editor,

Last week, the *Cranston Herald* published an article by an ecoRI reporter entitled, "Public supportive of green bond proposal, \$16M in additional funding for land preservation."

My concerns regarding the proposal to add \$16 million to the Green Bond were stated as, "Nathan Cornell, president of the Old Growth Tree Society, told lawmakers he was opposed to the \$3 million for forest management, criticizing DEM's forestry management practices."

While this statement is technically true, it does not explain why I am opposed to the proposed \$3 million to "forests and habitat management," a name which is intentionally misleading.

The reason I am opposed to this provision in the Green Bond Proposal is because that \$3 million would go to fund logging projects including likely clearcutting of our state forests causing deforestation.

I believe DEM deceiving the public by leading them to think they are supporting a measure to protect forest habitat while they are actually supporting the destruction of natural habitats is completely unethical.

The destructive logging DEM conducts destroys biodiversity, leads to the spread of invasive species, degrades water and soil quality, creates a fire hazard, and releases most of the forest's stored carbon into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate

Change.

If the additional funding for the 2024 Green Bond is approved with that \$3 million allocated to logging included and sent to the voters, it risks hurting the chances of the 2024 Green Bond passing, since most Rhode Islanders do not support clearcutting and habitat destruction.

They were fortunate that the public and most of the General Assembly were not aware of the \$3 million allocated to logging in the 2022 Fake Green Bond which is now funding logging projects in the Arcadia Management Area. However, it will be difficult for DEM and the timber industry to get away with it in another green bond.

The Old Growth Tree Society asks the Rhode Island General Assembly to amend 2024 H 7550, S 2496, to remove the \$3 million allocated to logging under the misleading title of "forests and habitat management," and instead allocate that \$3 million to fund the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program to monitor and protect biodiversity since no one in the state government has been doing that work since DEM defunded the Natural Heritage Program in 2007.

Nathan Cornell  
President of the Old Growth Tree Society  
Warwick

**JOHNSTON Sun Rise**

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## Cameras

(Continued from page 1)

The eyes in the sky, however, are part of a growing network of police-monitored cameras spread across the Ocean State.

### Step Through The Portal

The Johnston Police Department (JPD) "uses Flock Safety technology to capture objective evidence without compromising on individual privacy," according to a statement at the top of the department's "Transparency Portal."

"In addition to the statistics provided by the Flock Safety Transparency Portal, this current year, I am aware of four Johnston Police Department arrests where Johnston Flock cameras assisted with the criminal investigations leading to arrest," recalled Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira. "Two of the arrests were for stolen vehicles and two for vandalism offenses."

According to the online portal, Johnston police can "retroactive search to solve crimes after they've occurred." The department also "utilizes real-time alerting of hotlist vehicles to capture wanted criminals."

Johnston police have provided a link to the "Flock Safety Transparency Portal" on their department website homepage.

### The Guardrails

"In an effort to ensure proper usage and guardrails are in place," Johnston police made a list of "policies and usage statistics available to the public," according to Flock Safety.

The publicly available list includes (as of Tuesday, March 19) the length of time data is stored (30 days), number of cameras owned (three), number of vehicles detected over the past month (162,180) and the hotlists that trigger an alert—the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), the National Crime and Information Center database (NCIC), and Amber Alerts.

"The Flock Camera system also has the ability to compare the digital images of license plates against a 'hot list' which is a list compiled of vehicles of interest to law enforcement," Vieira explained. "These vehicles of Interest include stolen vehicles, vehicles involved in crimes, vehicles displaying stolen license

plates, and also vehicles associated with missing, abducted, or wanted persons."

According to the portal, all "hotlist hits are required to be human verified prior to action." The department has agreed not to use the cameras to aid in "immigration enforcement, traffic enforcement, harassment or intimidation, usage based solely on a protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion), (or) personal use."

Vieira described some of the system's limitations. "These automatic license plate readers capture still-images focused on the license plates and the rear of vehicles as they travel on public roadways," Vieira said. "Some vehicle characteristics also captured by these cameras can include roof racks, bumper stickers, along with the vehicles make, model and color."

Flock cameras are typically installed along busy traffic arteries and their exact locations are rarely disclosed.

### The Resolution

Johnston Town Council approved a resolution on June 12, 2023, authorizing the JPD to buy three "Automated License Plate Readers from Flock Safety."

The budget quote for a 36-month contract and purchase of three "Flock Safety Falcon Flex" cameras was estimated at \$27,450. They're solar-charged and each camera can "capture two lanes of traffic simultaneously" and "up to 30,000 vehicles per day," according to the Flock Safety product description.

At the time of the request, Vieira said that the cameras would "be placed strategically by the roadside in our town."

"The cameras interface with a web-based program allowing our investigators to determine if suspect vehicles are in or have passed through our town," Vieira wrote in a memo that was provided to Town Council before they cast their votes. "They are part of larger network of cameras in adjoining communities such as Providence and Cranston."

Cities like Warwick have also installed similar camera networks.

"These license plate readers serve as an investigative tool for law enforcement as vehicle data and license plates are the most requested pieces of evidence when law enforcement investigates crime," Vieira explained earlier this week. "The installation of Flock cameras in Johnston began in October of 2023 and became operational around that time."

"I'm a very big proponent of them," said Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. "Anything that helps our police officers solve crimes and makes their jobs safer,

I'm all for."

### Modern Crime-Fighting

"A vehicle is used in the commission of 7 out of 10 crimes and 60% of stolen vehicles end up being associated with additional crimes," according to Vieira. "Police can use the time and location of a crime to obtain time-stamped data on a suspect vehicle from the Flock camera system."

On March 12, according to the arrest report, Johnston Police dispatch informed Patrolman Matthew D. Murphy that a stolen 2021 Toyota Camry with Maine plates was detected traveling west on Hartford Avenue.

Murphy and other officers arrived on the scene, but were unable to locate the vehicle. They searched for the car in the surrounding neighborhoods and located it nearby on Ivanhoe Street. No one was inside.

Police eventually spoke to Matthew S. Breton, 33, of 12 Wilson Ave., Johnston, and according to the arrest report, he "spontaneously uttered" that he was renting the vehicle from Enterprise. He admitted to driving the car and arriving home recently. He also allegedly told police he was "behind on his payments to Enterprise."

"Based on (Breton's) statements," he was arrested, searched and secured in the back of a patrol cruiser. The vehicle was towed from the scene. According to Johnston Police, Breton was charged with Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, a felony (his first offense).

When customers fail to pay car rental agencies, the agency can report the rented vehicle to police as stolen.

"Data is used for law enforcement purposes only," according to the department's "Acceptable Use Policy." "Data is owned by (the JPD) and is never sold to 3rd parties."

"The Police Department owns the camera data and may only access and use the system for legitimate law enforcement purposes when the data relates to a specific criminal investigation," Vieira confirmed.

Besides the stolen Toyota Camry earlier this month, the portal reports 185 other "hotlist hits" and 125 data searches in the last 30 days (as of Tuesday).

"The flock technology is able to flag these vehicles and send an instant alert to law enforcement," Vieira said. "So, if a vehicle on a national 'hot list' enters our community and drives past a flock camera, the Johnston Police Department would receive a real-time instant alert."

## VFW

(Continued from page 1)

he said. "The kitchen as well because that's a good source of income once that is renovated and actually working. The bar as well is in pretty rough shape. We need to clean that up and revitalize that."

### Community rallies

Other repairs Crum mentioned were renovating apartments that are located upstairs, missing shingles, plumbing and electrical work, the outside of the building and missing pieces of the roof that are causing leaks. Additional repairs can be seen in a Facebook post written earlier this month by his mother, Judith Crum-Fortes. Since that Facebook post, Crum said that Sherwin-Williams donated paint, a handful of friends donated their time to help paint and John Marietti Jr. of Clarity Buildings LLC has met with him about remodeling the building's bathroom. Crum expects to apply for supporting grants. Monetary donations are also being accepted to purchase supplies they don't get donated to them.

Crum estimates the cost of repairs between \$200,000 and \$300,000, with most of that to fully renovate the apartments so Crum can make them available to veterans. A major cost will be replacement of the heating systems. Crum said that the building is owned by the VFW Department of Rhode Island. After approaching the idea of having them help with the cost of repairs, Crum said he was told the organization, which is a nonprofit, has a small budget.

During the day, Crum works as a scheduler for the Worcester, Massachusetts site of AbbVie, a pharmaceutical company, and during his spare time when not at his day job, he's doing his work related to the VFW Post. His connection to the post dates back to his middle school years.

### Accustomed to this VFW

"During my time going to [Hugh B] Bain Middle School, Western Hills [Middle School] or even Cranston East [High School], folks would have parties here," he said. "I'm accustomed to this VFW, I've been here plenty of times as a teen."

After Crum's time in service and attempting to revive a different VFW Post in Providence in 2012, he eventually reconnected with this post – but this time in a leadership position.

"I heard about it more recently because one of the VFW members in charge of membership – they reached out to my mom to get ahold of my stepfather who had passed away and was a veteran himself," Crum said. "He was just trying to reach out to the older members who weren't active anymore, and she had a conversation with him and then she told me about it a couple of times. Then finally I reached out to the gentleman and he roped me in."

Another goal of Crum's for this VFW post as he aims to increase membership and finish repairs is to "make it more attractive and appealing" for younger veterans.

He said, "Maybe have a video game night or a movie night or just something that's going to be more appealing to that generation versus things of the past."

Crum added that he's open to any ideas prospective members have in mind to help attract even more veterans to join.

He also plans to improve community outreach programs. Initiatives that are being planned include handing out ROTC Junior diplomas to high school graduates and placing American flags on the gravestones of veterans during Memorial Day weekend.

There are multiple ways for those interested in donating, and for eligible veterans who want to join the post, to contact Crum. The VFW Post's telephone number is 401-942-9768 and monthly meetings are held on the second Sunday at 10 a.m. He added that a website for this specific post is in the works.

## Legal Notice Town of Johnston Adopted Ordinances

At a recent meeting of The Johnston Town Council, the Council did adopt the following Ordinance effective immediately:

### Ordinance 2024-2

An Ordinance amending Sections 47-39 & 47-41 of Chapter 47 entitled "Firefighter and Police Officer Pension Fund" of the Town of Johnston Code of Ordinances

Said Ordinance is on file and available for review in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Johnston Town Council  
Robert V. Russo  
President

Attest:  
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.  
Town Clerk

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Town of Johnston Planning Board REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024 6:00 P.M.  
Johnston Senior Center  
1291 Hartford Ave.  
Johnston, RI 02919

#### I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### III. NEW BUSINESS

PB 24-10- Compass Stone & Tile, Inc. 1763 & 1765 Plainfield Pike. AP27 Lots 165 and 227. A Public Hearing on a Minor Land Development with Unified Development Review to establish a countertop fabrication business with outside storage in a B-2 zone.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

PB 22-05- Winsor I. 112 Winsor Avenue. AP 59 Lot 15  
PB 22-04- Winsor II. 86 Winsor Avenue. AP 60 Lots 2, 20 and 86

PB 22-03- Johnston Winsor III. 46 Winsor Avenue. AP 60 Lot 4  
PB 22-02- Johnston Harilla I. 28 Harilla Lane. AP 51 Lots 9 & 11  
PB 22-01- Johnston Elmgrove II. 25 Elmgrove Avenue. AP 51 Lot 4

A request in accordance with RIGL 45-23-40 (g) for a one (1) year extension of the Master Plan approval for the reference projects.

PB 17-15 SASA-29 Pleasant Street. 1056 Atwood Avenue. AP 24 Lot 9. A request in accordance with RIGL 45-23-40(g) for a one (1) year extension of the Master Plan approval for the reference projects.

PB 24-09 Alexandria Way. Adjacent to 29 Taylor Road. AP 30 Lot

16. A Board vote to ratify the action of the Administrative Officer in calling the performance bond.

PB 24-11 Mill Street Apartments. 64 Mill Street. AP 4 Lot 311. Status update and review of Preliminary Plan as a result of the change in ownership. Discussion as to whether the project needs to appear before the Board again. Vote possible.

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

#### V. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

Presentation. Overview and discussion of state law changes to RIGL 45-23. Land Development and Subdivision Review and RIGL 45-24. Zoning Enabling. Note – revised Land Development Regulations were adopted at the February 6, 2024 meeting

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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



# Sun Rise Scoops

Sun Rise Staff Reports

## March 23

### Rabies Clinic

Mark your calendars, pet owners! The Towns of Johnston and North Providence are teaming up for the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association's (RIVMA) annual rabies clinic on Saturday, March 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Recreation Building, 2 Gov. Notte Parkway, Building 2, North Providence.

Here are the important details: ALL dogs must be LEASHED. ALL cats must be in CARRIERS. FEE: \$10 (CASH ONLY). Three-year vaccines once proof (RABIES CERTIFICATE ONLY) is shown of a CURRENT vaccination. RIVMA Clinics are open to ALL Rhode Island residents, so you do not have to reside in North Providence or Johnston to attend.

## March 23

### Fashion Show

The Glimmer of Hope Foundation Fashion Show will be held on Mar. 23, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, 60 Rhodes Place, Cranston. This empowering fashion show, showcasing clothing from local boutiques while adult & childhood cancer patients strut their inner and outer strength, courage & beauty! All of the funds will benefit Glimmer of Hope Foundation to bring hope to families around the world battling pediatric cancer. Guest celebrities, raffles, LIVE Auction, and dinner provided by all local restaurants. Complete with cocktail hour and a complimentary glass of Prosecco (21+) and Energy Drink for every guest! Glimmer of Hope Foundation, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that shows girls and boys their strength and beauty through the donation of bald dolls and provides hope to families battling childhood cancer. It is recommended to buy tickets online on our website [glimmerofhopefoundation.org](http://glimmerofhopefoundation.org) (<http://glimmerofhopefoundation.org>). There will be limited tickets sold at the door.

## March 23

### Stamp Show

The Rhode Island Philatelic Society hosts its annual stamp show on Saturday, March 23, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1817 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the state's largest annual postage stamp show and bourse. Free admission, free parking, handicap access, free appraisals, door prizes and special show cachet, stamp dealers, kids area with free stamps, 401-821-8658. [cbrowningri@gmail.com](mailto:cbrowningri@gmail.com).

## March 24

### Wool School

The next Johnston Historical Society meeting will be held Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m., 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston. Drake Patten of Hurricane Hill Farm, OF Cranston, will speak about wool and sheep and guard llamas. And more. (See last week's edition of the Johnston Sun Rise, available online at [Johnstonsunrise.net](http://Johnstonsunrise.net)).

## March. 27

### Welcome Home

A Welcome Home Luncheon for Vietnam Veterans will be held on Wednesday, March. 27, from 12 noon to 1 p.m., at Warwick Texas Roadhouse, 1200 Quaker Ln., East Greenwich. Texas Roadhouse will be hosting a free Luncheon for Vietnam Vets in honor of Vietnam Veterans Day. The Mobile Vet Center will be on site that day to explain services. The VBA (Veterans Benefit Administration) will be present to answer questions about VA benefits and process claims. Personnel from the Providence VA Hospital will be joining us to enroll eligible Veterans. The RI Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America will have their memorial wall on display and Operation Stand Down will be present as well. Resources will be located in the Texas Road House parking lot along RT2. Vietnam Veterans attending the luncheon must register with Missy at [278marketing@texasroadhouse.com](mailto:278marketing@texasroadhouse.com) or Ed at 401-226-3092 for a spot. If calling Ed, please leave your name and phone number and Ed will register you for the luncheon. All Veterans are invited to visit the resources located outside the Warwick Texas Roadhouse that day.

## March 27

### Empty Bowls

The Empty Bowls benefit features tastings from more than 30 local eateries.

Tickets are on sale now for the Wednesday, March 27 fundraiser, which will support Rhode Islanders in need of food assistance.

The event will be held at WaterFire Arts Center, as the Rhode Island Community Food Bank hosts its popular Empty Bowls fundraiser for the first time since 2019.

Tickets include unlimited tastings from 30+ local restaurants, plus an artisan-made bowl for guests to take home as a reminder of how their support will help fill the empty bowls in our community.

Restaurants offering tastings include favorites such as Coast Guard House, Legal Sea Foods, Mills Tavern, Newport Vineyards, Plant City and many more.

Beer, wine and signature cocktails will be available for purchase.

The event will be held March 27 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the WaterFire Arts Center, 475 Valley St. in Providence. Tickets may be purchased at [rifoobank.org/empty-bowls-2024/](http://rifoobank.org/empty-bowls-2024/).

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank distributes food to 80,000 struggling Rhode Islanders each month through a statewide network of 143 member agencies including food pantries, meal sites, shelters, youth programs and senior centers.

## March 30

### Easter Bunny

On Saturday, March 30, the Easter Bunny is coming to Johnston! Enjoy pastries and refreshments with the Easter Bunny from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Harford Ave., Johnston. The event is free and each child will receive a gift from the Easter Bunny. Please bring a camera. The Rec Department issued a special thank you to event sponsor Citizens Bank. For more information, visit [johnstonrec.com](http://johnstonrec.com).

## April 3

### 'The Sicilian Inheritance'

The Rhode Island Region of the National Organization of Italian American Women (NOIAW) will host an upcoming "Reading with Robin" book event featuring noted Italian American author, podcast creator and award-winning journalist Jo Piazza who will discuss her latest novel, "The Sicilian Inheritance." The event will be held on Wednesday, April 3, with registration at 5:30 p.m. for the 6 p.m. event, at the Providence Public Library, 150 Empire St. Tickets are \$35 and include an autographed copy of "The Sicilian Inheritance." Proceeds from the event will benefit Books Are Wings. Gently used children's books will be collected. Tickets may be purchased online.

SCOOPS - PAGE 10

## March 23

# SCOOP OF THE WEEK



# Accessible Beeping Egg Hunt

An Accessible Beeping Egg Hunt is being sponsored by RI Parents of Blind and Visually Impaired Children along with Rhode Island Hands & Voices on Saturday, March 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Johnston High School Football Field, 345 Cherry Hill Road, Johnston. Egg hunts will start at 11 a.m. and every 30 minutes after. The last hunt will be at 12:30 p.m. Siblings are also invited to participate. Rain or shine. Please register at: [In-sight.org/egghunt/](http://In-sight.org/egghunt/) or for more information: 401-941-3322.



## Obituaries

In your time of need, the *Johnston Sun Rise* will print your loved one's full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, [johnstonsunrise.net](http://johnstonsunrise.net).

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

- Thank you

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**■ Scoops**  
(Continued from page 9)

**April 13**  
**Hope History**

The Hope Historical Society is hosting an open forum/Scituate and Memorabilia and Artifacts Program on Saturday, April 13, at 2 p.m., at the Howland Barn, 35 Ryefield Road, Hope. The Hope Historical Society invites the community to participate in the "Scituate Memorabilia and Artifacts" meeting celebrating all things Scituate. HHS invites members and guests to display, discuss, and share their memorabilia and artifacts. The HHS will also provide a preview of the Scituate Historic Signage Project; "The Scituate Heritage Trail". Intrigued by the topic but cannot attend "Scituate Memorabilia and Artifacts"? You can still share by posting a picture and/or story on our Facebook page "Hope Historical Society, Hope, RI". Pictures and stories must be posted at least 48 hours before the meet-

ing to be included in the Open Forum. Not a Facebook user? Pictures or stories can be emailed to the HHS at hopehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

**April 13**  
**Gridiron Girls Camp**

The First Gridiron Girls Camp in RI will be offered on Saturday, April 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Johnston High School, 345 Cherry Hill Road, Johnston. Dr. Jennifer Welter, the first woman to have coached in the NFL with the Arizona Cardinals football team, will be hosting her famous all girls football camp. This is an opportunity to explore a new avenue in sports for our young ladies. It is free! Participants must register! Be a part of history! Registration at: [www.jenwelter.com](http://www.jenwelter.com) or text/call Randy Phillips at 401-339-8511, [coach1randy@gmail.com](mailto:coach1randy@gmail.com) with any questions.

**April 14**  
**Lost Villages Tour**

Author Ray Wolf will lead a luxury bus tour featuring the Lost Village of Rockland (the title of his newest book), which will focus on more than 25 points of interest. Wolf has decided this will be his last year of giving bus tours, and he said this may be your last chance to joint a tour. The 90-minute tours will leave rain or shine from Hope School Playground, 391 North Road (Route 116), in Hope, on Sunday, April 14. Wolf planned at least two tours (and as of earlier this week, one was sold out and only a few seats remained for the second). Call 401-821-0016 or email [thewolf@cox.net](mailto:thewolf@cox.net) to book a seat. Seats are \$59 per person, in advance. No food or drinks are allowed on the bus (bottled water only). For more information, go to [www.raywolfbooks.com](http://www.raywolfbooks.com) and go to "TOURS."

**May 4**  
**St. Rocco 60th**

St. Rocco School, 931 Atwood Ave, will host a 60th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, May 4. Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. A reception will follow in Caf 

Rocco after Mass. Looking for alumni, family and friends to join us in celebrating 60 years! For more information, call St. Rocco school office at 401-944-2993. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

**May 5**  
**Victorian Tea**

The Johnston Historical Society will host a Victorian Tea at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 5. The location for the Victorian Tea will be the picturesque Historic Andrew Harris House yard and garden at 216 Morgan Ave., Johnston. Tickets are \$35 per person, and there's limited seating. All proceeds will benefit the Johnston Historical Society. Price of admission includes three different "teas," finger sandwiches, mini pastries and much more. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Anthony Ursillo at 401-764-5901 or e-mail [aurillo401@gmail.com](mailto:aurillo401@gmail.com). The event will be held rain or shine (no refunds for tickets). Victorian attire is optional.



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# They shared more than just the color green

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

The Johnston Senior Center resembled a sea of red, white, and Italian and Irish green, as a capacity crowd, many of whom were shuttled from the nearby Market Basket parking lot, enjoyed one of the best celebrations ever held at the Center.

Students from the Johnston High School Project Success, who usually serve meals at the Center, were instead treated to pasta, chicken tenders, and pizza, while the members dined on minestrone soup, chicken and eggplant.

Of course, the day featured over 200 Zeppole, donated by Morgan Health and Rehabilitation and United Healthcare. Entertainment, sponsored by Mr. Peter Lombardi, was provided by Steve Anthony Productions, and Ron Giorgio.

Numerous raffle prizes were won, which included a Girl Scout Cookie giveaway to members, donated by attorney Priscilla DiMaio. Mayor Polisenia brought the greetings of the Town of Johnston.

Photos by Ron Cece



**STS. PATRICK & JOSEPH:** The Johnston Senior Center held its St. Patrick meets St. Joseph Celebration on Monday, March 18, the day after St. Patrick's Day and the day before St. Joseph's Day. (Photos by Ron Cece)





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**THE VETERANS TABLE:** Jerry Allore, 82, a U.S. Navy veteran (he served from 1959-1966, into the Vietnam War era), stands with his table full of retired veterans at the Johnston Senior Center's St. Patrick meets St. Joseph Celebration on Monday, March 18. Seated, from left to right, Richard Giusti, 91 (U.S. Army, Korean War); Nick DiTata, 96 (U.S. Army, Korea); World War II veteran Victor Colella, 101 (U.S. Army); Michael Lamantia, 74 (U.S. Army, Vietnam); and Vin Delisi, 89 (U.S. Air Force). (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler).

# Don't ask Rocco

By RORY SCHULER

Heaven can wait. Rocco Uriati's happy at the Senior Center. Executive Director Richard J. DelFino Jr. took the microphone, welcoming a standing-room only crowd late Monday morning. Earlier, a Catholic priest had been asking Senior Center members if they believed in heaven. As they said yes, he had them stand against the wall. DelFino recalled the exchange as the priest asked Rocco, an Italian Army veteran and former cabinet-maker, that ultimate question: "Father said, 'Rocco, do you want to go to heaven?' And he said, 'No!'" The crowd laughed together. DelFino explained the priest asked a second time: "So he said, 'Well let me ask you again.' He said, 'Rocco, do you want to go to heaven? And he said, 'No! I like it here at the Senior Center.'" The crowd laughed and DelFino urged Rocco to stand at his table. "So, father said, well, I'm not talking about you going to heaven today," DelFino told the crowd. Rocco answered: "Sure you are. The van is out in the front and ... you're having the people who want to go to heaven stand next to the wall, so I assume you're taking them today. I'm not ready to go." Rocco finally stood for a round of applause. DelFino told the crowd he wants them "all to go to heaven (eventually) — just not today, because we know how much you love the Senior Center." Rocco shouted, "Hey!" over the ongoing applause. Sandwiched between the Sunday and Tuesday holidays, the Johnston Senior Center held a St. Patrick meets St. Joseph Celebration on Monday, March 18. The attendees had lunch followed by a round of zeppole. The Johnston area's seniors of Italian and Irish heritage celebrated their culture, faith and the coming spring together.



**MAYORAL ADDRESS:** Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. addressed the record crowd gathered at the Johnston Senior Center for a St. Patrick meets St. Joseph Celebration on Monday. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler).




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By JENNIFER COATES

When a business has endured and prospered for twenty-five years, one might wonder, what is the secret to its success? The obvious things come to mind: Superior customer service. Consistent, quality workmanship. Reliability and dependability. Energetic and experienced employees. Keeping current on industry trends. And finally, don't forget the hard work, sacrifice, and devotion of the key people ~ the owners and their staff.

If ever there was an explanation for the longevity and vitality of local business Minuteman Press, it would be that it possesses all these attributes. Celebrating twenty-five years at its current location, this is a business that has survived a worldwide pandemic, an economy that fluctuates like the New England weather, and rivalry from big box competitors. Today, it is still going strong!

Minuteman Press is a longstanding company and national brand that has been providing design, printing, and promotional services to its many loyal customers since 1973. The success of the Minuteman Press on Plainfield Pike is attributed not only to the reputation of its national brand but also to the dedication and skills of its most recent owner and talented graphic designer, Kimberly Sherman-Leon. Kimberly is one of four entrepreneurial women who own and operate five Minuteman Press shops in Rhode Island ~ Kimberly also owns the shop in Pawtucket which is managed by her equally dedicated husband, Jorge Leon. She is a consummate professional who has invested her heart and soul in this busy shop.

Kimberly has a long history in the design and graphics industry. In fact, she has been working in the field since she was 15 years old. She worked for years as a designer and store manager for the owners of this Minuteman



Meet Kimberly Sherman-Leon, the owner of Minuteman Press shops in both Johnston and Pawtucket. This long-standing business is marking its 25th year in Johnston - come by on April 1st from noon to 2pm to join the celebration!

Press shop from whom she purchased it in 2016. Her customers describe her as dynamic, both in effort and personality. It is easy to see that she is deeply invested in her customers' experiences at the shop whether it is for extensive design work, various printing needs or the marketing of their own businesses. Truly, their success is her success.

Kimberly and her team work tirelessly from the conceptualization to the completion of your project. Their custom work is detailed and meticulous, knowing that so much depends on building your brand's identity. Under her direction, Minuteman Press can accomplish anything

you need, from business cards to banners, brochures to promotional products, large format signage to storefront window and vehicle graphics. They do it all.

Come celebrate 25 years of excellence at Minuteman Press on April 1st from noon to 2:00pm. Enjoy refreshments provided by vendors from the nearby community. All are welcome to stop by to say hello, to meet the staff and to learn how they can best serve you.

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# Sports

## Ferri hopes for 'bright future' with big year

### Jaguars look to provide feeder system to JHS

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Ferri girls basketball team had a big winter as it finished the regular season unbeaten to win its division. It would go on to a solid run in the postseason, reaching the state semifinals to wrap up the year.

It was an important step forward for the middle school squad as it looks to stay competitive and provide a strong feeder system to the Johnston High School varsity club. The Lady Panthers also had a nice winter season, finishing in first place and reaching the Division IV finals at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence.

Ferri coach Dan Robbins was proud of his players' effort this season as they emerged as one of the state's best units.

"We were a very balanced team, a very strong team and the girls were a pleasure to coach. They were all totally into the game plan from day one. I knew there was talent and from day one they were tuned in. We had a great season, it was phenomenal. We were such a family," Robbins said.

In terms of the classes, the Jaguars boasted balance and depth with a roster that included five eighth graders, five seventh graders and four sixth graders. The starting lineup included one seventh grader and two sixth graders.

"We're ready for next year, we're not going anywhere. I was extremely impressed," said Robbins, who was able to implement high school schemes with his young bunch. "We



BRIGHT FUTURE: Ferri point guard Caylee Allen handles the ball this past season. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

FERRI - PAGE 16



### Runners up

The Blackstone Valley Schools hockey co-op fell in the Division II Championship on Sunday afternoon at Schneider Arena, as Portsmouth rolled to the 6-2 decision. Camden Governo and Gianluca Albanese scored BVS' lone goals. Johnston had three residents on the roster including Nick Benoit, Justin Espinal and Connor Niles. (Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

## Cook named head coach of East football

### Former JHS assistant set to lead alma mater

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Cranston East football program will be welcoming back a familiar face as former player and coach James Cook was announced as the team's

latest head coach. After playing for CLCF as a youth and eventually for the Thunderbolts in high school, Cook began coaching and was the school's first-ever freshman head coach in 1998. He previously worked with teams like Bishop Hendricken and Toll Gate as an assistant.

Cook then made stops at Pilgrim, Smithfield and Johnston before landing the varsity head coaching gig at Ponaganset in 2018. The Chieftains were coming off a winless season the year before, but he would turn the program around and go 6-1 his first year, guiding them back to

the postseason. Ponaganset would then go 5-3 and reach the playoffs in 2019 and went on to win the Super Bowl in 2021.

Cook is thrilled to return to his alma mater and take on the challenge of rebuilding another historic program.

"It's an honor and privilege to be back with Cranston East. It's exciting, the staff is excited. We can't wait to get going and to get the kids on the field," said Cook. "Myself and my staff have been to other schools that were rebuilding. Things can change pretty quickly, so with the athletes that Cranston East has, we're just looking forward

to getting them on the field and seeing what they can do. We're looking to be competitive every game while each week trying to get better."

Cook and his staff have been getting acclimated the last few weeks and opened up the weight room while digging into last year's film. The numbers were strong with 36 kids in attendance lifting and the staff is expecting to welcome back most of last year's group which began to gain some traction, earning its first league win since 2018.



James Cook

COOK - PAGE 17



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# RIC baseball off to strong start this spring

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Junior starting pitcher Ryan Seaver (Norton, Mass.) registered the win, allowing just one hit to go along with seven strikeouts in six innings of work, to lead Rhode Island College past Rivier, 9-4, and complete a twinbill sweep over Rivier at Pontarelli Field on Saturday afternoon.

After the Raiders took a quick 3-0 lead in the first inning, the Anchormen closed the gap in the bottom of the first as senior designated hitter Cole Podedworny (Wakefield, R.I.) ripped an RBI triple and later scored on an error.

With the bases loaded in the bottom of the fourth, senior shortstop Izaiah Rivera (Pawtucket, R.I.) hit a double into the gap in right-center field, clearing the bases and putting RIC ahead for good.

The Anchormen capped the day with a three-run fifth inning as sophomore second baseman Lucas McElroy (Westport, Mass.) notched an RBI single and scored on an error, while junior first baseman Daniel Trzepacz (Mount Vernon, N.H.) had a sacrifice fly.

Seaver earned the win (1-1), while Rivera went 2-for-4 with four RBI.

Senior left fielder Justin Wardwell (Westport, Mass.) hit a walk-off single with the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh to lift Rhode Island College to a 9-8 win in the first game of a doubleheader vs. Rivier at Pontarelli Field on Saturday afternoon.

Senior catcher David Iannuccilli (Johnston, R.I.) knocked in two with the bases loaded to tie the game, 6-6, in the bottom of the fourth.

Trzepacz (Mount Vernon, N.H.) hit a solo blast in the bottom of the sixth to put the hosts up, 8-7, before the Raiders deadlocked the game for the sixth time on the day in the top of the seventh.

Trzepacz went 3-for-4 with two runs scored, an RBI and a home run

Senior relief pitcher Harrison Mansfield (Uxbridge, Mass.) came on in relief in the top of the seventh and retired both batters he faced to earn his second win (2-0) on the season.

### RIC softball completes sweep

Junior pitcher Taylor Babcock (East Providence, R.I.) allowed just two hits and struck out four to earn her first win as Rhode Island College completed a doubleheader sweep at Simmons with a 9-1 victory in the nightcap at Daley Field on Sunday afternoon.

RIC plated five runs in its opening at-bat, which was capped by a freshman designated player Reilly Austin (Cumberland, R.I.) two-run homer.

With the visitors on top, 4-1, in the fifth, senior third baseman Victoria Young (Sterling, Conn.) hit a solo blast.

The Anchorwomen plated three in the top of the seventh as senior center fielder Avery Katz (Brookfield, Conn.) and classmate first baseman Katelyn Ashe (Colchester, Conn.) each had RBI singles.

Babcock went 3.1 in relief to earn the win.

Young went 2-for-3 with two runs scored, one RBI and a homer.

Ashe went 2-for-4 with one run scored, a double and two RBI. Junior shortstop Amanda Conti (Lincoln, R.I.) went 1-for-3 with a run scored, a triple and two RBI.

### Moss added to RIC athletic department

Rhode Island College has named Jake Moss as the assistant to the athletic director. He will assist Director of Athletics Donald E. Tencher in all phases of the RIC athletic and recreation department.

"I would like to thank the entire search committee and Athletic Director Don Tencher for the opportunity to return back to my home state of Rhode Island," Moss said. "I look forward to supporting all facets of the athletic operation here at Rhode Island College."

Moss comes to RIC after serving this past year as a recruiting coordinator and assistant baseball coach at St. Peter's University. Prior to his duties at St. Peter's, Moss was the graduate assistant pitching coach and an assistant baseball coach at Catholic University for four seasons (2020-2023). In addition to his coaching role at Catholic, Moss had his hands in recruiting, baseball operations and scheduling. In 2022, Moss helped Catholic reach its first ever NCAA Division III College World Series appearance in school and program history.

Moss has had previous experiences working at the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA), the Philadelphia Eagles, University of Pennsylvania football and Boston College athletics.

A native of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, Moss graduated from Drexel in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in sports management and a minor in business administration. He received his master's degree in leadership management from Catholic University in 2023.



**DRIVING:** Ferri's Javiana Stec works through defenders.

### ■ Ferri

(Continued from page 15)

had 14 offensive sets, eight defenses, four different zone presses. Six presses (overall). We had high school teams and opposing middle school teams commend what we were doing."

With both Ferri and Johnston improving and rounding into form these past few months, the name of the game will now be retaining the middle schoolers and building sustainable numbers moving forward as Johnston looks to reestablish itself as one of the state's top basketball communities.

"Our feeder system, it seems like we're going to have a good thing going. It's great to see success and I have a strong belief that we are going to see Johnston High School back on the map for basketball. They have a bright future and we want it to be a well-oiled machine," Robbins said.

Robbins was also proud of his staff for helping set the tone this past season.

"We have a really, really strong camaraderie going with the team and program. (Assistant coach) Brian Iafrate was a big help to myself and the program. We are very similar, we are not only coaches on the court but in life, and (the team) would not be what it was without him."

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# Recapping winter's best teams, moments

**■ Cook**  
(Cont. from page 15)

It was another busy winter sports season here at Beacon Communications and as always, there was no shortage of stories to report on. The winter season is typically the longest, but this one felt unusually short. I guess I tend to feel that way at the end of every season.

Anyway, here are some of my biggest takeaways and favorite moments from the past few months:

I'd say the biggest story is the Toll Gate girls basketball team winning its first title in over 40 years.

Adeline Areson returned and put on a season for the ages, putting a bow on it with an epic performance in the title game against Exeter West-Greenwich. The Titans trailed in the final three minutes, but she would hit a pair of 3-pointers and get to the free throw line to carry the team to the win.

Division III always seems to be a slugfest and this year was no different. Between Toll Gate, EWG, Narragansett, North Smithfield, North Providence, the Lincoln School, it really felt like anyone's to win heading into the postseason. Areson's star power shined through, Dulce Garcia was a stud in the back court, Mary McNulty, Amanda Preston, Rihanna Tavares finished strong. It all came together and the stars aligned.

I was a bit disappointed in how things played out with defending champion Pilgrim. After losing their top two players from the championship

## My pitch



by  
**ALEX**  
SPONSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
  
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roster in Faith Meade and Gianna Ramos, a step back was expected. Then Amaya Coffie was bitten by the injury bug in the second half of the regular season to make matters worse.

I entered the season hoping for an all-Warwick championship, but Pilgrim just couldn't catch a break. The Pats have some young players returning next year, so hopefully we'll see a bounce back season.

On the boys side, it was a rebuilding year for Hendricken, who would fall in the Division I semis and then in the Elite 8 round of the open tournament.

Although, for Hendricken standards, it was a down season, there were plenty of positives for this group to take along with them as they look to grow.

Perhaps the biggest was freshman Michael D'Ambra. As the season wore on, his role and minutes grew and before you knew it, he was one of the best players on the floor in the playoffs. James Caldarella will also be back for one more season, as will Jakob Reyes, Dylan

Lynch and Will Mascena. This group will be largely the same next winter.

The one problem will be Classical, who is set to return four of its five starters. The Purple defeated the Hawks in each meeting and won the division and state title. Classical is not going anywhere, and Hendricken will need to make some adjustments to dethrone the new champs.

In Division II, the Johnston boys came up short in their quest to repeat as champs, but still reached the semis and the open state tournament.

I'm not sure if people realize how special this senior class was for this program. Neari Vasquez, Mike Carlino and Cam Walker were all key pieces to last year's championship run, while Branden and Jayden Testa infused a new element this year to keep them in the hunt.

These seniors helped the Panthers climb to the top of the division and become one of the state's best programs, while a few of them also got the football team back on track. Next year will be a pretty big rebuild as all five starters will be graduating, but this senior class should be remembered as one of the best that the school has ever seen.

Our hockey teams were led by Hendricken, who won its fourth straight title on Sunday night at the Schneider Arena.

The underdog Broncos came out flying and took a 1-0 lead to send the crowd into a frenzy, but the Hawks answered back with three straight goals

to take control. Although Burrillville made it 3-2 heading into the third quarter, the game never really felt in doubt and the Hawks put up three unanswered goals in the final 15 minutes to run away with the win.

Again, talk about an impressive senior class.

Griffin Crain is the state's best player while guys like Jack LaRose, Nate Marshall, and Devin Exter were studs as well. All they've known on the ice is winning and Hendricken now has another historic dynasty for its history books. Hendricken isn't going anywhere, as it has an incredibly balanced roster in terms of classes. There are plenty of juniors, sophomores and freshmen behind them to keep this run going.

The Hendricken swim team also got back on track with its win at the state championships. After missing out to Barrington the past two seasons, the Hawks enjoyed one of their best campaigns ever and were the clear favorites heading into the big showdown at Brown. They took care of business and locked up the title with multiple events to spare.

The Pilgrim-Toll Gate gymnastics co-op also earned a state championship win, boasting the state's best duo in Madison Long and Riley Bromage. This is another team that won a championship with a young roster, so this team should be a factor for the foreseeable future.

Next up: spring.

"I've been watching film on them for about a month, so I'm familiar with the kids on the field and the positions that they play. A lot of kids have reached out and they're excited about the upcoming season also," Cook said.

As the new regime looks to build toward the future, regular participation and attention to detail will be emphasized, according to Cook. He is also looking forward to trying to revive the Bolts program, which was a contender in Division I as recent as 2017.

"Attendance at practice, hard work and discipline. We stress fundamentals every day and do a lot of drill work. We want to make sure that we are fundamentally sound and with our game plan, we want to make sure that when the kids are on the field they know exactly what to do. We want to put them in a position to be successful when they're out there," said Cook. "(East is) rich in history. I played there, graduated there and we play in a landmark stadium in Cranston. There's a lot of excitement."

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# Experts weigh in on 'How to catch bigger fluke'

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

It is my honor to be the guest speaker at the RI Saltwater Anglers Association seminar Monday, March 25, 7 p.m. at the West Warwick Elks, 60 Cyle Street, West Warwick. The presentation, "How to catch bigger fluke," will feature a take-away list of top tips on how to catch bigger fluke.

The presentation includes a series of interviews with charter captains, fishing guides and expert fluke anglers many like Greg Vespe and Jeff Sullivan who live and fish right here in the East Bay area. Strategies and tactics for fishing summer flounder in Bays and the ocean with maps and charts will be covered as well as rigs, jigs, baits and my favorite places to catch fluke. Highlights of the presentation include Capt. Monti's Fluke Cocktail, a rig and bait arrangement proven to catch larger fluke as well as small bait presentations and the importance of flirting with that fluke until it is enticed to strike.

You will not want to miss this presentation as it takes the best form the best and puts it into a logical approach on planning and implementing fluke fishing trips.

Monti holds a master captain's license and is a charter fishing captain, owns No Fluke Fishing charters. He is a former 2nd vice president of RISAA, is active in fish policy issues and past vice chair of the RI Marine Fisheries Council, his is a founding board member of the American Saltwater Guides Association, vice chair of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and a member of the RI Party & Charter Boat Association.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner available through the Elks Lodge with the presentation at 7 p.m. RISAA members free, non-members are asked for a \$10 donation to the RISAA scholarship fund. Have questions, call Scott Travers, Executive Director at 401.826.2121 or email him at [travers@risaa.org](mailto:travers@risaa.org).

## Try your hand at navigating in a wind farm

Find out for yourself how hard (or easy) it is to navigate in an offshore wind farm, Thursday, March 21, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Try your hand at navigating in a wind farm through a simulator, very much like the ones that ocean captains of large ships train on except your vessel is a sport fishing boat or commercial fishing vessel.

The simulator will give you a taste of what it is like to navigate within an offshore wind farm. Feel free to come and go as you please during the open house. Open house sponsored by Ørsted's Marine Affairs team in partnership with the United States Maritime Resource Center, 333 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, RI.

For information and to reserve a spot visit Offshore Wind Simulator Open House Tickets, Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 4:00 PM | Eventbrite.

## Trout Unlimited Annual Fundraiser and Banquet

The Rhode Island Trout Unlimited Chapter (TU#225) will hold its Annual Fundraising Banquet and Auction on Saturday, April 6, 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Quonset O Club, North Kingstown, RI.

This year Native Fish Coalition (NFC) Executive Director, Bob Mallard and National Chair, Emily Bastian, will be keynote speakers. Both Bob and Emily are founding members of NFC. The title of their talk is "Fly Fishing Maine, Wild Native Fish, State Heritage Fish Waters and Native Fish Coalition." They will share their recreational and conservation accomplishments in the beautiful state of Maine.

The Banquet will feature an early evening dinner buffet with multiple entree choices, served salad and dessert. There will be numerous bucket raffles, a door prize, silent auction and live auction items.

Live auction items include a Guided Maine fishing trip with guest speaker Bob Mallard, a Half



**HOW TO CATCH A BIGGER FLUKE SEMINAR:** Shaina Boyle and Gary Vandemoortele, Smithfield, RI with a 27-inch summer flounder caught fishing with Capt. Dave Monti. Monti's seminar is Monday, March 25. (Submitted photo)

Day Charter in Watch Hill Area with Jeff Perry, a Half Day Charter Inshore or Ninigret Pond with Ray Ramos, and a Half Day wade trip - salt or fresh with Ed Lombardo. There will be three Special raffles which you do not have to be present to win.

A variety of sponsorship opportunities area available with the top package being a ten ticket, color ad in the program, name or logo on the welcoming page program for \$1,000 down to a \$100 package which will get you a special thanks in the program and one ticket. Please contact Susan Estabrook at [susan@ysrinc.com](mailto:susan@ysrinc.com) with your choice of sponsorship. Please put in the subject of your email "TU-SS." Purchase dinner and/or raffle tickets

online @ <https://secure.etransfer.com/RICTU/Dinner.cfm>.

## Where's the bite?

Freshwater fishing. Anglers are advised that the trout fishing season ended Feb. 29 in RI and reopens again on Saturday, April 13. "Anglers are catching pike, pickerel and largemouth bass in RI and MA ponds. The largemouth prespawn bite has been very good," said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren. It is time to renew or get freshwater fishing license and trout stamps for the new season too. For freshwater fishing information in Connecticut visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/Freshwa->

ter/Freshwater-Fishing; in Massachusetts visit Freshwater Fishing | Mass.gov; and in Rhode Island [www.dem.ri.gov/fishing](http://www.dem.ri.gov/fishing).

Saltwater. Anglers continue to find school striped bass in estuaries. "Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said, "Anglers have been catching fish in the salt ponds in the upper Narragansett River all winter, some as large as 25 to 36."

And this week we have had a couple of reports of herring in the rivers. The only other saltwater action... some anglers are fishing for Winter Flounder and the Island Current party boat has been targeting tile fish at the Canyons in 600 to 800 feet of water.

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# Real Estate Transactions

## Coventry

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
1 Ken Ray Dr	Fxs Construction Inc	Murray, Michael J and Murray, Alexandria C	2/29	\$323,000
3 Lane C	Arrico, Robert S and Arrico, Victoria M	Sherman, Christine	2/29	\$132,000
10 Friar Tuck Ln	Dupuis, Daniel	Eldred, Robert I and Eldred, Constance V	3/1	\$184,000
11 Lawnwood Rd	Sullivan, Tara and Krawczyk, Michael	Botelho, Kelsey	2/29	\$430,000
16 Ray St	Boskos, Ashley C	Castro, Paula and Yac, Antonio A	2/28	\$355,000
18 Westcott Way Lot 9	Apponaug Properties Inc	Kataisto, Wayne and Kataisto, Katherine	2/29	\$775,000
35 Maude Ave	L & Colombe Potvin RET and Potvin, Ronald L	Smith, Maddison and Palumbo, Kyle	3/1	\$360,000
44 Dion Ave	14 Properties LLC	Shorr, Jarred J	2/29	\$427,000
46 Willow St	Segma, Anthony	Ferland, Joshua	2/29	\$275,000
59 Lane A	Silvia John C Est and Silva, Alfred A	Gilliam, Marie A	3/1	\$82,600
100 Blackrock Rd	R Digital Branding Agen, V	Corey, Anthony and Corey, Catherine	3/1	\$325,000
138 Youngs Ave	Caparrelli, Nicholas L	Correia, Nedina H and Freire, Maria A	2/29	\$350,000
171 Lakehurst Dr	Germain, David	Audet, Beatriz	2/27	\$195,000
500 Knotty Oak Rd	Riendeau Jr John P Est and Ferrara, Stacy B	Coia, Talia	2/26	\$25,000
905 Village Green Cir Lot 905	Brissette, Charlene A	Amend, Steven and Amend, Diane	2/29	\$410,000
976 Knotty Oak Rd	Hill, Pamela and Hill, Lindsey	Cabral, Kevin and Cabral, Renee	2/29	\$420,000

## Cranston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
7 Gleason St Lot 383	Abreu, Miguel	Pure Prop Inc	2/28	\$218,000
7 Gleason St Lot 385	Abreu, Miguel	Pure Prop Inc	2/28	\$218,000
7 Gleason St Lot 384	Abreu, Miguel	Pure Prop Inc	2/28	\$218,000
77 Stable Dr	Phillips, Timothy A and Phillips, Melissa J	Dunn, Kristofer	3/1	\$1,400,000
16 Myrtle Ave	Li, Wei and Hui, Cuihong	Geiger, Patrick and Scott, Emily	2/29	\$405,000
25 Sharon St Lot 4	Grant Larry W Est and Grant, Steven	Duffie, Michael	2/27	\$199,000
36 Stevens Rd	Fmra	Catucci, Giacomo D and Issacson, Alyssa M	2/29	\$426,000
175 Flint Ave Lot 22-10	Espanol, Marlendi K	Machado, Veronica	2/29	\$397,000
185 Wentworth Ave	Elmaleh, Francois and Elmaleh, Rachael	Molano, Adam and Molano, Alecia	2/29	\$585,000
244 Mayfield Ave Lot A	Lawton, Steven and Lawton, Jacquelyn	Bai, Lifan	2/28	\$230,000
343 Bay View Ave	Garcia, Eduardo M and Garcia, Helena M	Roderick, Kody A and Roderick, Chelsea A	2/29	\$435,000
562 Phenix Ave	Celtic Roman Grp LLC	Aljamal, Murhaf	2/27	\$320,000
702 Woodhaven Ct Lot 702	Shorr, Jarred J and Lydon, Elizabeth A	Weinberg, Michael M and Weinberg, Lauren D	2/29	\$310,000
1000 Chapel View Blvd Lot 313	Kenneth A Nulman T and Nulman, Kenneth A	Doliveira, Michelle G	2/26	\$743,000
2055 Broad St	River Bridge Re LLC	Shoecraft, Melanie L and Shoecraft, Tim A	2/26	\$655,000

## East Greenwich

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
18 Westcott Way Lot 9	Apponaug Prop Inc	Kataisto, Wayne and Kataisto, Katherine	2/29	\$775,000

## Exeter

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
132 Sheffield Hill Rd	Larivee, Maurice F and Larivee, Elizabeth A	Thompson, Marilyn L	2/29	\$599,900

## Johnston

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8 Sydney Rd Lot 8	Expp Development LLC	Ferreira, Marylou	2/29	\$459,000
19 Loxley Dr	Verma, Robin	Dibiasio, Anthony and Dibiasio, Tiffany I	2/29	\$462,500
20 Pleasant Ave	Dibiasio, Anthony W and Dibiasio, Tiffany I	Therrien, Faith L and Cavalho, Andrew	2/29	\$415,000
24 Freedom Ct	Sisto, Brian J and Sisto, Brande A	Dayalkumar, Bernie	3/4	\$430,000
31 Regina Dr	Capital-T Properties LLC	Santiz-Sandovar, Jose A and Santizo, Mary E	3/1	\$425,000
32 Colony Dr	Nolan, Arlene M	Giudici, Robert E and Gilmore, Kayla J	3/5	\$450,000
40 Sprague Cir	Tella Jr, Mario	Sylla, Abdoul A	2/28	\$670,000
83 Winsor Ave	Frank J Boffi Irt and Daley, Kevin M	Vicario, Paul	3/5	\$560,000
90 Pine Hill Ave	Helping Hands Cmnty Partn	Jdeshi, Khoj G and Jdeshi, Megan G	2/29	\$531,000
494 Woonasquatucket Ave Lot 423	Curran, Patricia M	Sharpley, Carl J	2/28	\$313,000
1603 Plainfield Pike Lot D2	Delfarno, Amanda K	Goerler, Anna L	2/28	\$290,000

## Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
5 Packard Ave Lot 30	Sun Ri LLC	Elevator Prop Inc	3/1	\$270,000
5 Packard Ave Lot 29	Sun Ri LLC	Elevator Prop Inc	3/1	\$270,000
16 Way Ave	Botelho, Kenneth and Botelho, Gloria M	Morales, Emanuel S and Colon Santos, Taisha M	3/1	\$355,000
20 Devon Ct	Maclean Donald T Est and Maclean, Kenneth B	Verissimo Jr, Hermano	2/26	\$450,000
20 Eagle Run Lot B	Cascade Funding Mtg T Hb7	Mahoney, Madelyn T	2/26	\$345,000
20 Reed St	Prendergast, Peter and Prendergast, Michelle	Petrarca, Matthew J and Martinez, Nancy M	2/26	\$475,000
38 Scranton Ave	Mccarthy, John and Mccarthy, Michelle	Calulut, Mark J and Marcos, Marites	2/27	\$470,000
40 Troy Ave	Cepeda, Dionisio	Yasiris Const LLC	2/28	\$220,000
40 Troy Ave	Secretary Of Hud	Cepeda, Dionisio	2/28	\$186,000
51 Transit St Lot 4	Sperduti, Violet D and Sholes, David H	Baudin, Sheila	3/1	\$350,000
51 Transit St Lot 5	Sperduti, Violet D and Sholes, David H	Baudin, Sheila	3/1	\$350,000
68 Lawn Ave	Taveras, Ivel P	Major, Diana and Major, Jeffrey	3/1	\$462,000
84 Hoxsie Ave	Apicerno Irt and Bellis, Laurie	Brice, Marie R	3/1	\$360,000
89 Irving Rd	Gonzenbach, Linda J	Rhode Island Custom Bldrs	2/29	\$425,000
103 Glendale Ave	Mcgovern, Thomas P	Debrum, Maria and Melvin, Stephen	2/29	\$225,000
105 Lockhaven Rd	Lass, Walter S and Lass, Christine B	Sousa, Anthony	2/28	\$370,050
111 Canonchet Ave	Kenneth R Littlefield T and Littlefield, Kenneth R	Jones, David and Jones, Ruth	2/26	\$481,000
131 Morse Ave	Stawaris, Mark J and Davenport, Lisa A	Paul, Marvin L	3/1	\$210,000
157 Harrison Ave	Lacroix, Joseph A	Santana, Stephy	3/1	\$295,000
181 Wendell Rd	Regalado-Landan, Rose M	Thayer, John and Thayer, Sharon	3/1	\$325,000
273 Long St	Muldoon, Richard A	Thorson, Tammy E and Christensen, Karen E	2/29	\$512,500
288 Pine St	Ferrara, Nicholas A	Caparrelli, Nicole and Caparrelli, Nicholas	2/29	\$375,000
727 Oakland Beach Ave Lot 258	727 Oakland Beach Ave T and Hurley, Christine M	Joseph, Juah and Kloh, Seihdi	2/28	\$415,000
727 Oakland Beach Ave Lot 261	727 Oakland Beach Ave T and Hurley, Christine M	Joseph, Juah and Kloh, Seihdi	2/28	\$415,000
807 Williamsburg Cir Lot 807	Lyon Kings LLC	Sullivan, Austin J	2/26	\$340,000
1148 Narragansett Pkwy	Downes, Lawrence D and Downes, Olga B	Munkelwitz, Julie and Mobley, David	2/29	\$370,000
4019 Post Rd	Gay, Dennis P and Gay, Laura L	King, Avril and King, Oliver G	2/29	\$420,000

## West Warwick

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8 Pine Hollow Rd	Bedetta, Ryan A and Phillips, Meagan A	Sison, Michele E	3/1	\$470,000
9 Wendy Way	Amend, Steven P and Amend, Diane L	Phillips, Raymond A	2/29	\$376,000
10 Albion St	Guiles, Nelson and Guiles, Deborah	Dyer, Damion A and Goncalves, Sammeyjoe M	3/4	\$462,000
10 Renehan Ct	Cahoon, Harold and Manning, James	Santos, Mynor	3/5	\$325,000
11 Colonial Way	Estrela, Nicholas and Estrela, Sophia	Soule, Tracey A and Soule, Shannon A	2/29	\$330,000
15 Tripoli St	Watt, Timothy and Watt, Tanya	Phothisen, Grishna and Posup, Sirruk	2/23	\$450,000
22 Fiume St	Madden, Richard E	Arsenault, Andrew M	2/29	\$305,000
47 Quaker Dr	Cannon, Raymond E and Sun West Mtg Co Inc	Elmwood Realty LLC	2/28	\$306,000
50 Wightman St	Sisson, Michele	Heatt Jr, Rose E and Heatt, Alanna	3/1	\$490,000
123 Archambault Ave	Akers William D Est and Trayner, John	Rmmd Group LLC	3/1	\$95,000
123 Archambault Ave	Akers, Carol	Rmmd Group LLC	3/1	\$95,000
168 Pawtuxet Ter	Poulin Philip J Est and Gerzevitz, Melissa	Joseph, Kayal and Davis, Edward	2/28	\$335,000

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# RhodyLife

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## Passion for comedy, helping others has raised \$10M in 10 years



By DANA RITCHIE

I've been funny my whole life," said Warwick native Bill Silas.

For Silas, who has been a comedian for 16 years, March 23 will be a "huge night:" a sold out celebration with 240 attendees at the West Warwick Elks Lodge commemorating his business' milestone of raising \$10 million in 10 years.

Silas found a way to capitalize on his humor while helping others, co-founding Funny4Funds, a business that hosts comedy show fundraisers to raise money for non-profits, sports teams, medical bills and any other causes. He estimated that they have put on at least 2,800 shows since launching.

"I could do comedy anywhere," Silas said. "But when you can make people laugh and serve people by helping them with their cause, it's the best soul food on the planet."

Ten years ago, while actively involved in the New England and east coast comedy circuit, Silas ran into his comedian friend Mike Murray. While catching up, they realized that they were both doing fundraising events independently.

They decided to combine forces and "create a monster," and Funny4Funds was born. After their first show, Silas knew that they found a niche of a "passion-driven company with funny comedians at a reasonable price."

14 branches in 11 states

According to Silas, Funny4Funds provides more services than their specially curated 90 minute comedy show with three acts. In order to ease the stress of fundraising, they also supply electronic fliers, a Facebook invite and the entire stage set-up complete with sound and light systems. Their services cost \$1,500, but organizations are required to pay a flat fee of \$300 up front. The remaining \$1,200 is met through a portion of the donations. Silas believes that this is a reasonable price, given that the average show raises between \$6,000 and \$7,000.

When the pair first began their enterprise, they were working out of Silas' Dodge Ram 1500 and doing one show a night. Bill Silas recalled having to load the sound system into the truck a particular way because if they did it wrong, they would have to start all over.

During the first six years, Silas recalled arriving home at 1 or 2 in the morning for 45 weekends a year. He said that even though it was an exhausting pace, he drove home "feeling like a million bucks."

Now, the business has 14 branches in 11 states, from Rhode Island to Florida to Texas with places in between. Even though these branches are based in different locations, they use the same sound systems and branding so that they "all feel the same."





# ANIMAL



By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Jess Woody

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# Watch out butter lamb

## Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

Cooking is a passion of Hubby's, and he wants to get it right. Because his mom had always cooked corned beef with potatoes, carrots, and cabbage, Hubby did also, although on our "no carb" diet, potatoes are not allowed. This year I convinced him not to throw in a whole pound of potatoes, but to just toss in a few, enabling us to waste less. It was a really good meal! However, the left over corned beef from Saint Patrick's Day is no sooner sitting in the fridge than Hubby's change of food focus is on Easter.

Easter was always ham, coated with a classic glaze with pineapples and cherries tooth-picked to its side. He would also make scalloped potatoes along with sautéed asparagus and chilled beets. Homemade dinner rolls would complete this meal, which would be followed by a yummy pie purchased from the bakery at Dave's Marketplace. While Hubby enjoys cooking in general, holiday cooking is his piece de resistance.

Easter in other countries may include foods not traditionally seen here in the United States. In Italy, pizza chiena (stuffed pizza) is traditionally baked and served on Good Friday. This hearty, savory pie is filled with a variety of cheeses and cured meats and baked to perfection. It was developed in the 17th century as a treat to break the long, 40 day Lenten fast.

Australians do not celebrate Easter with chocolate bunnies, but with chocolate bilbies resembling the long-eared rabbit-like mammal native to Australia. Like other more familiar mammals in this country, this one is also a marsupial, and carries its young in a pouch. Due to

disease, habitat destruction and predators, this beloved animal is now restricted to the more arid parts of the country. Somewhat resembling an Easter rabbit, this candy is a delight for old and young at Easter time.

In Poland and parts of Russia and Slovenia, it is common tradition to have a butter lamb as the main focus of the dinner table on Easter. This is simply a huge chunk of butter molded to look like a lamb, which is symbolic of the start of spring, and also represents the saying "Lamb of God". Even as much as I love butter, it would seem sacrilegious to gouge a knifefull of butter for a mere dinner roll.

Patsas, or tripe soup, is a traditional Greek soup made with lamb's stomach which is usually eaten at midnight to break the fasting and usher in Easter morning. It is also reportedly a hangover cure, something which coats the stomach to counteract the effect of alcohol, coming in handy after a Friday night of partying.

Fanesca is a Lenten soup served during Holy Week in Latin America. This consists of twelve different

types of beans, dried salted cod, squash, corn, rice, onions, garlic, peas and milk. Somehow that combination does not appeal to me. This soup is embroiled in symbolic religious meaning: the twelve different types of beans represent the twelve apostles and the cod represents Jesus, (because he was a cod fisherman?)

The strangest Easter foods I found are served in Colombia: iguanas, turtles and rodents, including the capybara which is the world's largest rodent and often the size of a pig. They feast on these exotic creatures in the spring when they become more active, which also coincides with Easter. Iguana or turtle stew is typically served with coconut rice, fried yucca and cold beer.

Perhaps it is better to focus on more traditional Easter foods eaten in America, like jello salad. My mother used a mold to make jello filled with pineapples and cherries, (perhaps to use up the pineapples and cherries that did not fit on the ham.) Hot Cross Buns, along with the being the subject of a perky children's song, were also enjoyed, packed with tangy dried fruit and warm spices like cinnamon and nutmeg. These would be the perfect foe for the butter lamb. Southerners tend to enjoy broccoli salad at Easter, with crunchy broccoli, dried cranberries and raisins, bacon and cheese. I enjoy this treat when Hubby makes it with cold slaw dressing.

I am so lucky that Hubby enjoys planning and cooking holiday meals! Let's see...my birthday is coming up and there is only one thing I enjoy for my birthday dinner, lobster with plenty of butter. Watch out butter lamb...

## First Works celebrates 20th anniversary

By DON FOWLER

FirstWorks, the non-profit arts organization that is celebrating 20 years of connecting art with audiences, is planning a gala celebration featuring Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca at the ballroom at the Providence G on May 2.

Founded by Kathleen Pletcher as a turnaround of First Night, FirstWorks has attracted over 750,000 participants through its multitude of programs and performances.

Last week it brought indigenous musicians from the Blue Continent to the Strand Theatre for a multimedia concert, Small Island Big Song, that attracted a nearly

full house of people of all ages.

Singers and dancers from Pacific and Indian Island nations presented their music and culture before a running media presentation the showed the beauty of their islands and the and the concern over climate change.

The group spent a week performing and holding workshops with area schools and community groups, as they have done with many of the artists they brought to Rhode Island over the years.

Tickets for the 20th Anniversary celebration (\$75) may be purchased on line at [firstworks.org](http://firstworks.org).

The program also includes the incredible Becky Bass on steel drum and vocals and Sidy Maiga with D J Brazao. Drinks and small bites will be available.

## Funny (Continued from page 21)

Funny4Funds also brought Bill and his wife Beth together. Seven years ago, Beth was bartending at Knights of Columbus, one of the venues that Bill performed in. Beth said that she started going to his shows more often as a guest than as a bartender, and she liked how he is "always looking to make people laugh."

In late 2019, Silas amicably bought out Murray in the "best divorce ever," and as the company continued to grow, Bill realized he needed help. He asked Beth if she wanted to come on board, and now she manages the office. Beth said she was initially hesitant about blending work and personal life, but reasoned that they "work so well together." They married on September 23, 2023.

"I'm the funny, and she's the funds," Bill Silas joked.

The pair works out of their home office, and they have a meticulously color-coded white board that is constantly being updated with new shows. Silas, who graduated from

Hendricken in 1992, said he could not imagine building the business out of anywhere but Warwick.

"We love this city," he added.

### 100 comedians

In order to meet the community demands, Funny4Funds draws upon a network of experienced comedians. From his comedy experience, Silas "knew about 50 comedians off the top of his head" who would fit the brand. In the early days, Silas and Murray handpicked the first 40 comedians.

Now, they have about 100 comedians in their ranks, and their returning comedians occasionally bring new talent into the fold. "Our comedians are fishing lines to other comedians," Silas added.

Silas still performs most week-ends. He describes his comedic style as "high energy ranty storytelling," and he is particularly fond of one of his bits about school buses and how frequently they stop. "That one usually gets a laugh," he added.

Community members are grateful for the support that Funny4Funds has provided. Dave Schiap-

pa has used Funny4Funds multiple years in a row. As the "one man show" behind the Gershkoff Auto-body American Legion Baseball Auburn Post-20, Schiappa said that Funny4Funds' model really works. As a community-based nonprofit trying to keep costs low, Schiappa relies upon fundraising. At his Funny4Funds show on March 2, he raised \$20,000.

Julie Huddon approached Silas when the company was "just starting out" to raise money for a wheelchair accessible van for her son, Evan. On a Wednesday evening in 2015, "the community came out," and they raised over \$15,000. Huddon still drives the van today.

Huddon added that it was "such a wonderful thing to see everyone coming out to help and to have a good time at the same time." She said that Evan, who is 24 now, has remained in touch with Silas, messaging them on Facebook. He performed his own stand-up set at an open mic night.

"They are such wonderful friends to all of us," Huddon said. "They are awesome, kind and generous people."



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## Feeling the Force on Appraisal Tuesday



**By Travis Landry**  
Auctioneer & Specialist  
Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers  
Cranston, RI

As appraisers and auctioneers, it is our job to absorb information like a sponge and recall it on demand. Especially with how quickly trends change and new markets bloom; it can be difficult to know the interest and value unless you always keep your finger on the pulse. Even then, it is impossible to know everything about everything, which is why it is important to never stop learning! In a way, we are like detectives identifying when something

has potential and requires further investigation. Little details can take what seems like an average item and turn it into a highly coveted collectible. Every Tuesday between 9:00 and 12:00 at Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers we offer walk-in appraisals with no appointment necessary. There is no obligation to sell, and we give you an estimated auction value for your items. Recently, we had a gentleman curious what his items were worth in today's market stop by with an awesome collection. Incredibly, he had 34 of the original 41 *The Empire Strikes Back* action figures – factory sealed! This isn't your average basement hoard, so I inquired about how he obtained them. . . During the Summer of 1980 he spent his days home from college working in a toy store. *Star Wars* had shattered the silver screen in 1977, and *The Empire Strikes Back* was just released in May of 1980. While stocking shelves this gentleman thought it was a good idea (yes!) to buy every *Empire Strikes*

*Back* character he could before returning to school in the fall. He came close to getting them all, and forty-four years later those same *Empire Strikes Back* figures walked through our door on appraisal Tuesday. He took pretty good care of them, too. Of the 34 figures, we sent 18 to Collector Archive Services for professional grading; including: Boba Fett, Luke Skywalker, and a brown snake variant Yoda! The Yoda is a super rare find, and while he knew his toys were collectible, he had no idea how extra collectible the snake variant Yoda is. That's a detail I absorbed like a sponge years ago, and it turned out to be a valuable detail for him – Let's just say he is very happy he stopped by on appraisal Tuesday rather than selling his collection outright online!!! The stories we have like this are endless; so many people have unknown treasures stashed away or underestimate their collection entirely! Always remember to never throw anything out before checking for potential value. We hear so many horror stories of people tossing toys into the trash without thinking about collectability. Don't be that person! Take a few hours out of your Tuesday to bring your items in for appraisal - you never know what you might have.



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# The future is bright at the Providence Performing Arts Center

By **DON FOWLER**

The 2024-25 Broadway Season was introduced at last week's press conference, and PPAC Chairman Joe Walsh proclaimed that the Future is now, with one of the strongest Broadway shows including Providence in their National tours.

Two of the best begin their cross-country tours at PPAC. "A Beautiful Noise-The Neil Diamond Musical" opens the series, running September 21-28, followed by "Shucks", the Tony Award-winning musical comedy, which President and CEO J.L. Lynn Singleton called "The Clean Book of Mormon", October 20-27.

2025 opens with the four-time Tony Award-winning hit, "MJ", about Michael Jackson's Dangerous World Tour, January 21-26.

"Life of Pi", winner of three Tony awards is based on the novel that sold 15 million copies, with special effects and puppetry like nothing ever seen on stage. At PPAC February 11-16.

"I Juliet, based on Shakespeare's most famous love story, asks what would have happened if Juliet didn't end it all over Romeo. The musical has been a big hit on Broadway and comes to PPAC February 25-March 2.

"Some Like It Hot, , winner of

four Tony Awards, is at PPAC April 22-27, followed by "Back to the Future June 10-15.

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"How many times can you see "Mamma-Mia?" someone asked me.

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The smash hit musical based on the songs of Abba, plays November 12-17, followed by "Riverdance" < April 4-6, "Chicago", May 2-4, and for the third time, "Hamilton, December 11-22.

"The Cher Show" is here for two dates: February 5 and 6.

Check PPAC's schedule early

and often because there are many surprises coming to the theatre, including a performance by NAS with the R.I. Philharmonic this summer.

Call PPAC at 421-ARTS for more information and reservations or visit ppacri.org.



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# PRIME TIME

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## Easter Egg Coloring Tips

Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition dating back more than 2,500 years. There is evidence that people living in the ancient settlement of Trypillia dyed eggs. Ancient Persians also were believed to paint eggs for Nowruz (Persian New Year).

Christians adopted similar traditions to symbolize aspects of the Easter story. Originally Christians dyed eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross, according to Chase Oaks Church. Good Housekeeping reports early Christian missionaries adapted the dying tradition to include more egg colors to represent different aspects of the Easter story. Yellow represented the resurrection, blue represented love and red remained a symbol of Christ's blood.

Whether families dye eggs to symbolize the Easter miracle or simply for fun, the following are some coloring tips!



**1.** Prevent cracked eggs. Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water. Additional anti-cracking measures include rubbing half a lemon on each shell before boiling.

**2.** Boil eggs and cool completely. It takes roughly 10 minutes to hard-boil an egg. Fill a pot with enough water to submerge the eggs, then bring it to a boil over medium-high heat. Gently lower the eggs into the water with a slotted spoon. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook for 10 minutes. Drain the eggs and cool in a bowl of water or run under cold tap water.

**3.** Don't forget the vinegar. Whether you use colored dye tablets or drops of food coloring from the pantry, use a mix of water and vinegar in the coloring solution. According to Education.com, food coloring is an acid dye and bonds using hydrogen. This chemical process only works in an acidic environment. Vinegar is added to water to make it more acidic and help the dyes adhere more strongly to the eggs and produce brighter colors.

**4.** Stick to white eggs. Stores sell both brown and white eggs. The species of chicken determines whether the eggs will be white or brown. When coloring eggs, it might be better to purchase white eggs, as the dyes will show up more vividly on the white shells.

**5.** Create distinctive designs. By covering portions of the bare eggs before dipping into color, people can create unique designs. Things like masking tape, rubber bands, wax (or crayons), and even twine can be used. The dye will only take on the uncovered areas, leaving white behind.

**6.** Dyes are not the only way to color eggs. Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers. Search for creative materials to set Easter eggs apart this year. Coloring eggs is a popular Easter tradition, and there are many ways to ensure this beloved activity produces beautiful results. TF234851

### Why is Easter so early this year?

At the core of all of this is the lunar year. While Earth takes 365.25 days to orbit the Sun, the moon takes 29.5 days to orbit the Earth. So, a lunar year is 354.3 days. There's a 10 or 11-day lag between the two—and that explains why the dates of Easter differ so much from year to year.

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# Wolf Wisdom

There is a Native American parable about an elder - a grandfather - who tells his grandson that there is a battle between two wolves going on inside all of us. One wolf is the angry vengeful one - filled with sorrow, resentment, regret, doubt, inferiority, and lies. The other wolf is the loving compassionate one - filled with joy, peace, hope, empathy, forgiveness, and truth. When asked which wolf will win the fight in his heart, the old man replies, "The one I feed."

This tale strikes a chord in me, and initially I thought it was because I've always liked wolves. There's something decidedly romantic and powerful about the image of a lone wolf howling from a mountaintop in the deep dark night, silhouetted against a yellow full moon. And the answering distant howls of the lone wolf's pack calling mournfully across the forest. The songs of the wolf and his pack seem intelligent and timeless - as if there is deep wisdom being shared that touches our souls if we are listening with our hearts. The wolf is a symbol of the innate wisdom and intuition we carry within us. A pathfinder - a powerful guiding force.

I once had a very vivid dream about a wolf - one that felt so real that I've not only never forgotten it, but it's still so clear in my mind that it seems more like a memory than a dream.

I was walking along a snow-covered highway. I couldn't walk anywhere off the actual roadway because the snow was banked up in high drifts along the sides of the road - there were no sidewalks. Behind me I heard the roar of what sounded like a tractor-trailer - a huge 18 wheeler coming up on me fast - so fast that I didn't have time to get out of the way. There was no place to go to avoid being hit. I distinctly remember thinking - knowing - that this was the end. I was going to be run over and killed.

In an instant I was face down on the highway, lying flat on my stomach. I felt the blast of cold air whooshing past and smelled the oily diesel gas....and I felt the body of a wolf lying flat on top of me, protecting me from the deadly underbelly of the truck speeding over me. Squeezing my eyes shut I remained immobile. I couldn't quite believe that I was going to survive this ordeal, but I slowly realized that this wolf had saved my life. I still clearly remember feeling the weight of the wolf's body pressed on top of my back - heavy, solid, protected. I could feel and smell the thick, pungent fur surrounding me.

When the truck passed, the wolf jumped up, and I rose, too - baffled and amazed by the wolf's timely appearance and protective action. The wolf climbed onto the knee-deep snowbank and I followed. We were joined by a Native American older man and the three of us began walking. I was still in awe and stared at the two of them as I tried to



make sense of what had happened. Neither of them looked at me. They both silently trudged through the snow - calm and unfazed - as if saving my life was simply no big deal.

When I woke up I was still feeling the wonder of this intense and unusual dream. So maybe wolf is my power animal, or animal totem, or one of my guides. Maybe wolf is one of my teachers.

The story about the angry vengeful wolf vs. the loving compassionate wolf is a metaphor for any type of inner conflict. I am not usually an angry or vengeful person and I do try to be loving and compassionate toward others, but which wolf wins out when it comes to how I feel about myself? What happens when self-judgment arises?

As I get older and look back on my life, I easily feel the wolf that is carrying doubt, regret, and guilt sitting in my heart, condemning the many mistakes I made along the way.

Bringing up three daughters alone was more than difficult in all ways - physically, emotionally, financially - it was hard, it was lonely. I wasn't always patient and I often felt ill-prepared, short-tempered, and stressed from working nights and going to school both days and nights while working towards my masters degree with the intention of changing careers.

Patching together before-school, after-school, and nighttime babysitting was a stressful and difficult chore and I felt guilty about having to leave my kids with babysitters so much of the time. I wasn't the put-together "with it" mom that my daughters' friends all seem to have and I felt that

my kids were seriously shortchanged.

What does wolf have to say as I think about those years now? My daughters are in their thirties and early forties. The older two have their masters degrees and the youngest has her doctorate. They have good jobs in their fields, are very independent, and are raising thriving families of their own. All three of them have more self-confidence, self-assurance, and self-awareness than I ever had while they were growing up. They seem to be very happy with their lives.

They surprised me last May with a beautiful sit-down dinner party to celebrate my birthday - a milestone birthday that I would have preferred to quietly ignore. I walked into the restaurant thinking I was about to attend a retirement party for one of my husband's co-workers. When the doors opened I was completely shocked to see all of my family and relatives, and so many friends from all areas of my life - a crowd of at least fifty smiling faces. My three daughters were front and center - beaming.

The three of them had put together a most spectacular celebration with attention to every detail. There was music from the 60s and 70s. Somehow they had gathered photos from my earliest days - from my early childhood through my high school and college years and beyond - right through to the present. They had scanned and laminated these photos and had them displayed everywhere I looked. My grandchildren enjoyed following the visual trail of my life. I felt the love that enveloped me that lovely day - starting with the love that emanated from my daughters' hearts into mine.

So maybe I need to forgive myself for my past mistakes and shortcomings. I can't change the past, but I can begin to see that maybe I did give my daughters enough - enough of the intangibles, even on my most stressful of days when I was trying to hold us together on a shoestring.

In spite of it all, they not only managed to do okay, but they are doing exceedingly well - living full and productive lives. And they are sharing their love with me. Maybe I managed to give them the most important thing - love - the one thing that made everything else possible.

I can choose to recognize wolf as a teacher, a protector, and I can choose to feed the loving compassionate wolf when it comes to self-judgment. The wolf who brings joy, hope, forgiveness, peace, and truth into my heart. I want that loving wolf, the one who saved my life because I was worth saving, to live in my heart from now on.

He is teaching me a most important lesson - compassion for oneself and loving kindness toward oneself are the healing balms that can then spread outward toward others. With wolf's help, I can choose to spread love, starting within my own heart.

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# Euphemisms & Idioms



## RETIREMENT SPARKS

by ELAINE M. DECKER

A recent TV program on political scandals reminded me of a euphemism that was popular during one of those scandals. Former South Carolina governor Mark Sanford had gone to Argentina to spend time with his mistress. Their relationship had been a secret up until then. He told his staff that he would be hiking the Appalachian Trail. When his affair came to light, the phrase: "Hiking the Appalachian Trail" became a euphemism for having an extramarital affair.

I love that expression! It's a civil way to say something critical. It set me to wondering what other clever euphemisms and idioms I had forgotten about or never known. (Idioms also aren't direct, but they're not always nice.) A few are political, but not all. We have Southern culture to thank for many of these colorful colloquialisms, a lot of which feature farm animals.

Here are some of my favorites. This one was used recently by a member of Congress to criticize a budget proposal. He said it was a "Pig's Breakfast." That was new to me. I looked it up. It's a Southernism for an unappealing mixture, a mess.

A crossword puzzle answer that was also new to me was "Goat Rodeo." It describes something that has gone totally wrong, an ultimate SNAFU. I immediately pictured said rodeo and it was easy to imagine it going totally wrong, no matter how cute the little goatees were. I'm waiting to hear a member of Congress describe a session of that august body as a goat rodeo. There will likely be many opportunities. "That dog won't hunt" was also in a recent puzzle, meaning that an idea or approach is destined to fail. If that phrase hasn't been used yet in Congress, you can bet it will be eventually.

Another of my favorites is "The Full Monty." It first came across my radar via a movie of that title. The expression originated as the shortened version of the "Full Montgomery," the big English breakfast favored by British General Bernard Montgomery. By the time of the movie in 1997, it had come to be a euphemism for "total nudity." Today it's used broadly to mean the most that you can have or achieve, or more simply: the works.

We can thank Texas for a refined way to say someone brags shamelessly about his non-existent wealth or assets. "He's all hat and no cattle" is a phrase you've probably

heard. Credit to the late Roger Moore in a Hallmark movie for the female equivalent: "All fur coat and no knickers."

Staying with farm animals and Southernisms, I like the polite way to let a man know his fly is down. "The barn door's open and the mule's trying to run." It was new to me, and I'll be on the lookout for an opportunity to use it. Also likely from the South, here's a colorful way to say someone is cheap. "He'll squeeze a nickel till the buffalo screams" is much more evocative than calling someone a "penny-pincher."

Instead of saying someone looks tired, say he looks like he has "one wheel down and the axle dragging." It's very likely Southern, but I can't say for certain. Ditto for using "the green apple two-step" as a euphemism for diarrhea. The last in this trio sounds very Southern to me, as a way to say there's a problem. "A yellow jacket in the outhouse" is certainly something a person doing the green apple two-step would rather not hear!

There are dozens of idioms for saying someone is not very smart. You've probably heard most of them; I had, but new to me was: "She's one bubble off plumb." Not new to me, the following: "One brick short of a load." "Not playing with a full deck." "Two tacos short of a combination platter." "Doesn't have both oars in the water." "The elevator doesn't go all the way to the top floor." "The lights are on but nobody's home." In the South, it's "The porch lights are on..." There are many more ways to say someone isn't smart, but this list should more than meet your needs.

Euphemisms and idioms are all around us. As soon as I put this essay to bed, I'm sure I'll come across several more I would have wanted to include. Start your own collection!

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

# RI must do more for family caregivers



## AARP - RHODE ISLAND

by CATHERINE TAYLOR

AARP Rhode Island's mission is to empower people to choose how they live as they age, and that certainly includes people with caregiving responsibilities.

AARP is fighting to support America's nearly 48 million family caregivers who help make it possible for older Americans and other loved ones to live at home – where they want to be. And we are fighting especially hard to support family caregivers who work, because caring for a loved one shouldn't mean losing your pay – or even your job.

Across Rhode Island, 121,000 caregivers are caring for their older parents, spouses or other loved ones, often while juggling a full or part-time job. Here are changes we are pushing for at the State House to take some of the pressure off family caregivers.

### Temporary Caregiver Insurance enhancements (SB2121 H7171) will:

- Increase Rhode Island's maximum temporary caregiver benefit allowance from 6 weeks to 12 weeks.
- Expand the definition of family in Rhode Island's existing paid family leave law to include siblings, grandchildren, and other care recipients, to fit the reality of Rhode Island's diverse and multigenerational families.
- Increase the dependents allowance from \$10 weekly to \$20 weekly, or 7% of the individuals' benefit rate.

Rhode Island Family Caregiver Tax Credit Act (SB2375 H7490) will:

- Establish a tax credit against income tax based upon eligible expenditures incurred by a family caregiver for the care and support of an eligible family member.
- Make the maximum amount of the credit \$1,000, which would apply to all tax years beginning after December 31, 2024.

When family caregivers who work have access to paid family leave, they are better able to care for their loved ones. These bills will support family caregivers to balance their job and family responsibilities. AARP also is fighting to:

- Ensure workers have access to paid family leave all the time —not just during public health emergencies.
- Give more employees access to paid family leave.

According to AARP's recent Vital Voices survey of Rhode Islanders age 45+, nearly half of respondents have been a caregiver in the past to a relative or friend, and one in five are currently providing care.

Nearly half of Rhode Island caregivers surveyed said they have had to reduce their work hours or stop working altogether to attend to caregiving. And 39% of caregivers said they feel strained financially due to caregiving responsibilities.

A national survey found large majorities of caregivers say caregiving responsibilities have taken a toll on their career: 65% feel stressed balancing their job and caregiving, while 42% -- and half of female caregivers -- have had to quit their job or reduce their hours because of their caregiving duties. Caring for mom or dad can be expensive, stressful, and isolating. Paid family leave benefits workers, employers, and the economy by helping family caregivers remain at their jobs.

• Paid family leave increases employee loyalty and retention—which often saves an employer money by avoiding separation costs, as well as the costs of recruiting, hiring, and training new workers.

• Family caregivers help keep their parents, spouses, and other loved ones out of costly, taxpayer-funded nursing homes, saving the state money.

Complementing our advocacy efforts, AARP Rhode Island offers practical help on our Caregiving web page, [www.aarp.org/RI-Caregiving](http://www.aarp.org/RI-Caregiving), where you'll find many helpful resources, including the downloadable Guide for Caring for Older Adults in Rhode Island. You will also find links to the AARP Caregiving Resources Center, the AARP Caregiving Question & Answer Tool, a link to join the AARP Family Caregivers Discussion Group on Facebook, and more.

AARP Rhode is fighting for family caregivers who help relatives and loved ones remain in their homes instead of being forced into institutional settings. Family caregivers need commonsense solutions that will save them time and money and provide them with more support.

Join us in urging your lawmakers to act now on SB2121 / H7171 and SB2375 / H7490.

### March Events

March 21, 4 p.m. – RI Healthy Cooking

March 26, 4 p.m. – Tai Chi/Qi Gong

March 27, 6 p.m. – Laughter Yoga

April 9, 4 p.m. – Tai Chi/Qi Gong

April 10, 1 p.m. – Everybody Dance!

April 18, 4 p.m. – RI Healthy Cooking

Learn more and register at [aarp.org/RIEvents](http://aarp.org/RIEvents)



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Visit AARP Rhode Island's Caregiving web page, where you'll find many helpful resources, including the Guide for Caring for Older Adults in Rhode Island. Also, you'll find links to the AARP Caregiving Resources Center, the AARP Caregiving Question & Answer Tool, a link to join the AARP Family Caregivers Discussion Group on Facebook, and more.

[www.aarp.org/RICaregiving](http://www.aarp.org/RICaregiving)  /AARPRI  @AARPRI





# Medicare and Medicaid

## Understanding the Differences

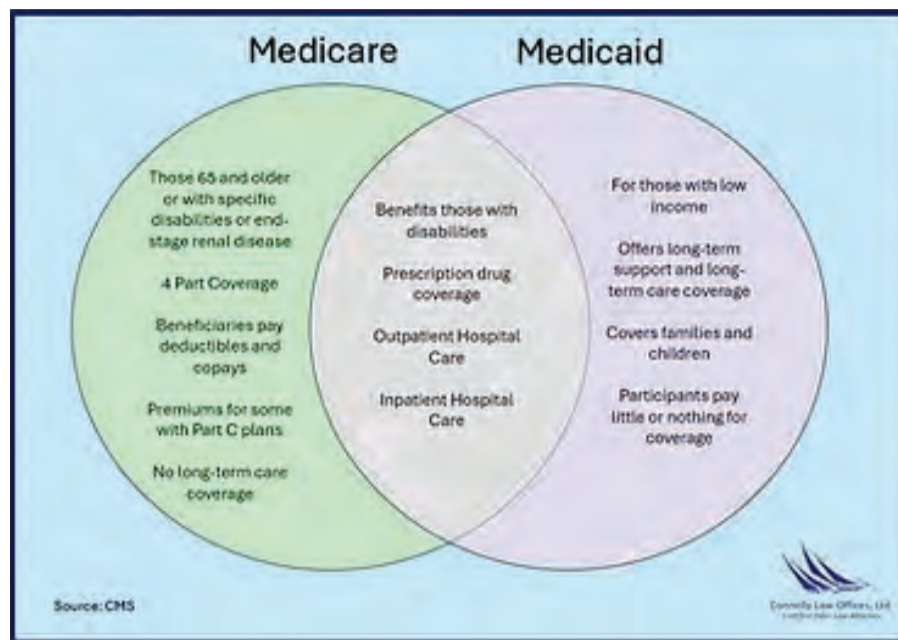
### LAW ADVICE

by DON DRAKE  
CONNELLY LAW OFFICES, LTD.

At our office, we receive a lot of inquiries about the difference between Medicare and Medicaid, usually just before or in the months following the open enrollment period," stated professional fiduciary and certified elder law Attorney RJ Connelly III. "Medicare and Medicaid are government-funded programs to provide healthcare coverage to eligible Americans. These programs were established in 1965 and are financed through taxpayers' money. Despite having similar names, they have different eligibility criteria, coverage, and purpose, often confusing people, and understandably so. Let's explore the differences."

Medicare is designed to provide medical coverage to people 65 and older and those with specific disabilities. Unlike Medicaid, income level is not a determining factor for eligibility. Medicare is divided into four parts: Part A, Part B, Part C, and Part D, each intended to provide coverage for specific medical services.

Medicaid, on the other hand, is primarily intended for people of any age with limited income and resources and cannot afford healthcare coverage through other means. It is often considered a program of last resort for those who cannot access other healthcare resources. Medicaid provides coverage for a wide range of medical services, including doctor's visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, and long-term care, to name a few.



### Medicare

#### Part A: Hospitalization Coverage

Medicare Part A is a health insurance program that provides hospitalization coverage to individuals 65 years or older, regardless of their income. However, to qualify, you or your spouse must have worked and paid Medicare taxes for at least ten years. This program covers hospital inpatient care, hospice care, skilled nursing facility care, and home health care services. Most people don't pay any premium for Part A, as it is funded through payroll taxes paid by employees and employers during their working years. However, deductibles and coinsurance apply, meaning you may have to spend a certain amount before Medicare starts covering the cost of your care. It's important to understand these costs and how they apply to your specific situation so that you can make informed decisions about your healthcare coverage.

#### Medicaid Planning Rhode Island

#### Part B: Medical Insurance

It's important to know that those eligible for Medicare Part A also qualify for Part B. This program covers medically necessary services and equipment, such as doctor's office visits, lab work, x-rays, outpatient surgeries, wheelchairs, walkers, and preventive services like disease screenings and flu shots. Do note that deductibles and coinsurance apply to these services.

For this year (2024), the standard Part B premium has been set at \$174.70, representing an increase from 2023's premium of \$164.90. This premium is usually deducted from Social Security or Railroad Retirement payments. However, it is essential to remember that individuals with a modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) greater than \$103,000 per year (or \$206,000 for a couple) must pay more for this program.

#### Part C: Medicare Advantage Plans

If you are eligible for Medicare Part A and Part B, you may also qualify for Part C, commonly known as Medicare Advantage. Unlike Parts A and B, which the government provides, Medicare Advantage plans are offered through private companies approved by Medicare.

#### Part D: Prescription Drug Coverage

Medicare Part D is a government program that provides eligible individuals with prescription drug coverage. This program allows participants to obtain medication coverage but requires paying for Part D plans out of pocket. In addition to monthly premiums, participants must also pay a yearly deductible and copayments for certain prescriptions.

It should be noted that some Medicare Part C plans do not come with prescription drug coverage. If you have a Part C plan and wish to obtain Part D coverage, you may need to purchase it separately.

If you want to enroll in Medicare Part D, the annual open enrollment period runs from October 15 to December 7 every year. You can enroll in a plan for the first time, switch to a different one, or change your existing one. Reviewing your options and making any necessary changes during this period to ensure you have the best coverage for your needs is crucial.

### Medicaid

Medicaid is a healthcare program jointly funded by the federal and state governments and is designed to assist low-income individuals and families of all ages with the costs associated with medical and long-term custodial care. This includes expenses such as doctor visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, and medical equipment, among others. Medicaid eligibility is based on income and other factors such as age, disability status, and family size.

Medicaid is a joint program between the federal and state governments, with different programs available in each state. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), signed into law by President Obama in 2010, aimed to provide health care coverage to more Americans. This resulted in all legal residents and citizens of the United States with incomes below 138% of the poverty line being eligible for coverage in Medicaid-participating states.

Although the ACA expanded federal funding and eligibility for Medicaid, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states are not required to participate in the expansion to receive their current level of Medicaid funding. As a result, some states chose not to expand funding levels and eligibility requirements.

Unlike Medicare, Medicaid recipients pay little or nothing for covered services. However, Medicaid has strict eligibility requirements that vary by state. When Medicaid recipients reach age 65, they continue to be eligible for Medicaid and become eligible for Medicare, with blended plans available. Currently, Medicaid coverage may change based on the recipient's income. Higher-income individuals may find that Medicaid only pays for their Medicare Part B premiums, while lower-income individuals may continue to receive full benefits.

Medicare and Medicaid are two government-run healthcare programs in the United States. Medicare is a federal health insurance program available to American citizens aged sixty-five or older and those with certain disabilities or illnesses. This program is designed to cover various healthcare costs, including hospital stays, doctor visits, and prescription drugs. Medicaid is a joint state and federal program primarily intended to provide healthcare coverage to low-income individuals and families, regardless of age. The eligibility criteria for Medicaid vary by state but require strict income requirements. Medicaid can cover various medical services, including doctor visits, hospital stays, long-term care [Medicaid Planning], and prescription drugs.

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RJ Connelly III

## In My Next Life



ACCORDING  
TO DON

by DON FOWLER

I've always thought that people who believe in reincarnation generally live a happy present life.

They can look back at their past lives and, if they remember, enjoy the fact they were a king, movie actor, rich industrialist, or perhaps a seagull. Even better, they could imagine their next life, planning to do the things they didn't get around to doing this time around.

As I approach 87 years on this earth, I pause to make a list of things I didn't, for various reasons, get around to doing. In some cases, I didn't have the resources, in other cases, I didn't have the talent. Perhaps I was born too early, or possibly too late.

My list takes me from the sublime to the ridiculous, but what the heck, I can dream, can't I!

**1.** Become proficient as a jazz pianist. I have always admired those talented musicians who can sit down at the piano and scat to their hearts' content, drawing the awe of everyone within listening range.

**2.** Write the Great American Novel. I believe that everyone has at least one book or movie in them. Usually, it is very personal. The key is finding an audience.

**3.** Visit Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, and other interesting Asian countries. My wife and I are fortunate to have visited every continent except Antarctica and most of the 50 states, but there is so much more and so little time.

**4.** Sit in the bleachers on a sunny day and watch the Rose Parade go by.

**5.** Play pickle ball. The sport was just coming into prominence when my legs were giving out on me and my tennis skills were diminishing.

**6.** Hike all of the Rhode Island trails the trails. There are many, and most of them are beautiful.

**7.** Spend more time with my wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchild. Everyone says this when they retire, but how many really mean it.

**8.** Buy that waterfront cottage in Matunuck that I could have bought dirt cheap back in the seventies.

**9.** Learn how to cook more than hamburgers and hot dogs.

**10.** Be more generous.

Make your own list, not with regret, but with the realization that life offers more than we can possibly take advantage of. If you are a reincarnation fan, there's always next time around. Unless you come back as a seagull.

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# We Live In Two Different Worlds



MY SIDE OF THINGS  
by LARRY GRIMALDI

We spend about four months of the year as Florida snowbirds. The rest of the year we are home in North Providence. And as the 1956 popular song says, “We live in two different worlds.”

Rhode Island has a reputation of being one of the most liberal and Democratic states in the Union. A quick scan of our state legislator roster attests to this fact. Occasionally, we break the mold and install a Republican as a state general officer. If you look closely, you can find pockets of GOP resistance in rural Rhode Island. After all, there IS the Independent Man on the State House dome.

We have one of the highest concentration of Catholics in the nation. Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design are bastions of individualism, and unfortunately, we still have occasional bouts of inferiority when someone mentions Boston or New York. We may be small, but we pack a stunning diversity of cultures, lifestyles, and languages into our little corner of the world. And let’s not forget that we have suddenly become a popular location for filming movies. We still bristle when our New England accent makes us point out to someone that we hail from Rhode Island, not Long Island! Rhode Islanders have a reputation, with some justification, of not wanting to travel long distances to reach a destination and our driving habits are a frequent source of consternation to visitors and residents alike.

The State of Florida presents a marked contrast to Rhode Island. While their driving habits are as “interesting” as ours, Florida does harbor a variety of cultures and languages. For the most part, the comparisons end there.

Over the course of the last generation, Florida has become a much more conservative political force. In some ways, it has surrendered its impact as a swing state to Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. But Florida dwarfs our electoral college votes by a count of 25 to four. And there is unmistakable

rumble of identity politics and dissatisfaction with the current administration. A drive in virtually any Fort Lauderdale neighborhood might yield some very unflattering references to the current President. These references, as stark as they may be, are a testament to our freedom of speech and expression.

I admit that I don’t miss winter and the snow. And I loved being able to sit on a beach in the middle of February. The month of March really heralds the advent of spring here and I

closed my winter wardrobe when I arrived in early January. I can watch a Miami Marlins baseball game for a fraction of the cost of a trip to Fenway Park or Yankee Stadium. There are more golf courses, framed by palm trees and bordered by swamps and ponds that are home to iguanas and the occasional alligators, to illustrate my lack of proficiency on the links.

There are many more Baptist, Episcopal, and Evangelical Christian houses of worship in Florida. That array of religious beliefs provides numerous paths to spirituality. And you must get used to a slower speech delivery and more relaxed atmosphere. (Brush up on the Y’all dialect before you get here since the language app Babble doesn’t speak Southern).

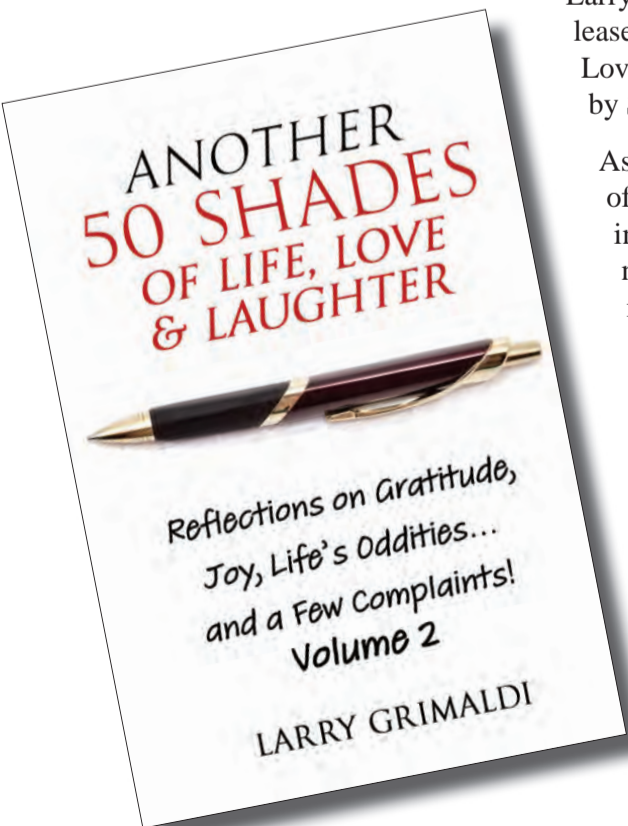
As you can see, each state has its own identity and unique character; but in the end we are still live in the United States. As the song says, “Two different worlds; we live in two different worlds. But we will show them as we walk together in the sun, that our two different worlds are one.”

*Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Many of his previous PrimeTime columns have been re-issued in the anthology, “50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter.” Columns published in this book are used with the permission of Beacon Communications. For more information about “50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter;” or any of his other books, e-mail [lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com](mailto:lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com)*

*“Two different worlds. We live in two different worlds”*

-Two Different Worlds:  
Music and Lyrics by  
Sid Wayne and Al Frisch

## Now Available



Larry Grimaldi of North Providence has released his new book, “50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter, Volume II”, published by Stillwater Books of West Warwick.

As with Volume I, the book is a collection of monthly columns which have appeared in “PrimeTime” editions of regional newspapers published by Beacon Communications. Volume II also features some previously unreleased essays and poetry.

Grimaldi also co-authored “Wandering Across America,” a chronicle of his cross-country drive with his wife, Kathy; and a cookbook titled, “Cooking With Mammie” with his wife, and grandchildren Katharine, Sophia, and Nicholas Bianchi.

All books are available on Amazon.com, or by e-mailing [lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com](mailto:lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com).



**This state-of-the-art Memory Care Assisted Living Residence in Johnston provides compassionate care to those with Alzheimer’s Disease, dementia and other memory-loss conditions.**

# The Cottage at Briarcliffe Gardens

## A State-of-the-Art Memory Care Assisted Living Residence

By JENNIFER COATES

When the plans were being drafted for Briarcliffe Gardens a memory care assisted living residence tucked away on Old Pocasset Road, just off Central Avenue in the shady woods of Johnston, owner Akshay Talwar, and his team poured over every detail. Every design decision was based on thorough dementia research and experience. Every detail, from the amount of light that bathes the community rooms to the placement of furniture, was implemented with the intent of enhancing the quality of life and the safety of the residents of this busy center.

As soon as one walks through the doors of Briarcliffe Gardens these research-based design features are immediately apparent. Nothing here looks haphazard or unplanned. Visitors and residents alike experience a “sensory journey” as they tour the residence. There is a feeling of spaciousness, light and openness here which appeals to all the senses and which dispels the feeling that one is in a secured environment.

To start, Briarcliffe Gardens is built entirely on one floor with dining and living spaces in the center, forming the social core, much like one’s own kitchen. On any given day, this warmly-lit open space area is filled with residents who are being guided through crafts, games or socialization experiences. In adjoining rooms, it is not uncommon to see residents engaged in therapeutic activities such as seated yoga, tai chi, pet and music therapy.

The single-occupancy bedrooms all have outside windows and line the perimeter of this common center space. Numerous skylights provide diffuse sunshine during daytime and natural and artificial lighting are balanced to create a seamless transition between daylight and nightfall. The colors, light, and air temperatures throughout are all coordinated in a concerted effort to comfort residents who might be prone to agitation or irritability.

As the tour continues, one will find a 24-hour retro-design diner, a movie hall, specially adapted recumbent bikes, a Wii gaming center, a hair salon/barber, a sunroom for meditation and, in the spring/summer, a courtyard with fruit-producing trees, walking path and patio. The caregivers and administrators of this progressive memory care center have considered every aspect of their residents’ lives and work diligently to anticipate their every need.

From the time when the first ground was broken on Briarcliffe Gardens, this state-of-the-art memory care assisted living residence’s primary mission has been to provide a secure, nurturing and vibrant community for its many residents.

When family members 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.

To schedule your personal tour of Briarcliffe Gardens, call 401-944-2450. For more information, you can also visit them at [www.briarclifferi.com](http://www.briarclifferi.com) or visit their Facebook page, Briarcliffe Gardens Assisted Living.

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**HEARTY AND FLAVORFUL**

Make your meal a hearty, tasty one by starting it off with this recipe for Herbed Veggie Focaccia Bread, a pizza-esque flatbread that's a delicious alternative to all-too-common unhealthy appetizers. Topped with mushrooms, tomatoes, peppers, olives and onion, this delightful small plate packs a nutritious load of veggies. Find more nutritious recipes at AICR.org.

**Herbed Veggie Focaccia Bread**

Reprinted with permission from the American Institute for Cancer Research  
Servings: 12

**Dough:**

- 1 cup whole-wheat flour
- 1 cup all-purpose flour, divided
- 1 package (1/4 ounce) quick-rise yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup warm water, 125-130 F
- 1 tablespoon canola oil

**Topping:**

- 7 medium fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 3 plum tomatoes, chopped
- 1 small green bell pepper, slivered
- 1/2 cup sliced black olives
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon thyme
- 1/4 teaspoon basil
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- nonstick cooking spray
- 2 teaspoons cornmeal

Heat oven to 475 F.

To make dough: In mixing bowl, combine whole-wheat flour, 1/2 cup all-purpose flour, yeast and salt. Add water and oil. Beat until smooth. Stir in remaining all-purpose flour to form soft dough. Place onto floured surface and knead by hand until consistent and elastic, about 4 minutes. Cover and let stand 15 minutes.

To make topping: In bowl, combine mushrooms, tomatoes, green bell pepper, olives, onion, oil, vinegar, salt, pepper, oregano, thyme, basil and garlic powder.

Coat 15-by-10-by-1-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Sprinkle with cornmeal. Gently press dough into pan. With fork, generously prick dough.

Bake 10 minutes, or until lightly browned. Cover dough with topping mixture. Bake additional 10 minutes, or until edges are golden brown.



**FIX UP A  
FLAVORFUL**

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

# Spring Table

**FAMILY FEATURES**

Finding the perfect recipe to share with loved ones can prove to be a year-round challenge. These tasty dishes that include a flatbread appetizer, shrimp main dish and a favorite seasonal dessert made with strawberries can help you serve up a meal perfect for any spring gathering.

Visit Culinary.net for more tips and recipes to make your springtime gatherings as nutritious as they are delicious.

**FAST, FLAVORFUL FISH DINNER**

If warm spring weather has you in the mood for a simple fish dinner, look to your humble sheet pan. Follow these simple tips from Dr. Wendy Bazilian, McCormick Health Advisor and Registered Dietitian, to enjoy tasty seafood recipes you'll want to make all year long.

- Sheet pans are perfect for simple fish dinners because they require minimal cleanup and everything is baked on one pan.
- While lemon is a great complement to seafood, think about pairing with other citrus flavors like orange and lime. Try marinating shrimp in a mixture of lite coconut milk, lime extract, ginger and red pepper.
- Add colorful vegetables like zoodles or asparagus to your sheet pan to boost both seafood and vegetable servings. You don't need a spiralizer to make zoodles because many grocery stores offer pre-made zoodles in the produce section.

Explore more recipes to enjoy during spring and beyond at McCormick.com, or look for McCormick Spice on Facebook and Pinterest.

**Coconut Lime Shrimp with Zoodles**

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Servings: 4

- 1/4 cup Thai Kitchen Coconut Milk (regular or lite)
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Ground Ginger

- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Garlic Powder
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Crushed Red Pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Pure Lime Extract
- 1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 small zucchini, cut into thin noodles with spiralizer
- 1 medium yellow squash, cut into thin noodles with spiralizer
- 1 medium carrot, cut into thin noodles with spiralizer
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Ground Black Pepper

Heat oven to 375 F.

In large, re-sealable plastic bag, mix together coconut milk, ginger, garlic powder, crushed red pepper and lime extract. Add shrimp; turn to coat well.

Refrigerate 15-30 minutes. Remove shrimp from marinade. Discard any remaining marinade. In center of large, shallow, foil-lined baking pan, arrange shrimp in single layer.

In large bowl, toss vegetable noodles and oil. Sprinkle with salt and pepper; toss to coat well. Spread noodles around shrimp in pan.

Bake 10-15 minutes, or until shrimp turn pink and are cooked through and noodles are tender. Serve shrimp over vegetable noodles.

**Test kitchen tip:** For faster prep, use 4 cups store-bought spiralized vegetable noodles instead of spiralizing them yourself.

**DESSERT MAKEOVER**

Strawberries are a seasonal favorite. Indulge by skipping the shortcake and whipping up this lower-calorie dessert for more flavor and less guilt. A whole-wheat crust layered with simple, low-fat ingredients and topped with fresh strawberries provides a tasty springtime treat. Find more good-for-you recipes at AICR.org.

**Strawberry and Cheese Refrigerator Pie**

Reprinted with permission from the American Institute for Cancer Research

Servings: 8

- 1 prepared whole-wheat graham cracker pie crust (9 inches)
- 4 ounces reduced-fat cream cheese
- 1/4 cup reduced-fat sour cream
- 2 tablespoons extra-fine sugar
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 pound strawberries
- 1/2 cup strawberry fruit spread
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice (optional)

Heat oven to 350 F.

Place crust on baking sheet and bake 8 minutes, or until golden and fragrant. Transfer to wire rack and cool completely.

Place cream cheese, sour cream, sugar, lemon zest and vanilla in small bowl. Using hand mixer on medium speed or wooden spoon, blend until combined and smooth. Spread cheese mixture evenly over bottom of pie crust. Refrigerate until set, 1-2 hours.

Before serving, cut off tops of strawberries. Halve largest ones and place in bowl. Cut remaining berries lengthwise in quarters and place in another bowl. Melt fruit spread in microwave or in small saucepan over medium heat, stirring often. Mix in lemon juice, if using, and divide hot fruit spread between two bowls of berries. Using fork, toss until fruit is coated.

Spoon quartered fruit into center of pie, turning most pieces cut-side down. Arrange larger halves in circle around edge of pie with flat side facing rim of crust and pointing toward center of pie. Fill open spaces with any remaining fruit spread.

Serve pie within 1 hour.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images





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# Claim Recovery Rebate Credit before time runs out

## YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

The Internal Revenue Service is reminding those who may be entitled to the Recovery Rebate Credit to file a tax return and claim their money before it's too late.

The vast majority of those eligible for Economic Impact Payments related to Coronavirus tax relief have already received them or claimed them through the Recovery Rebate Credit. The deadlines to file a return and claim the 2020 and 2021 credits are May 17, 2024, and April 15, 2025, respectively. The Recovery Rebate Credit is a refundable credit for those who missed out on one or more Economic Impact Payments. Economic Impact Payments, also referred to as stimulus payments, were issued in 2020 and 2021. The IRS estimates that some individuals and families are still eligible for the payment(s). However, taxpayers must first file a tax return to make their claim even if they had little or no income from a job, business, or other source.

### Who is eligible?

Generally, to claim the 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit, a person must:

- Have been a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien in 2020.
- Not have been a dependent of another taxpayer for 2020.
- Have a Social Security number issued before the due date of the tax return that is valid for employment in the United States.

Generally, to claim the 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit, a person must:

- Have been a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien in 2021.
- Not have been a dependent of another taxpayer for 2021.
- Have a Social Security number issued by the due date of the tax return, claim a dependent who has a Social Security number issued by the due date of the tax return, or claim a dependent with an Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number.

The 2020 RRC can be claimed for someone who died in 2020. The 2020 RRC and 2021 RRC can be claimed for someone who died in 2021 or later.

### Filing deadlines if you haven't yet filed a tax return

To claim the:

- 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit, file a tax return by May 17, 2024.
- 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit, file a tax return by April 15, 2025.

### Get free help

Qualified taxpayers can also find free one-on-one tax preparation help nationwide through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs. Use the VITA Locator Tool at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) or call 800-906-9887 to locate the nearest site.

This is part of an ongoing IRS effort to encourage people who normally are not required to file to look into possible benefits available to them under the tax law. Every year, people can fail to file a tax return even when they may be entitled to tax credits and a refund. The IRS reminds taxpayers that there is no penalty for claiming a refund on a tax return filed after its due date. The fastest and easiest way to get a refund is to choose direct deposit. People can also use their IRS Online Account to see if they received any Economic Impact Payments and the total amounts.

Any Recovery Rebate Credit received can't be counted as income when determining the ability of someone to be eligible for federal benefits like Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Claiming the credit also has no effect on an individual's immigration status or their ability to get a green card or immigration benefits.

## Planning Your Funeral



ACCORDING TO DON

by DON FOWLER

I learned something new by watching "The Crown." Kings and Queens plan their own funerals. They sit on a special committee to work out all the fine details.

While I don't need a committee, I am following the advice of Rev. Bill Sterritt and leaving instructions for my Funeral/Memorial Arrangements and Service Details.

Rev. Sterritt of Edgewood Congregational Church has developed a form which can be filled out at any age, updated when you wish, filed with your personal papers, and given to the person who will be handling your affairs.

You are asked to check whether you opt for burial, cremation, or other specific instructions. (My wife and I have donated our bodies to the Brown University School of Medicine. Specific instructions on who to call are needed.)

Instructions for funeral service, wake or committal service are checked. The form asks the name of the clergy person and church or synagogue and funeral home. The form asks for personal Memorial Service/Funeral Details.

You may choose scripture passages, special readings, favorite poem or essay, and hymns/songs. You may wish to add instrumental or recorded songs before, during or after the service. I have chosen sacred hymns (Finlandia, Just a Closer Walk With Thee) and popular songs (On a clear day).

Also, suggest whom you would like to serve as ushers. Many people make up photo boards or more elaborate videos.

There is a line for Memorial Gifts, asking people in lieu of flowers to donate to your favorite charity.

It is the custom at most funerals or memorial services to have a collation/reception at home, the church, or a rented hall.

You may wish to add other items. Many people these days are writing their own obituaries (This was my first assignment in a college writing class), or list items you wish included.

If you would like a copy of the form Rev. Sterritt provides, you may call the Edgewood church office at 401-461-1344, and he will send you one.

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