



Portsmouth's season comes down to one game

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Events to get you into the Irish spirit



Students at the Nevin Academy of Irish Dancers entertain the crowd during the 2012 Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade. FRIEDA SQUIRES/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

Newport Irish Heritage Month begins today

Scott Barrett
Newport Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The calendar has turned from February to March, so break out that "Kiss Me I'm Irish" shirt and stock up on corned beef and cabbage.

Before long, the masses will be headed to downtown Newport for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade — the first since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic — but there are plenty of local events before and after the parade to keep your Irish eyes smiling.

From dancing at Forty Steps to the roasting of the parade's grand marshal catching some traditional Irish music at

See IRISH, Page 2A



Rick and Joan Kelly, left, of Newport, and Riley Mahoney of Seekonk, Massachusetts, and her grandfather, Brian Hart of Newport, join in some Irish dances at Forty Steps in Newport in 2017. DAILY NEWS FILE

Ukraine talks yield no breakthrough

Delegations discuss possible cease-fire, second discussion

Yuras Karmanau, Jim Heintz, Vladimir Isachenkov and Dasha Litvinova
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — The first talks aimed at stopping the fighting between Ukraine and Russia ended Monday with no agreement except to keep talking, while an increasingly isolated Moscow ran into unexpectedly fierce resistance on the ground and economic havoc at home.

Five days into Russia's invasion, the Kremlin again raised the specter of nuclear war, while an embattled Ukraine moved to solidify its ties to the West by applying to join the European Union —



Demonstrators wave the Ukrainian flag Monday during a rally in support of Ukraine in Tbilisi, Georgia. VANO SHLAMOV/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

a largely symbolic move unlikely to sit well with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has long accused the U.S. of

trying to pull Ukraine out of Moscow's orbit. A top Putin aide and head of the Russian delegation, Vladimir Medinsky, said that the talks lasted nearly five hours and that the envoys "found certain points on which common positions could be foreseen."

He said they agreed to continue the discussions in the coming days.

As the talks wrapped up, several blasts could be heard in Kyiv, though few details were immediately known. Russian troops, while attacking on multiple fronts, continued to advance slowly on the capital city of nearly 3 million people.

A 17-mile convoy consisting of hundreds of armored vehicles, tanks, artillery and support vehicles was 17 miles

See UKRAINE, Page 3A

Newport contractor creates unique new app

Technology could be breakthrough for construction services

Savana Dunning
Newport Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEWPORT — After spending hours on end creating non-guaranteed project proposals and bidding for materials to complete his construction projects, local general contractor Luke Fleury teamed up with a couple local technology industry buffs to launch Dibbs, an all-in-one construction bidding and selling app.

Dibbs co-founders Fleury and Case Olszewski created the app to cut down the excess time it takes during the process for the bidding, buying and selling of construction services. It allows people who need construction work done to solicit bids for multiple contractors and subcontractors at once, instead of contacting businesses one-by-one.

When someone has a construction project, they can go to the app and post a description of the job and a budget estimate on which contractors can bid.

The app officially launched for iOS and Android platforms on Feb. 22 and currently has 31 reviews and 4.9 out of 5 stars at time of reporting.

What can the Dibbs app do?

At the beginning of last year, there was an average of about 17,931 people employed in the construction industry throughout Rhode Island. Of those, roughly 2,104 were in Newport County, according to the state Department of Labor & Training.

Typically, when someone needs work done on their home or business, they contact a contractor who will then go to the location, assess the work needed to be done and develop a proposal with a cost estimate for the project. As a real estate developer and general contractor, Fleury said this process is inefficient and costs contractors and clients extra money and time.

"Constantly, day-to-day, I was bidding materials, bidding subcontractors, bidding work, and it was super time intensive," Fleury said. "If people needed their kitchen remodeled, I would drive to their house, take measurements, go back to the office, put

See APP, Page 6A



Luke Fleury, right, and Case Olszewski are co-founders of the Dibbs app for builders and contractors. PROVIDED BY LUKE FLEURY



USA TODAY
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Special education in R.I.

Newport lawmaker files bill that would help students with special needs. 3A

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