

# Portsmouth's season comes down to one game

SPORTS, 1B

# The Newport Daily News

# 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

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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

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.

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

"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

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

Sunshine. Forecast, 6A



#### **MUNICIPAL MEETINGS**

**NEWPORT** Wednesday Beach Commission, 5 p.m., 35 Golden Hill Street

**MIDDLETOWN** Friday Technical Review Committee, 11 a.m., Town Hall Tuesday

Planning Board, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Litter Committee, 6:30 p.m., Tiverton Library. https://bristolccedu.zoom.us/ j/97711065124?pwd=cThtOHRDTWZr Slp6bXorTnhMVEo2dz09&from=addon Meeting ID: 977 1106 5124 Passcode: 791105. Call: 1 (929) 205-6099 or 1 (301) 715-8592 or 1 (312) 626- 6799 or 1 (669) 900-6833 or 1 (253) 215-8782 or 1 (346)

248-7799 Meeting ID: 977 1106 5124 Wednesday Zoning Board, 7 p.m., Webinar ID: 823 5367 5870 Passcode: 654523. Call: (877) 853-5247 or (888) 788-0099 or (833) 548-0276 or (833) 548-0282. www.zoom.us

# **Irish**

Continued from Page 1A

the pub, here are some of the events you won't want to miss during Newport Irish Heritage Month:

#### Trolley tour will hit all of the spots in Irish Newport

The two-hour narrated tours, presented by the Museum of Newport Irish History, depart from Hibernian Hall, 2 Wellington Ave. at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 5. They include stops at sites connected with Newport's Irish heritage, including Forty Steps and the Barney Street Cemetery.

There is an introductory visit to the museum's Interpretive Center on Lower

Thames Street. The event is sponsored by Viking Tours of Newport in memory of Karen A. Oakley. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Reservations are a must as space is limited. For more information and to reserve, visit the "Events" page at newportirishhistory.org or phone Larry Bartley at 401-965-7276.

#### The roasting of Grand Marshal Robert 'Rocky' Kempenaar and **Jimmy Winters**

Who doesn't love a good roast? This year, you get two. Local real estate developer Robert "Rocky" Kempenaar is the grand marshal of the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade, and longtime Newport Police Department officer Jimmy Winters also will be honored. He was to be the grand marshal of the 2021 event.

The roasting will commence at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 5 at St. Augustin's Church hall on the corner of Carroll and Harrison avenues in New-

Tickets cost \$25 and include hors d'oeuvres and music by Rhode to Dublin. For advanced tickets, call Dennis Sullivan at 401-846-5081 or purchase them at the Hibernian Hall or Cappy's Hillside Cafe. This event is sponsored by Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

#### At long last, the 65th Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade

This certainly is a long time coming. The last official parade was held in 2019 before the pandemic halted the past two. Things get underway on Saturday, March 13 at 11 a.m. from Newport City Hall, with the parade route rolling through the heart of the city and ending at St. Augustin's Church in the Fifth Ward neighborhood of the city.

"I think there's a lot of pent-up energy," Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napolitano told The Daily News recently. "Hopefully it is not only going to be a great weather day, but people see family and friends again."

The parade will take place rain or shine and lasts approximately two hours. There will also be radio coverage from Rick Kelly and Bobb Angel on WADK 1540 AM.

#### After the parade, head to 'The **Hut' for some Irish family** entertainment

If you don't how rowdy things can get downtown after the parade, the 14th annual St. Patrick's Day Family Celebration is scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Martin Recreation Center on Saturday, March 13.

There is no cost to attend this alcohol-free, family-friendly event at "The Hut." It will feature entertainment, including bagpipers, Irish step dancers, pirates, face painters, magicians and more. There will also be giveaways, including a \$100 cash door prize and a "How Green Am I" contest (\$150 first prize).

#### Get your Irish music on at the pub

A.O. Gutierrez, Tim May and Jack Wright will host traditional Irish music sessions each Sunday throughout the month of March. It runs from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Fastnet Pub on Broadway. Arrive early if you want a table.

#### **Grab some corned beef and** cabbage and go

Can you really get through March without eating some corned beef and cabbage? Instead of slaving over the stove, let the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians do the work for you. They'll be hosting a "grab-and-go" dinner after the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Augustin's Church on Sunday, March 26.

Tickets are \$25. Children ages 10 and under are \$10. All dinners must be preordered by March 19. To order: email Kathryn Brady at brady06@yahoo.com or phone Deanna Conheeny at 401-847-7156. Include your name, number of dinners (\$25 and \$10), and desired pickup

#### Dance a jig at Forty Steps to close out Newport Irish Heritage Month

Join the official closing event of the 45th annual Newport Irish Heritage Month on Sunday, March 27, by commemorating the informal dances held there by the Irish who made Newport their home in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Dancing begins at 3 p.m. at Forty Steps, located on the Cliff Walk at the end of Narragansett Avenue. Sponsored by the Museum of Newport Irish History, the free, outdoor event will feature live traditional Irish music, demonstrations of Irish set dancing led by Donal and Mary Lehane, and the Ancient Order of Hibernian Men Singers.

To view the full calendar of events visit newportirishhistory.org/newportirish-heritage-month/

### **CITY OF NEWPORT**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Pursuant to Title 45-24-53 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956, as amended, and Chapter 17.112.070 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Newport, RI, as amended, entitled, "Public Notice & Hearing Requirements," notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Council of the City of Newport to consider the following changes in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Newport. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., City Hall, Council Chambers, 43 Broadway, Newport, RI.

It is proposed that amendments be made to the following which appeared in the **February 22, 2022**, edition of the **Newport Daily News.** 

#### **CHAPTER 17.08. DEFINITIONS**

**CHAPTER 17.16 R-3 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT** 

CHAPTER 17.20 R-10 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

**CHAPTER 17.28 R-20 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT** 

Chapter 17.32 R-40 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT **Chapter 17.52 LIMITED BUSINESS DISTRICT** 

Copies of the proposed ordinance changes may be obtained and copies made at cost in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 43 Broadway, Newport, RI, 401-845-5340. The proposed ordinance may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any alteration or amendment must be presented for comment in the course of the hearing.

All persons interested in the above matter are requested to be present at the public hearing to be heard thereon. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the City Manager at 845-5429 one week in advance of the hearing.

> BY DIRECTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL Laura C. Swistak City Clerk

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# The Newport Daily News

The Newport Daily News is published daily, except Sundays and certain holidays. USPS 384-320 Periodicals Postage paid at Newport, Rhode Island

Postmaster send change of address to: The Newport Daily News, P.O. Box 420, Newport, RI 02840.

Main number: 401-849-3300

visit NewportRI.com.

Business hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Office location: 272 Valley Rd., Middletown, RI 02842

**WHO WE ARE** Sales Manager, Mike Cesare ... 401-380-2311 **Customer Service** . 866-758-3408 **Editor, Will Richmond** 401-380-2351 **Sports** 401-380-2356

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