

The Unfiltered Lens

Serving the CCRI Student Body since 2007

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Who Is Richard Bright & What Does He Have To Say

By: Samuel Glassett
Contributing Consultant; Nation, State, & World Section Editor

WASHINGTON D.C. - On April 21st, Richard Bright, a professional virologist and immunologist, was removed from his positions as Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, and Deputy Assistant Secretary with the Department of Health and Human Services. The reason was cited as his "insistence" regarding the federal policy for the current pandemic. Richard Bright, who has his PHD in Immunology and Virology, preferred that the government spend funds on "safe and scientifically vetted solutions" to address the coronavirus crisis, rather than on "drugs, vaccines and other technologies that lack scientific merit," according to NPR's David J. Phillip.

Bright's career in vaccine development

has prepared him for a crisis like this one. He states that "to this point, [he has] led the government's efforts to invest in the best science available to combat the COVID-19 pandemic ... Unfortunately, this resulted in clashes with HHS political leadership, including criticism for [his] proactive efforts to invest early in vaccines and supplies critical to saving American lives. [Bright] also resisted efforts to fund potentially dangerous drugs promoted by those with political connections." Bright proposed limiting the broad use of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, which has been promoted by the administration as a "panacea" despite a clear lack of scientific merit. This was controversial, as last month the president suggested via Twitter that taking

a combination of hydroxychloroquine — a treatment used for lupus and malaria prevention — and azithromycin could be "one of the biggest game changers in the history of medicine." Trump has also repeatedly insinuated that patients suffering from COVID-19, who are inquiring about taking hydroxychloroquine, "have nothing to lose." According to Bright via a statement to NPR, he is "speaking out because to combat this deadly virus, science — not politics or cronyism — has to lead the way." He plans on requesting the Department of Health and Human Services' inspector general to "investigate the manner in which this Administration has politicized the work of BARDA, and has pressured [Bright] and other

conscientious scientists to fund companies with political connections as well as efforts that lack scientific merit." Richard Bright explained that his criticism is specifically targeted towards unproven potential treatments that President Trump has consistently praised, both on twitter and during official White House briefings. After his removal on Tuesday, Bright has been transferred to "a more limited and less impactful position" at the National Institutes of Health. The HHS has not responded to requests for comments regarding Bright. When president Trump was asked about Bright's removal during Wednesday night's coronavirus briefing, the president claimed he had never heard of Bright. "Maybe he was [removed after



ART ON PAGE 7; Drawing by Alexis Beckett; CCRI Alumn

raising concerns], maybe he wasn't," Trump said. "You'd have to hear the other side."

A panel of health experts at the National Institute of Health recommended against doctors using a combination of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin for the treatment of COVID-19 due to potential toxicities, NPR reported on Tuesday. Regarding the use of either hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine alone, the panel of experts concluded there was "insufficient clinical data to recommend either for or against."



Hydroxychloroquine

Photos shot by Rachel Madrid; Photos of Editor-in-Chief Kaicie Boeglin extending a sincere thank-you to all forms of essential workers.



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*The Unfiltered Lens
Mission Statement
Circa 2007*

The overall mission of The Unfiltered Lens© is to inform and improve the quality of student life at the Community College of Rhode Island. We strive to accomplish this standard by reporting and writing the truth in an ethical and responsible fashion that enlightens the entire college community, while providing information in an unvarnished manner that seeks thoughtful responses, dialogue and, of course, action. We fully understand serving students is our clear objective and recognize the impact and, more importantly, the importance of this endeavor. We realize we do not make news but cover events that stimulate our community, improve college life and strengthen our Democracy.



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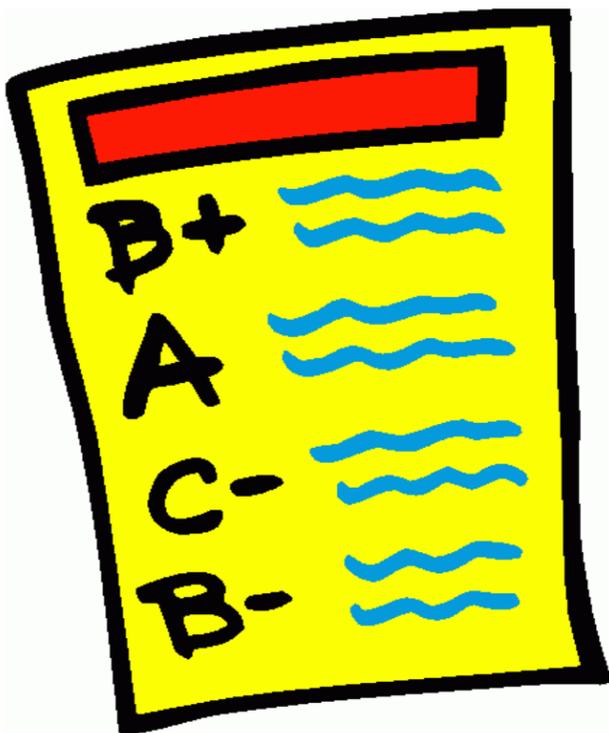
CCRI SPRING SEMESTER GRADING POLICY 2020

FILE BY APRIL 30th!

To provide as much flexibility as possible for you to achieve your academic goals, all course grading for Spring 2020 will default to Pass/Fail, unless you request a letter grade.

- All courses will automatically default to Pass/Fail, unless you request a letter grade.
- You will have the option to request a letter grade by submitting a form to the Records office for each class individually no later than April 30. This request is final and cannot be changed or revoked.
- A Pass grade will count toward graduation requirements and will fulfill CCRI program requirements.
- Neither a Pass nor Fail will be calculated in your semester or cumulative GPA.
- Pass/Fail grading does not apply to Spring courses which concluded prior to March 16.
- Students may request, and faculty may award, an Incomplete (I) grade. Under this scenario, faculty will make additional plans for the student to complete the course requirements. Students MUST be passing at the time the Incomplete is granted, and the 75% completion requirement for an Incomplete will be reduced to a 50% completion requirement.
- Students may withdraw from courses by April 24, but are encouraged to consult our Financial Aid team before making a final decision in order to understand the financial aid consequences.

These changes are ONLY in effect for Spring 2020. The college will resume its standard grading, incomplete, and withdrawal practices for Summer I and II sessions and future academic semesters.



ATTENTION STUDENTS: THE FOOD PANTRY IS STILL OPERATING

The CCRI Food Pantry is offered on all of the CCRI campuses, for all CCRI students. It is located at the CCRI Flanagan Campus in room 1313. The CCRI Flanagan Campus is located at 1762 Louisquisset Pike in Lincoln, RI. The Food Pantry is open to current enrolled CCRI students only. The Food Pantry offers non-perishable foods, and even household products as well. This is a service that will always stay confidential for students. It is open over

school breaks, and continues to stay running during the covid-19 pandemic. The main purpose of the food pantry is for the students. Dean Jenkins, the Dean of Student Life here at CCRI has teamed up with The Lens to speak on behalf of the pantry. This sweet lady crafted the idea of the pantry to help those students that sometimes can't always eat. The food pantry is also always accepting donations as well. The pick up locations for each campus are as

follows: the Lincoln Campus is room 1313, the Providence Campus is room 2229, the Warwick Campus is within The Student Union (on the first floor room 1219), and on the Newport Campus second floor Admissions Area. Anyone with questions, concerns or regards for The Food Pantry can email the pantry directly at foodpantry@ccri.edu. If anyone wants to talk with Dean Jenkins herself about the food pantry, please email her at cjenkins@ccri.edu.

Stimulus Fact v. Fiction; College Edition

By: Kaicie Boeglin
Editor-in-Chief

Many Americans are on edge as they begin to evaluate their financial futures, due to stresses and fears revolving around Covid_19. As a transfer student, the thought of upcoming tuition payments start to flood my mind. This is also a common concern among many college kids across the country.

The Internal Revenue Service is sending money out to individuals from the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act. Individuals with an annual adjusted gross income below \$75,000 are to receive \$1,200. Couples that file their taxes together, and jointly make under \$150,000 will receive \$2,400. Marketwatch's Personal Finance Editor, Quentin Fottrell, clarifies that if an annual income ranges higher than the amounts stated above, then stimulus

payments begin to shrink. Fottrell, as well as USA Today answer the question regarding college students. Any US person age 17, or older, does not count for the additional child payment. Parents will receive an additional \$500 for children 16 and younger, per child.

Before this pandemic, students already struggled to pay tuition out of pocket. Millennials, and Generation Z grew up with horror stories of student loan interest, and student loan debt. This set a precedent for wanting an education, while doing everything possible to never take out a loan. One of the biggest ways to save money during college is to continue living at home. Although many parents will begin to charge rent if they haven't already, this

opportunity costs less than campus room and board. However, this way of saving money has cost many college kids the chance attaining any stimulus money. Now that the majority of young adults are out of work, the stress of paying for tuition begins to grow.

Stimulus checks issued are non taxable. The Tax Foundation says that these checks are refundable tax credits. All credits are to be applied to 2020 tax returns. The credits are advanced now based on 2019 adjusted gross income. Unemployment benefits are considered taxable according to the IRS. Any unemployment benefit or payment made to an individual will be taxed when filing for 2020.



The Backstage Rage; Creative Nonfiction

By: Kaicie Boeglin
Editor-in-Chief

Confidence is a virtue that is found through exploration. In this case, the version of exploration was in the form of a dance. Independence is among the possessions in the treasure chest of my mind. But it is harder to be independent in the eyes of an audience. The thought of being a solo act can freeze you in the moment, and tear your soul from your body. In a little over two minutes I will have to break from this state, and glide this stage with heavy adrenaline soaring through my veins. The stage is an escape for all dancers, but before the show starts, the only thing needing to be escaped is the backstage rage. This is the debut show, and I now know that backstage is a place where dreams can either thrive or die-, due to comotion and inner turmoil.

Rows upon rows take up the massive black hole of a room. Lights are strung around the perimeter of the ceiling in colors representent of a galaxy. A singular spotlight smiles upon each act like the sun on the world, only taking meer breaks in between. Slick black painted walls create an abstract absence that contrasts the glorious magnitude of the stage. My vision notes that almost every candy cane swirled seat is full. To find an empty seat was as if finding Waldo was my specialty. Hundreds of eyes now fill this vast abyss, peering up into the soul of the one on stage. Yet, their existence unphased the angel

currently drifting across the golden floorboards. Meticulous movements had her looking like a flower in the wind. I can see the judges transform into vultures. Their necks begin to crane in odd positions, and they intensely focus their attention, to analyze if our bodies really do move to their own beat. Professionals contain the very existence of the room which has now erased whatever courage I had.

The empty and anxious zone of readiness is separated from the golden platform by voluptuous vampiristic drapes. These curtains pour from the ceiling like blood. With a graze of my hand, I lose myself in the feel of the opulent fabric. The echoes of gossip bombard my ears transporting me back to reality. Adolescent shrieks cry out for attention as stage managers howl for maturity. Snickers and murmurs bounce off the walls like insults on bullets hurting everyone in the room. Strands of hair and beads of sweat decorate the faces of the girls fighting over opportunities. This curtain was the only thing providing protection from the judgement and destruction of the war backstage. Stuck in a trap; There is no turning back. The only exit is beyond these drapes. As my glance pokes from the rear to the front of the house, I use the blood stained drapes to shield my body.

A variety of aromas overtake my nose with

such force; I can taste a fruit medley. As the hussies backstage spray their smoke in such close range, the dark atmosphere begins to deteriorate. The friendly scents of strawberry and passion fruit mask these girls' devious ambition and allude to an illicit charm. Amidst the hurricane of costume changes, sneakers screech to create their own tune with the bang of props thundering to the floor. Feet dash by me in a race with the speed of light as everyone prepares for their number. On the hunt, my eyes make a beeline to the clock on the wall to find the time. Descending down each brick in the wall, my vision intensifies on a group entranced in practice. Their bodies flowed as one. The music took each individual body and transformed them into one machine with interchangeable parts. A trickle caresses my side as I look down to find a soft supple hand. The night's master of ceremonies was the overall high school sweetheart Nicholas. I use my glance to follow his hand up his arm until I was eye to eye with him; he proceeds to ask if I am ready. After a second gone pale, and seeing my life flash before my eyes, I hastily decide I am. I hear a whisper that encompasses the message, "Don't worry. I promise I will say your name right." The boom of a dropped microphone shocks my heart and removes my breath. A couple seconds later my eyes go wide to the sound of my name roaring through the loud speaker. My turn has arrived and I am no longer dismal. I decide I am not here just to survive and make it by. I decide I am here to thrive and that in order to make it out alive I will never stop dancing through life.



A Mid-Winter Tragedy

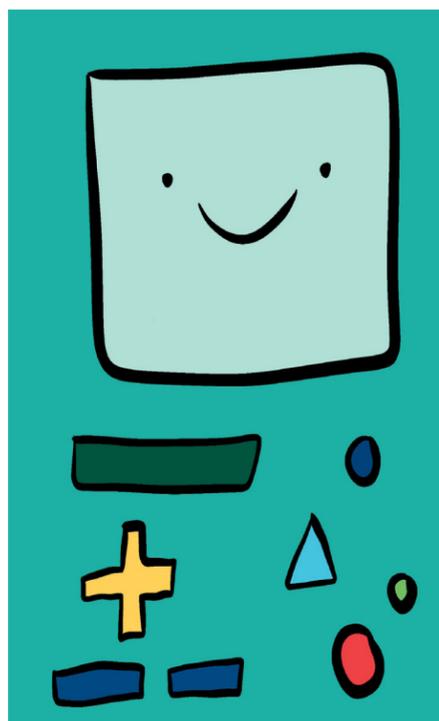
By: Kaicie Boeglin
Editor-in-Chief

Crash.
And now a life is lost.
One word, one accident, one cause, one effect.
One life spared.
One life lost.
And where are we now.
Gone.
She's gone.
I'm gone.
A friend lost is myself lost.
Life goes on...
Until it doesn't.
Speed, petal, pole, crash.
The only things that come to mind,
Are these four words-
When I think about the fateful night that
my childhood best friend died.

Now all that's left are these poles.
They left the broken one to stand diagonal
against the new one.
We decorated both.
But this leaves me unsatisfied.
We decorate poles to commemorate the exact
reason she died.
A distraction in disguise.
I hope the next driver has better eyes, and
learns how to truly deviate their lies.
I wonder what she would want now that she's
gone?
I know I want to exact revenge I can never
act on.



ART ON PAGE 7; Graphic Art by
Rachel Madrid; Titled "BMO"



ART ON PAGE 7; Photo by Rachel



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If a spot on staff, or the
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Here at the Lens we look
for writers that come from
all walks of life. By this
we mean hobbies, majors,



Photo of James Rogers; Photo taken by Ashley Hoffman from Eleven Creative and Route Bay City

James Rogers; A Maritime Heart in Quarantine

By: James Rogers

& Kaicie Boeglin // Editor-in-Chief

James Rogers is a Deckhand working aboard the Vessel *Pride of Baltimore II*, a square-topsail schooner owned and operated by *Pride of Baltimore INC.* James is also a born and raised Rhode Islander with an inspirational mind, heart, and soul. Although his official job title is Deckhand, he is an unlicensed merchant mariner upon *The Pride of Baltimore II*. The maritime industry has a wide range of jobs. The vessels that James typically works on are labeled as Tall Ships. The name refers to a style of maintenance and traditional rigging rather than the actual size of the vessel. Tall Ships have remained an extremely specialized niche of the maritime industry since the last days of the cargo clipper. The following story is by James himself, as he unravels this life during quarantine.

As a Deckhand on any vessel, my duties are to fulfill the needs of the ship in her day to day operation in whatever

capacity is needed. Typically when underway, this involves standing a rotating watch on deck. This means I'm on deck, ready to handle sails as needed, steering, keeping a lookout, or taking care of ships maintenance as needed. Since the lockdown started we've gotten to get into bigger maintenance. I first left home to pursue this career in early April 2018, about a week after graduating high school. When I joined, I was a part of a world circumnavigation aboard the *Barque Picton Castle*. Since then, my travels have taken me around the world; through the American Great Lakes, as far South as Cape Town, and as far North as Nova Scotia. It's been over two years since I first left, and in that time I have spent no more than one month at home in Rhode Island, cumulatively.

I am currently employed in Baltimore Maryland. The Pandemic as a whole has been pretty devastating, especially

for Tall Ships as a community. I can think of a lot of boats, run largely by non-profit organizations and in the red during the best of times, that are facing dire outcomes. Many boats have cancelled sailing programs indefinitely, and have laid off countless sailors and office staff alike. From a more personal point of view, I've cancelled plans for a couple international trips. I was going to join up with another ship in the southern tip of Argentina. But they ended up having to cancel all their planned trips, and making a three-month non-stop voyage back to their homeport in the Netherlands, to wait out the storm so to speak. I would've been with that boat for about a month before I came back to the States to my next job. The start of which has been repeatedly delayed but not outright cancelled yet. Two and a half weeks ago the stay at home order started in Maryland, and they banned us from sailing. In addition to this, a race from

Annapolis to Bermuda that was scheduled for mid June was cancelled outright.

The crew and myself, are more or less confined to the secure gated facility we are docked at, versus the boat directly. The most traffic out from the crew is to the local liquor store, or from the Cook to pick up groceries. We try to minimize our contact with the outside world as much as possible. We are more or less comparable to a family, considering we all eat, sleep, and live in such close quarters.

We have started having fires in our parking lot once or twice a week. We collect wood to burn from the derelict pier next door, which is only accessible by boat. That's definitely the most entertaining thing we get up to during quarantine. We also built an adaptable play/exercise structure out of junk we had laying around the boat. This structure has built in monkey-bars, and can

be set up with a yoga swing, or weights for lifting. That's pretty much it for things the crew does that's out of the ordinary.

Honestly, I will admit it's been pretty rough, especially in the past couple weeks since we've been banned from sailing. It has been a long time since I really got to do anything for myself- for more than a few days at a time, and I'm currently exploring other things to do for a while. Being away from loved ones when you don't know what is happening is scary. I was on the other side of the world when my Dad passed away. I hadn't seen him for five months, and didn't get to see his ashes for another five. This is something that weighs pretty heavy on me, pretty much all the time, especially with leaving my Mom alone in times like this. I've been thinking a lot about what I could do, or where I could go for a while to sort of take a second to reassess myself. It's remark-

able how alone one can still feel when they live with 11 other people.

I Never would have been able to accomplish the things I have if it weren't for the opportunities my parents provided. They were both sailors themselves. My Mom was a cook, and Dad was a captain. They were pretty well regarded in the traditional sailing industry. I've had pretty big shoes to fill, and sometimes I feel vastly overshadowed, which can be frustrating. But because of them I had the opportunity to grow up sailing, and had exposure to the possibilities of a maritime career. I was incredibly lucky, but anyone can do what I do, all you need is passion.

Livin' Like A Local Chapter XXI: B Dot Fresh

By: Rache Madrid

Staff Writer, Staff Artist, Photographer, Digital Artist

The rap game today has never been as big and explosive. With tools, equipment, and software at everyone's disposal, people are now taking advantage and shooting their shot with an aim to be big. As more people begin to pool into the game, it has become hard to find quality tunes. Especially ones that don't contain a repetitive beat that is similar in every other song. One local artist in particular, that I've had the pleasure of coming across, breaks the stigmas of an over used and washed out sound. He goes by the name of B Dot Fresh, an aspiring rap, hip-hop artist originally from Massachusetts, and currently based in Providence RI.

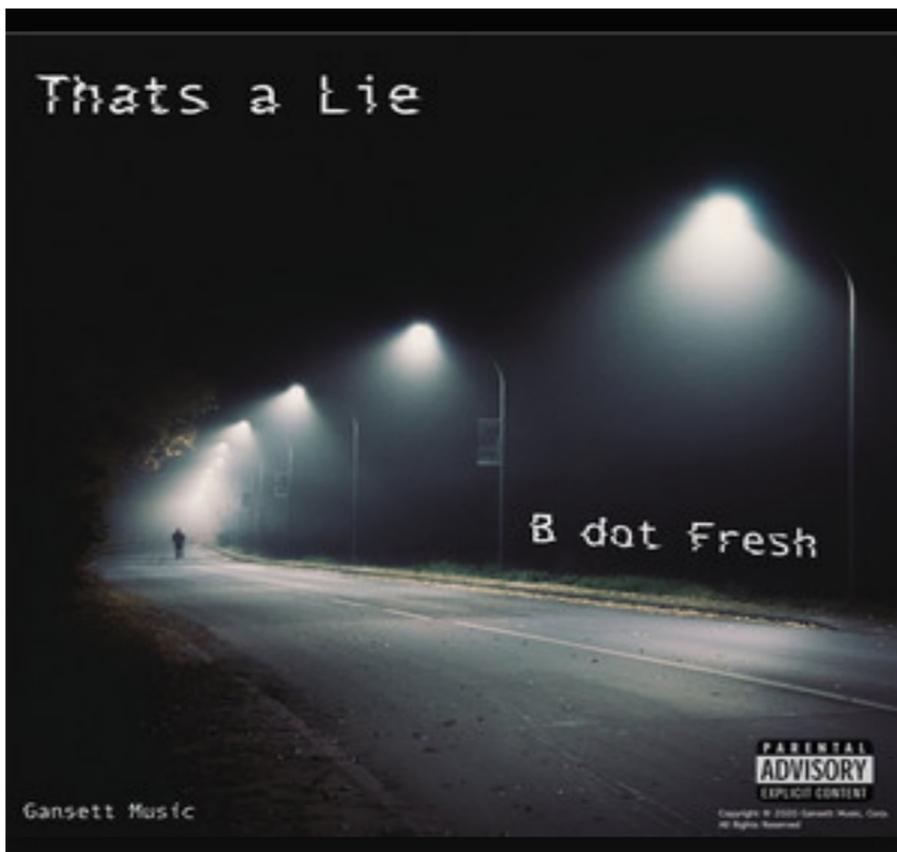
B Dot's ambitious journey didn't start off with music. He has always been a writer, incorporating his feelings and emotions into everything he writes. His work included short stories and poems. From there, he realized the similar qualities that writing poems and rap had in common. That's where it started out, especially since he could effectively portray the emotions reached for in his writing more. He has

been doing this for the past 5 to 6 years. B Dot also takes inspiration from big names such as Lupe Fiasco, who got him into rap, and more recently Tory Lanez. B Dot's goal is to be as versatile as possible while having a storytelling ability, as well as possessing a melodic sound in his work.

B Dot's main goal is to use his platform and his music to bring about a message. He wants his listeners to be able to relate and feel to his music. He is also a huge advocate for expressing who you are and being yourself. B Dot has stated that people have reached out to him to tell B Dot what his music did for the individual. This is just another thing that keeps motivating and driving B Dot to do what he truly loves. So far he's performed throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He has recently done a show at Fete Music Hall in Providence with Spocka Summa, and also opened for Post Malone at Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel, now known as The Strand. This past summer this man performed at his first music festival, PVD

Fest. B Dot claims he does not plan on stopping any time soon. He has recently started a RI based independent music label called Gansett Music. B Dot's production Gansett Music had shows lined up for 2020, unfortunately due to COVID-19 pandemic most of them have been postponed or canceled.

His single 2018 single "Attention" was the song that first caught my ears. Rhythm, melody, tone, and feelings wise; I found myself truly relating to his words and the best part was it is definitely something I could get down too. His newest single "That's a Lie" is a jam. The lyrics are relatable to almost anyone, and the beat truly bumps. I can see how, as his flow is impeccable. This single is currently his number one on Spotify with 8,000+ streams. He currently has an EP in the works, and plans to drop it this summer with exclusive help from Chicago legend Martin \$ky. Anyone can find B Dot Fresh on social media such as Instagram, and Twitter. His music can be found on Spotify, and Apple Music.



B Dot Fresh, "That's a Lie" Single Cover via Spotify

Rocker Dead at 35; Derek Jones

By: Kaicie Boeglin // Editor-in-Chief

Falling in Reverse Guitarist, Derek Jones, dead at 35 as confirmed by group frontman and vocalist, Ronnie Radke. Derek Jones had been the co-founder, lead guitarist, and second vocalist for Falling in Reverse. On April 21st, 2020 Ronnie Radke took to social media to confirm the musician's death.

On Twitter Radke wrote, "I'll never forget when you picked me up from jail in your old tour van to start falling in reverse. Your spirit will be interwoven through the music I write forever. Rest In Peace Derek Jones. My heart is broken."

After Radke, many others took to their social outlets to express their sorrows. FIR's bassist Tyler Burgess shared photos on Instagram, with the caption, "I'm heartbroken. You introduced me to metal bands I've never heard of. You always had a special food spot every city we were in saved in your phone. All the flights and drives from Vegas to LA. The s**t talking on the bus. I'm gonna miss all of it. I love you Derek."

Before Jones and Radke formed Falling in Reverse, Jones had been in the band A Smile From The Trenches. He was in this band from 2007-2010, when he parted ways and found himself falling in with Ronnie Radke. Jones managed to meet his decade mark with Falling in Reverse before his passing. Falling in Reverse were conquering a tour when the country was declared to be in a state of emergency. Due to lock down cancellations were made; this sets Derek Jones' last show as March 3rd, 2020.

Last year, Falling in Reverse cancelled part of their tour to allow Derek and friends to mourn the death of Derek's fiance Christina Cetta. Christina Cetta died in late 2019 due to cancer. It is in high hopes that these lovers can now be together again.



Picture to the right is of Christina Cetta and Derek Jones originally published to Christina's GoFundMe page for her cancer medical expenses; March 2019

Song-Writing Challenge Sponsored by IMSTA

IMSTA announces the 2020 Song-Writing Competition. This competition provides aspiring and established song-writers the opportunity to attend Black Rock Studios in Santorini Greece. IMSTA accepts song submissions of songs in any genre. Live-judging is held at every IMSTA FESTA location. All song submissions will be reviewed, and you will receive an e-mail notifying you if you are one of the Finalists and must attend judging. 1st place, and 1st runner-up are awarded at Judging promptly at 5:00 pm at each IMSTA FESTA.

Black Rock Studios is considered one of the most beautiful studios in the world. Each year Black Rock hosts Songwriting Camps at their picturesque location on Santorini Island in Greece. This camp is attended by some of the most talented songwriters in the world. The Grand Prize winner will attend Black Rock Studios songwriting camp the following year. They will receive free airfare from the continental USA and Canada to and from Santorini and free accommodations in Santorini courtesy of Black Rock Studios & IMSTA. This year IMSTA FESTA is in New York celebrating music technology. The event and competition will be held at the SAE Institute NY, on September 19th. The event takes place from 11 am to 6 pm. IMSTA FESTA is a **FREE** event open to everyone in the music making community; professional and semi-professional musicians, songwriters, music producers, and audio engineers, as well as music students and educators. Please visit imsta.org for competition rules and regulations, guidelines, and any other details.

SAE Institute New York
218 W 18th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10011
US

Picture to the right is of IMSTA Song Competition New York 2019 contestants



U.S. Army Pulls Off “Shark Tank” Competition

By: Kaicie Boeglin // Editor-in-Chief

The U.S. Army is on a mission. They are currently having a ‘Shark-Tank’ like competition. A contest that has an offer of an initial investment of \$100,000 to any innovator with plans to rapidly develop ventilators amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Amanda Macias, a National Security reporter with CNBC, writes that “[t]he competition will be carried out by the Army’s acquisition unit under the expeditionary technology search program, dubbed “xTech-Search,” which aims to fund small businesses with novel dual-use technology solutions. This particular competition, however, will be open to any American business, regardless of size.”

The challenge was started earlier this month. The Army is investing up \$1 million will small business innovators to develop and manufac-

ture emergency ventilators. As of April 21st, the U.S. Army recorded 150 design submissions within a 10 day period. Judges have begun to listen to pitches. Selected developers will receive funding up to \$100,000 each, in order to develop their concept prototype.

The Publications page on The United States Army website, quotes that, “[i]n addition to Army researchers, the panel includes medical professionals from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, engineers, scientists, and emergency room doctors currently responding to the pandemic.”



JOB BOARD

Provided by Skills For Rhode Island's Future

Direct Support Professional James L. Maher Center	Posted: 04/20/20 Healthcare Services/Human Services Middletown, RI
Front Desk Agent Wyndham Providence Airport	Posted: 04/20/20 Hospitality/Food Service Warwick, RI
Housemen Wyndham Providence Airport	Posted: 04/20/20 Hospitality/Food Service Warwick, RI
Housekeeping Wyndham Providence Airport	Posted: 04/20/20 Hospitality/Food Service Warwick, RI
Package Handler United Parcel Service	Posted: 04/17/20 Manufacturing/Warehouse Warwick, RI
Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA)	Posted: 04/17/20 Healthcare Services/Human Services Pawtucket, RI
Machine Operators in Sewing Department Colonial Mills Inc	Posted: 04/17/20 Manufacturing/Warehouse 77 Pawtucket Avenue, RI
Environmental Services Aide South County Hospital	Posted: 04/17/20 Healthcare Services/Human Services Wakefield, RI
Bilingual Customer Service Representative (Portuguese) TTEC	Posted: 04/16/20 Customer Service/Call Center/Retail Providence, RI
Bilingual Customer Service Representative (Spanish) TTEC	Posted: 04/15/20 Customer Service/Call Center/Retail Providence, RI
Chemical Compounder Epoxyset Inc.	Posted: 04/15/20 Manufacturing/Warehouse Woonsocket, RI
Customer Service Representative (Work from Home) TTEC	Posted: 04/15/20 Customer Service/Call Center/Retail Providence, RI

Westerly Hospital; Plasma From Previous Patients Saves Current Patients

By: Kaicie Boeglin // Editor-in-Chief

Donita Naylor, a staff journalist with The Providence Journal, wrote a story entitled, “Westerly Hospital coronavirus patients get plasma from patients who [have] recovered”. Westerly Hospital had three coronavirus patients, who, when treated with plasma can recover from the disease.

The three patients were treated with plasma taken from diseased patients who have already made a recovery. These three souls have been able to recover enough to be taken off ventilators.

A 32-year old doctor from West Warwick, Dr. Mudassar Khan is leading this experiment at Westerly Hospital. Dr. Kham had told the

Providence Journal families of coronavirus patients had asked whether plasma, used successfully against SARS and Ebola, could be tried with COVID-19. For the uninformed, plasma is the liquid part of the blood, not containing red or white blood cells.

This same question was being asked around the country. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved an experimental treatment for the Mayo Clinic to test in clinical trials. The Mayo Clinic is now letting hospitals nationwide enroll in the trial.

“We’re grateful to the Mayo clinic for allowing all the hospitals nationwide to enroll,”

Kahn said Tuesday night.

Naylor writes in her article that, “Westerly Hospital is affiliated with Lawrence + Memorial in New London, which is part of the Yale New Haven Health network.”

Dr. Kahn said once he entered the blood types of his three coronavirus patients, matches were found in New York state. This was last week. The plasma has been shipped, received and injected into patients. Two of the patients are well enough to breathe completely on their own.

Dr. Khan shared his thrill with the press

when saying, “We are happy to pick it up and run with it.”

These same patients were also treated with hydroxychloroquine. Hydroxychloroquine is an antimalarial that blocks COVID-19 from entering human cells and replicating. It is also the drug that President Trump is advocating himself. Although, this goes against the advisory of Anthony Stephen Fauci, an American physician and immunologist; the man who has served as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984.

Dr. Khan and his team essentially tested two theories. Kahn had this

to say in response, “It’s really hard to tell which one worked. Four hours after getting the plasma treatment, a patient is checked for negative reactions. The next evaluation is seven days later, and, if they’re still in the hospital, 30 days.”

Based on experiments with SARS, Dr. Khan, his team, the Westerly Hospital community, as well as many other doctors across the country, are hopeful the plasma treatment will be a success.



Smoking Weed During Covid_19

By: Kaicie Boeglin
Editor-in-Chief

The popularity of marijuana, and the properties of its medical uses, has grown over the last several years. During the spread of the novel coronavirus, medical cannabis users have begun to question if they should be smoking. According to Dr. Junella Chin, a New York-based physician, who spoke with the press at Leafly.com, as long as the individual does not show symptoms of covid_19 it is okay to inhale smoke. If the individual’s daily and medical routine involves consumption of marijuana, Dr. Chin tells Leafly to “Keep on, keepin on.” Leafly does say that should an individual have a normal cold, smoking is not the right way to go. Although, edibles could be an alternative.

Cannabis experts are expecting a shortage among the industry. This is due to the fact that every state’s product is grown and harvested within their own state. If you take routine trips to any of Rhode Island’s dispensaries, be aware of a possible shortage to come soon. This shortage will not be limited to only THC and CBD products. This shortage will be on all dispensary products, such as batteries, vaporizers, THC, CBD, and Vape specific modules, and wholesale Vape cartridges. These products are imported from other countries such as China. The chinese manufacturing sector has been heavily impacted by quarantine.

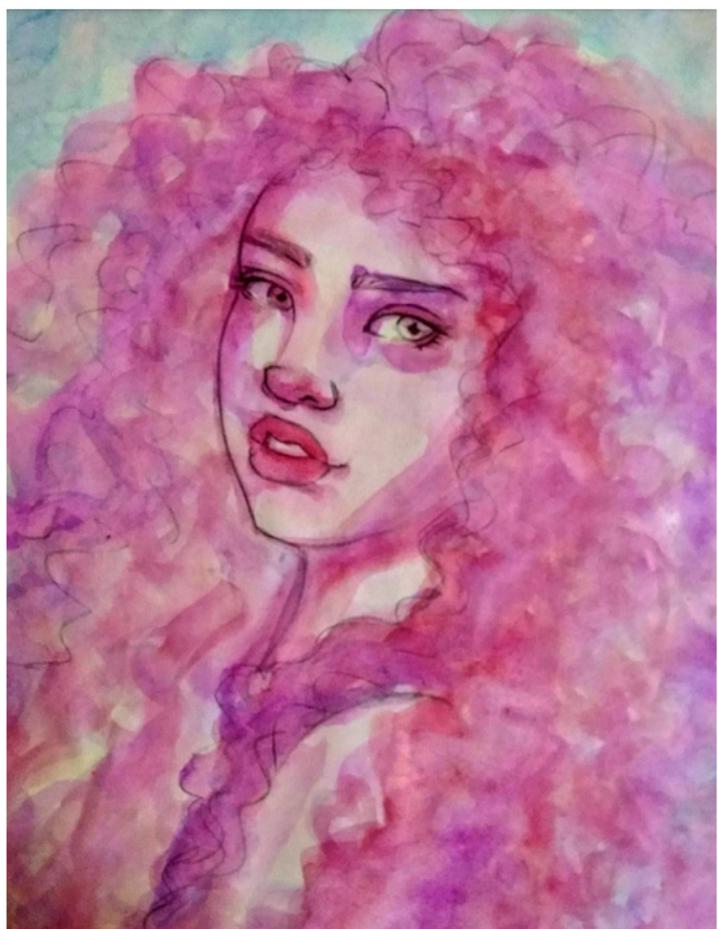




Broken Road
By: Rose Pauline Johnson



By: Rose Pauline Johnson



By: Rose Pauline Johnson



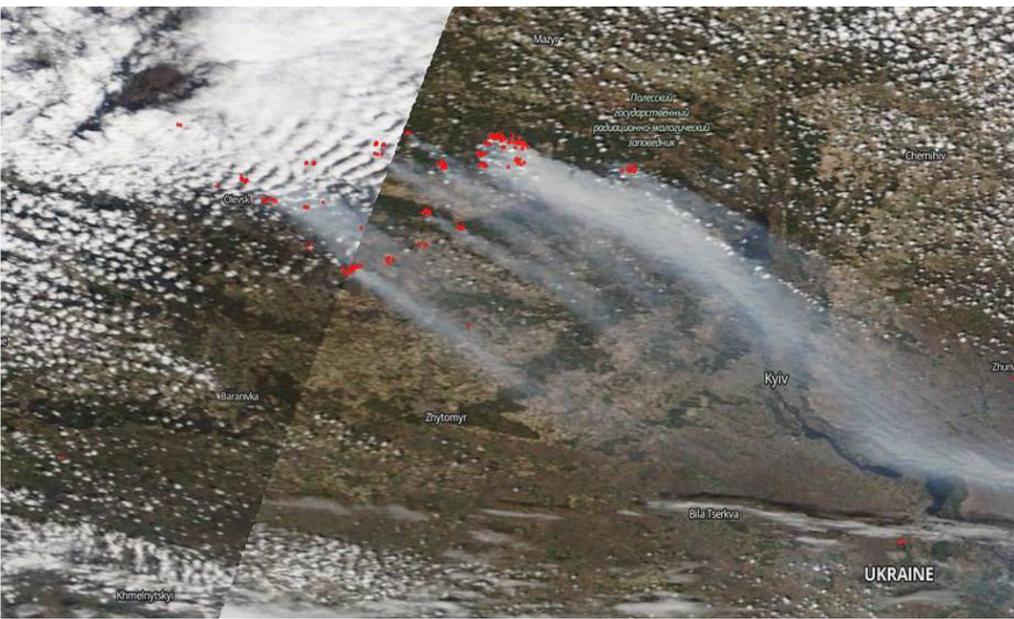
Heartworm Series:
Ghost in April
By:
Kate Castro



Whelve
By:
Kate Castro



By:
Rose
Pauline
Johnson



This satellite image was collected on April 17, 2020. Actively burning fires, detected by thermal bands, are shown as red points. Image Courtesy: NASA Worldview, Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS). Caption: Lynn Jenner

Chernobyl on Fire April 2020

By: Rachel Madrid

Staff Writer, Photographer, Staff Artist, Digital Artist

UKRAINE - On April 26th, 1986 the Chernobyl nuclear power plant suffered an astronomical meltdown, which was caused by routine power maintenance run by inadequately trained and sleep deprived personnel. That then resulted in explosions in reactor No. 4, which created fires that released 5% of the radioactive reactor core into the neighboring environment. Years later, it was across Europe. 350,000 people were evacuated from what is now the "exclusion zone". Two deaths happened on site, and 50+ within later weeks due to overexposure to radiation. 6,500 across Europe also contracted thyroid cancer. Chernobyl, to this day, is considered the worst nuclear accident in human history.

Fast forward to April 10-11th, 2020 where wildfires are now raging

across the exclusion zone, and right near the power plant itself. This means that all of the radioactive material that has seeped into the environment for over 30 years is now being burned and released into the air. Radioactivity has peaked while air quality had drastically plummeted over the past week due to these fires. It's not just the area that this has affected, but the capital city of Ukraine, Kiev, now has the worst air quality in the world. Even worse than China. Due to radioactive particles being released into the air, it is possible that air currents could carry them to neighboring countries such as Belarus, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Fortunately, the country has received heavy rains that put out most of the fires. As of April 16th, some of those fires have reignited, and more than 1,000 firefighters have

been deployed to extinguish the flames. The Ukrainian Government claims that winds have made it harder to put out these fires. According to NASA, these winds have allowed the fires to spread, and reach over 50,000 acres. Emergency workers did what they could to put out the fires this week. This included using planes and helicopters to extinguish the flames.

In various, recent news articles posted by NBC News, Forbes, and BBC; the fires were started by a villager who had set brush on fire to clear land for farming, just as his ancestors did. This highlights problems between age old traditions and the modern age of caring for public safety. As Ukraine and the majority of the world are on lockdown, Chernobyl continues to burn. Radioactive ash continues to fall as the world watches.



To ALL of those serving the frontlines currently, AND to ALL of those in training to serve; THANK YOU!

The drawing to the left is of
PVT. Summer Anthony;
To learn how to join the Army visit goarmy.com

Tolls in Rhode Island

By: Kaicie Boeglin

Editor-in-Chief

RHODE ISLAND - Many eyes have taken notice of the toll gantries being built along I-95 in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Government website, ri.gov, has a page sectioned off to explain the state tolling system. The RhodeWorks bridge tolling program is a response approach to repair bridges and roads by tolling only specific types of trailers, and trucks. The tolls collected at each location in Rhode Island will be attributed to this unique program. RhodeWorks publicly states the government website that all collected tolls go to repair the bridge, or bridge group, associated with that toll location.

This program is part of the RhodeWorks legislation. A legislation that became an effective law in February of 2016 as a way to rebuild Rhode Island's infrastructure. RhodeWorks is an organizational system for the planning, execution, management and funding, to bring the state's roads and bridges into a state of good repair by 2025. The full budget for the RhodeWorks legislation is roughly \$4.9 billion, for over ten years. One tenth of this amount will come

from the RhodeWorks tolling program. The RhodeWorks law prohibits tolls on passenger cars and small everyday trucks.

"Tolls are to be collected along six major highway corridors at twelve locations", according to ri.gov. "The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) will repair or replace bridges with this revenue. RIDOT has contracted with Kapsch TrafficCom to design, build, operate and maintain the electronic tolling system for ten years. The first tolling gantries went live on June 11, 2018. The rationale behind the RhodeWorks tolling program was to toll the vehicles that caused the damage that needs to be repaired."

The vehicles that are being tolled are tractor or truck tractors as defined in 23 C.F.R. 658.5, pulling a trailer or trailers.

The toll rates vary from site to site, with a range from \$2.25 to \$9.50, and a median cost of \$5.63. For RFID or E-ZPass equipped tractor trailers, tolls are limited to once per day, per direction. And there is a cap of \$20 for a through-trip on I-95, as well as, a daily cap of \$40 per day

no matter how many tolls a tractor trailer goes through.

The state along with Rhode Works, determined the toll rates based on the needs of repairing Rhode Island's bridges. The month of February was an open comment period sanctioned by RIDOT. This was in response to their proposal to raise the toll rate at location 4, which is soon to be operational at Route 95 at Oxford St., in Providence. This raise was from \$2.25-\$4.50. This was after RIDOT had raised the toll at location 13 by more than 100% last fall. This occurred on Route 6 in Providence over the Woonasquatucket; the raise was from \$2.00 to \$5.00.

"This should serve to reinforce concerns over the unbridled power and discretion given to RIDOT and further feeds the suspicion and skepticism of Rhode Island's business owners and taxpayers about the end game of this scheme," said Chris Maxwell, President of the Rhode Island Trucking Association (RITA)

The RIDOT did not respond to the RITA request for comment.

The government tolling page says that "RIDOT cited [that] the reason for the [toll] increase was a cost-benefit analysis at each location, to determine whether the proposed toll rate "generates adequate revenue [to] pay back the cost of the project, and yield additional funds for bridge reconstruction."

Photo on Left; The new gantry at the Thurbers Avenue curve -- RIDOT is proposing a 100% rate increase at the location. Photo: RI Truckers

