

COMPLIMENTARY

FEBRUARY 2021

# The Smithfield *Times*



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## Review Your Trust Annually To Protect Your Assets



Medicaid is a state administered program that is funded to a great extent by the Social Security trust fund. It provides for payment of medical services and long term nursing home care for those who qualify.

Because of the ever increasing cost of long term nursing home

care, both the federal and state governments periodically amend the Medicaid statutes and regulations in order to further limit eligibility for the program.

Therefore, if you have had a living Trust prepared to shelter your assets from nursing home expenses and enhance your chances of qualifying for Medicaid long term care benefits after a five year look back period, you should have that Trust reviewed annually and revised if necessary to be sure it conforms to the current Medicaid statutes and regulations.

It is part of my regular practice to prepare living Trusts to both avoid probate of a client's estate and protect their assets from nursing home costs during their lifetime. I also review and update those Trusts, and similar Trusts prepared by other attorneys upon request.

If you are concerned about possible long term care expenses and would like to discuss your concerns with me, please call my office for an appointment. There is no fee for the initial consultation.

– George M. Prescott

Courtesy of:

# George M. Prescott

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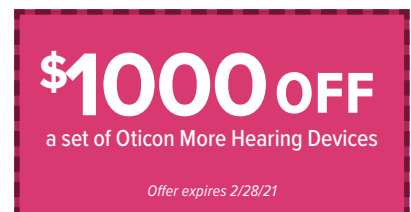
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# Mother/Daughter dream team design specialty pet boutique

By Brittni Henderson

Shopping local and supporting local businesses was always important to mother-daughter duo Donna and Taylor Dupere. Their love for animals was also unmatched, especially Taylor who adopted a dog named Sophie from South Carolina with her fiancé in 2018. After many years of going to craft sales and farmer's markets, Donna and Taylor decided to combine their passions and creative skills and built Sophie's Girl, a small pet boutique located in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Donna and Taylor have always had a special bond and wanted to start something together that would be uniquely their own. It also helped them spend more time together during the initial lockdown due to COVID-19. It was especially helpful for Taylor who had planned to wed in July 2020. She hopes that later this year she will be able to walk down the aisle instead.

"We have talked about starting this business for quite some time," Taylor says. "The stay-at-home order last spring gave us the push we needed to get started. Starting Sophie's Girl during such a difficult year gave us something to focus on and brought us a sense of accomplishment and joy."

Sophie's Girl does not have a physical location, but instead runs business online using Instagram and Facebook. The two women recently began selling some products at Serendipity Boutique in Wickford, RI and Jack's Snacks in Warwick, RI.

"We offer a variety of items with a dog or cat theme," Taylor says. "Things

like baby onesies, water bottles, coffee cups, and key chains. We also have pet items like emergency kits, feeding dishes, and treat jars. Most items can be personalized, too! Two of our best sellers are personalized bandanas and homemade paw balm, which was our very first seller."

This familiar pair is hoping to expand the business throughout 2021. Their hope is to create more products to sell at local craft fairs in RI once COVID restrictions are lifted. For now, business is run strictly online on Facebook (@SophiesGirlsRI) and Instagram (@SophiesGirls\_RI).

"My mother and I run the business," Taylor explains, "My father and fiancé help us with product ideas as well as local deliveries. We are really appreciative of all the support we've received through friends and family."

Sophie's Girls accepts orders through direct messages on both Facebook and Instagram, as well as by email at [sophies.girls.ri@gmail.com](mailto:sophies.girls.ri@gmail.com).

Taylor was born and raised in Smithfield and graduated from Smithfield High School in 2010. She went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Communicative Disorders in 2014 and a Master of Science in Speech Pathology in 2016, both from the University of Rhode Island.

Both Donna and Taylor work full time outside of their business. Donna has worked in the special education department in Smithfield schools for 21 years. Taylor followed in her mother's footsteps and works as a speech pathologist in the Warwick School Department.



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# *A Place of Solace for Local Service Members and Their Families*

By Paul Lonardo

Karen Dalton founded Dare to Dream Ranch, a charitable, nonprofit organization, in 2014 as a personal mission of compassion. At the time, she was enrolled in a program to become a certified health coach. One criteria of the program required each student to specify how they would be unique in the field. Karen only had to turn to her own personal experience to find out how she might best help others. Her father, a U.S. Marine veteran, struggled with issues of anger management, so she grew up dealing with that, and later married into a similar situation. When she was diagnosed with the condition of fibromyalgia, this presented an additional burden of physical and psychological stresses. These life experiences resulted in the development of coping activities that helped her get through these challenges, which became the impetus behind Dare to Dream Ranch, a one-of-kind holistic and alternative military retreat for service members, veterans, and their families. A ranch wouldn't be complete without horses, but they offer a lot more.

"One of the things we offer is gardening," Karen says. "We have flower gardens and vegetable gardens. These are things that helped

me when I was at my worst, and on a lot of pain medication. Through gardening and being around the horses and nature and surrounding myself with the positive, like-minded people, I started to feel better. The purpose of Dare to Dream reach is to offer that environment to others who can benefit from it."

The stated mission of Dare to Dream is to provide alternative therapy programs for U.S. Military veterans and their families struggling with emotional challenges such as Post Traumatic Stress

Disorder (PTSD), Anxiety, Depression, Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and stroke recovery.

*See Place of Solace, page 7*



The *Smithfield Times* magazine  
would like to extend our  
*congratulations* to  
**Governor Gina M. Raimondo**  
a native *of Smithfield!*

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President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr. has selected  
Governor Raimondo to serve as his Commerce Secretary.

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According to the New York Times, “Mr. Biden had been considering several high-profile chief executives for the position, as well as the possibility of appointing a Republican. In choosing Ms. Raimondo, the Biden team instead opted for a rising star in the Democratic Party with experience in both government and finance.”



**Governor Gina M. Raimondo**

*Place of Solace, from page 6*

“When our service members are active, they have mission, purpose, structure and camaraderie,” Karen says. “Upon entering civilian life, they may not feel they have these things any longer, so our goal is to utilize our programs to help them find that sense of purpose and support.”

Some of the programs and services offered at Dare to Dream Ranch include equine facilitated coaching, horticulture therapy, fly tying/fishing, nutritional cooking, exercise, woodworking, beekeeping, agri-therapy and career coaching.

Once the ranch was established, Karen listened to individuals who told her about activities that helped them work through their issues, and she adopted many of them at the ranch, including woodworking, fly tying and fly fishing, beekeeping. They even teach people how to run their own cattle business. Bagwell Farms, a cow calf, yearling, beef operation, which also provides eggs, meat rabbits, poultry, and honey, is on the same property, operated by her fiancé, Capt. Randy Bagwell, a Navy veteran. Randy

is also a charter captain for another nonprofit that offers deep sea fishing for disabled veterans.

Karen says, “As we go along and learn about things that have worked for other people, we add them to our programs. We have a couple of goats now that we plan to breed and make lotions and soap from the goat milk, so we are continually growing and expanding.”

By April 1, Dare to Dream Ranch is hoping to raise enough money through 401 GIVES so that they will be able to expand their operation and build an on-site gift shop so that veterans can sell the products they made which helped them with the PTSD issues.

401 GIVES is a virtual fundraiser powered by the United Way of Rhode Island. This is the second year of the fundraiser, and last April 1, in just 24 hours, 7,545 Rhode Islanders donated more than \$1.3 million to support 366 local nonprofits. It is a one-day event, rather like a telethon, but checks can be sent to Dare to Dream Ranch prior to the April 1 event, and all donations will be

made to the 401 GIVES drive.

Dare to Dream participated in the program in 2020, and this year their goal is to be the first organization to reach \$50,000 in donations so that they will receive a matching \$50,000 from the Rhode Island Foundation and they can build their gift shop and continue to assist local veterans.

“It’s all about breaking the cycle,” Karen says. “By offering these programs and activities to our servicemen and women, our veterans, and their family members, hopefully we can have less people who are repeating the cycle.”

Feel free to call to schedule a visit to Dare to Dream Ranch or reach out to Karen with any questions you may have. They are located at 12 Snagwood Road in Foster. To donate online on April 1 follow the 401 GIVES link <https://www.401gives.org/organizations/dare-to-dream-ranch-inc> or donate throughout February and March donations are accepted over phone for credit cards or mailing to Dare to Dream Ranch, 12 Snagwood Rd, Foster, RI 02825.





# Being a Student During a Global Pandemic

by Sophia DeJesus



Now that it's February 2021, students have now completed almost an entire year of attending school while in a global pandemic. Since March 2020, teachers and students have been trying to get a grip on virtual learning. For the 2020-2021 school year, Smithfield High School has been testing out a hybrid schedule. This means that the students are in school every other day, though there was also the option for students to remain online only. Both options have been working out, however, there have been some complications along the way.

It's no secret that this pandemic has forced us to all stay home and become hermit-like. Day after day, virtual students wake up, log onto their computers, then stare at their screen until the words begin to blur. This is the reality that many of the virtual students have come to face. Learning like this can become quite lonely and isolating. Virtual students are learning the same content as the hybrid students, but they're missing out on the experience and human connection of a classroom setting. Finding the motivation to even complete most assignments can also be difficult for these students, as it becomes a chore to even turn on the computer.

Fortunately, hybrid students have the opportunity to at least go to school a few times a week. It's comforting to be able to sit in a classroom and be able to talk to a teacher face to face. But the lack of structure on a "virtual day" for a hybrid student can begin to cause problems for some. All students learn differently, and it can be challenging to reach all learning styles when teaching methods are limited due to

health and safety precautions. It seems that students are lacking motivation to complete their assignments whether they're virtual or not.

After speaking to teachers and students, I've come to find out that some students aren't completing their work at all. As a current senior, I can empathize with these students. A majority of students who aren't completing assignments are usually overwhelmed and don't know where to begin or how to find motivation to try again. My piece of advice for anyone struggling with these feelings is to just take it one class and one assignment at a time. Reach out to teachers, they're here to support you.

Some students may feel like they're missing pieces of their high school experience. It's frustrating – for seniors especially – to accept that they will not be able to have a "normal" high school experience. The class of 2021 missed their end of the year privileges back in March of 2020, and have continued to miss out on multiple senior events this year. As disappointing as it is, the senior

class has done a great job of adapting and making the best of their last year at the high school.

It's important to be understanding during these times. Learning while in a pandemic isn't easy for anyone, and neither is teaching. Our students need more support than ever before, so be sure to check in with them and make sure they're doing okay. The pressures of school have an effect on students, educators, and parents as well, so we have to remember that we're all in this together. Communicating our needs with teachers and students is essential to staying sane this school year.

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# The Chief's Corner

By Robert W. Seltzer, BSEE, EFO, MPA  
Smithfield Fire Department Chief

Heating is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States. This heating season we want you to be safe so that your household does not become a statistic. Consider the following recommendations.


- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.
- Plug only one heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.






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Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.




Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source.



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# Ask an Expert

My name is Tom Lopatosky. I'm the President of LOPCO Contracting ([www.LopcoContracting.com](http://www.LopcoContracting.com)) and I'm honored to have the opportunity to talk to you about home improvement on a monthly basis.

I love answering your questions! Please send them to [tom@LopcoContracting.com](mailto:tom@LopcoContracting.com) or call 401-270-2664. Thanks in advance for taking the time to read this column!



## Ever Wondered About the Plastering Process?

If you live in New England, I don't really have to tell you that our part of the country is very unique when compared to other areas of the United States.

This applies across many fronts – cultural, architectural, religious, environmental, culinary ... you name it!

One facet that is different than other places around the country is our construction processes. Many of our construction processes are quite similar to what you may find elsewhere. Some aspects of it though certainly appear to be utilized more in our area and are not as customary in other regions.

### One specific example of this is the plastering process.

Although other areas of the country absolutely use the plastering process, it is not nearly as dominant as it is in New England. Most areas of the country use drywall, taping, and compound as a means to construct and maintain their wall systems. In fact, in our area, this is the system that is most often used in commercial settings.

In residential settings however, the plastering process definitely reigns.



Why is this? Most probably because if the plastering process is done correctly (properly mixed & applied), the finished product is a much more durable finish than regular drywall would allow you to have. As an end product, plaster is more resistant to being damaged by being hit or knocked into than drywall.

So if plaster leaves a higher quality finish, why isn't this taken advantage of more often throughout the country? Great question and there is certainly some good discussion to be had as to the roots of each system (plastering vs. drywall) and their histories.

From a cost standpoint, what we would bill out to blueboard and plaster a room would be very similar to drywalling,

taping, and compounding one. I am just philosophically opposed to not using blueboard & plaster.

A number of years ago, we were called in to assist with a rare, new, residential home on Cuttyhunk Island in Massachusetts.

The Contractor working on building the home was from California and his Client insisted on drywalling, taping, and compounding thru every room in the beautiful structure. I, literally, told him that I truly believed that blueboard and plaster was the correct route to go in their situation and I stuck to my guns.

*See Plastering Process, page 11*

### About Tom Lopatosky

Tom Lopatosky has run his own RI-based carpentry and painting business since 1995; LOPCO Contracting – the "Personable, Particular Professionals" – specializes in carpentry and exterior & interior painting. Recently LOPCO Contracting was named 'RI's Finest Painting Contracting Company' by ShopInRI Magazine. In 2013, Tom was named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America (PDCA) and a "40 Under 40" award winner by Providence Business News. He is a member of both PCA (Painting Contractors Association) and RIBA (Rhode Island Builders Association). Tom has often had weekly 'Home Improvement Tips' that have aired on the radio on 630 WPRO AM and on television on WPRI 12.



The project was one that we did not end up working on because of this insistence and although it would have been an awesome home to incorporate into the portfolio, I simply had no interest in doing something that I did not believe was the right solution given the circumstances.

Don't get me wrong. We use tons of joint compound in the process of fixing repairs that we believe warrant it. For larger expanses however, I really do believe utilizing blueboard and plaster is the way to go. Certainly if one is looking for a harder finish on their walls, NOTHING beats a true, well done plaster finish, regardless of what area of the country one may live in!

**Bryan Baron** worked with the Smithfield Police Department taking photos of the cruisers and the police station. Bryan printed them on coasters and mouse pads for a fundraiser to support the Smithfield High School class of 2021! "It's been so much fun working with Chief St. Sauveur and the other officers to bring this project together!"

Coasters and mouse pads are still available online to purchase and can be delivered to the police station in a few days!

To place an order and support this fundraiser check out my square site: <https://doubleb-photography.square.site/>



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**By James Gass**

As of this writing, the 2021 Farmer's Almanac is calling for a possible blizzard to hit the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states during the second week of February with the potential of up to 1-2 feet of snow. I work in the woods, so that means I may be surveying trees on snowshoes for a while. Which is fine by me.

I really enjoy snowshoeing. I prefer it to cross-country skiing because snowshoes are more maneuverable and less expensive than skis. You can easily get over thick brush or around trees, and climbing hills takes less time and effort. Besides, snowshoes fit easily in the trunk or back seat of your car.

Like canoes, lacrosse and maple sugar, snowshoes as we know them today are a Native American invention, and were worn in the woodlands of New England and Canada long before the Europeans arrived. They were used primarily for winter hunting, as it was easier to track and kill game in the snow than it was during the summer months, when an animal could use vegetation to its advantage. Later, snowshoes became

an essential piece of equipment for European trappers, who often had to check miles of trapline in deep, drifting snow.

According to C. Keith Wilbur in his book *Indian Handcrafts*, the bear paw was probably the first type of snowshoe. It was a simple design, made from a single strip of soaked or steamed ash bent into an oval frame, then lashed at the ends. Wet rawhide, typically denuded moose or caribou, was then intricately woven to the frame and crosspieces, drying to form a tight fit.

Snowshoes crafted later on by New England and Canadian Indians were variations on this theme, having improvements such as a toe hole, a more pointed front end, and a "tail," which added stability. The rawhide weave was hexagonal. Each tribe developed its own particular size and shape according to need, and many of these styles are still in use today, having withstood the test of time. Modern traditional-style snowshoes have bent ash frames with full-grain rawhide (cow) lacing.

Perhaps the most versatile traditional snowshoe is the Maine or Michigan style, also known as the Huron. This shoe has a long teardrop shape, an upturned nose and a tail (Huron snowshoes have longer tails than Michigans). Length and width vary depending on intended use. The Huron is the most familiar shoe, whose origins can be traced back to the Wendat (or Huron) people of southern Ontario. It can be used for hunting, trapping or long hikes in open forests and fields, with a pack or without. It was the model preferred by the first French settlers that came to New France in 1604 and also by traders and trappers during their winter travels.

Modern "performance" snowshoes have aluminum frames and flexible synthetic decking. Some are made entirely of plastic. They are much lighter than traditional shoes and are more efficient in a variety of conditions, but I personally prefer the beauty of wooden snowshoes. They also keep you aloft better in deep snow.

GV Snowshoes, based in Quebec, is one of the oldest companies of its kind in the world and has a wide selection of traditional and modern snowshoes. Traditional shoes are slightly less expensive, depending on the model. Aluminum shoes made by GV range in cost from \$195 to \$235, but the traditional models range from \$189 to \$219, which include the Alaskan, Huron, Ojibwe, bear paw and modified bear paw. Snowshoeing is a serious competitive winter sport in Canada.

Snowshoeing allows you to discover the beauty of nature during the winter months at a reasonable cost. Not to mention getting you some exercise. I don't know about you, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed for a snowy February.



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# Rhode Island's Official Haunt

By Thomas D'Agostino – [www.tomdagostino.com](http://www.tomdagostino.com)

Rhode Island is one of the very few states that boasts an official haunt. Just look in the 1885 State Census, page 36 and at the top of the page, you will see proof of the aforementioned statement.

Deep in the woods near Rams Tail Road lies the remains of a small factory and village founded in 1813. William Potter along with his brother-in-law Jonathan Ellis, his son, Olney Potter and two sons-in-law, Marvin Round and Peleg Walker purchased six acres by the Ponaganset River and built a mill, general store, homes and blacksmith shop. Every morning, wagons would traverse the cart path, bringing wool to be spun into cloth. The mill soon became known as The Ramtail Factory.

One partner in particular, Peleg Walker fancied the idea of being a manufacturer and boasted his position whenever possible. It soon became evident that Peleg was spending his money quite freely and by 1821, started on a downhill financial slide. In January 1822, he sold off a few properties to pay his debts. Legend states that he and the other partners were involved in an intense argument over money. During the argument, Walker stated that one day they would have to remove the keys to the mill from the pocket of a dead man. On the morning of May 19, 1822, the village was shaken by the discovery of Peleg Walker's body inside the locked factory. He had died by apparent suicide and in his pocket, as foretold,



Peleg Walker's grave

were the keys to the mill.

Walker was buried in the Potter family plot a few days later, but refused to stay at rest. At midnight, the bell used to summon the workers began tolling. When Squire Potter unlocked the door, the bell ceased its ominous pealing. A thorough search turned up no living being, and was locked up for the night.

The next night brought the same circumstance, forcing the owners to remove the bell rope. This did little to deter the ghost, as the bell rang despite having no rope. The bell was removed and the locals were confident the

ordeal was over, but it was just beginning.

A few nights later, the villagers were awakened at midnight by the factory running full tilt. One brave man volunteered to stop the wheel that turned the machines, but now, nervous anxiety began to overshadow the peace that once pervaded the little hamlet. Things reached a pinnacle a few nights later when the mill began running at full speed again, this time with the water wheel running opposite the flow of the river. The ghost of Peleg Walker was seen one night by a few men passing by the factory. They beheld the specter of Walker as he passed from one building to the next, candle lantern in hand.

Peleg Walker's ghost is still seen today by many who venture out to the site in the twilight hours.

Witnesses have seen a strange light resembling that of a lantern floating in air, wandering about the ruins of what was once the factory and small village.

The haunted factory changed hands unsuccessfully until it burned in 1873. The homes and other buildings were later taken down for safety reasons, but not before a few more spirits would tenant the ruins.

Jonathan Bucklin borrowed money from William and Olney Potter in 1816 with a promise to pay it within six

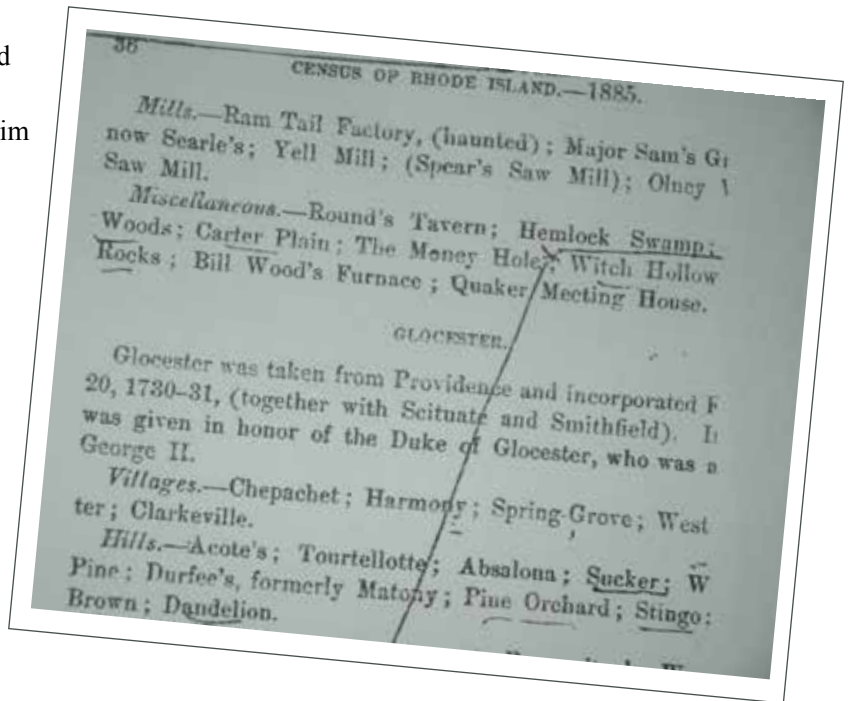
*See Official Haunt, page 15*



months, using his land as collateral. When he failed to fulfill his obligation, the Potters seized his land and sold it for the amount of the debt. They gave him a position in the factory, but his spirit was broken and he committed suicide in the building in 1817.

On December 29, 1860, Betsy Grayson, a squatter at the Ramtail cottages, went to a pool in the Ponaganset River to fetch water. She dipped her wooden bucket into the water but the current, being strong, pulled her in and she drowned. Her ghost is seen wandering the area along the river.

In 1885, the place became a worldwide name when Amos Perry, superintendent of the census, labeled the defunct factory as "haunted" at the top of page 36.



The area is now a part of the Foster Land Trust and is open during the daylight hours. One may visit the ruins and steep in the beauty and peace that pervades the area but when the sun goes down ...



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# The truth behind the strange legend of the vanishing Starfire – Part 1 of 2

By Jim Ignasher

There's an intriguing story that's been around since the early 1970s, the gist of which is this: In June of 1953, an F-94 Starfire was dispatched from Otis Air Force Base in Falmouth, Massachusetts, to intercept an unidentified flying object which had suddenly appeared on air-defense radar. Immediately upon take-off, at an altitude of only 1,500 feet, the aircraft inexplicably suffered a complete systems failure and plunged toward earth.

The pilot, "Captain Suggs", ejected before impact and landed safely, but the radar observer, "Lieutenant Robert Barkhoff", did not. What happened next is the reason for the legend, for instead of the aircraft crashing in a massive fireball, it mysteriously vanished into thin air and has never been seen again!

Furthermore, the tale continues, due to government secrecy, newspaper articles of the incident are said to be nonexistent. Theories as to what happened to the F-94 range from alien abduction to parallel dimensions. Some believe the "truth" can be found in the "top secret" Air Force investigation report should it ever be made public.

The first time I heard of this story was at a book signing when a man came up to me and said, "I hear you like to research military plane crashes. Well, I've got one for you ..." After relating the story he concluded with, "I doubt you'll find anything. People have been trying to uncover the truth for years."

Let me be clear that I'm not a



**A U.S. Air Force F-94 Starfire**  
**U.S. Air Force Museum Photo – 060831-F-1234S-001**

Ufologist, I'm a historian, and I don't normally investigate UFO sightings. I'm not saying UFOs don't exist, I'm simply stating that I don't investigate them. I do however research long forgotten military aviation accidents, and like anyone else, I love a good mystery.

The story first surfaced in the early 1970s about twenty years after the alleged incident. It has since appeared in several books about UFOs, and over the years has been featured on television and talk radio, as well as multiple UFO related websites. But is it true? Oddly enough, I discovered that it is – sort of – at least parts of it, but the "truth" isn't what one might expect.

According to every published account, the F-94 disappeared in June of 1953, with no exact date given. This, I believe, is why researchers have been unable to find newspaper accounts of the incident – the date is incorrect. After contacting Larry Webster, a well known aviation historian and archeologist affiliated with the former Quonset Air Museum, I learned that a

Lieutenant Arledge Suggs, not Captain Suggs, and his radar observer, Lieutenant David H. Barckhoff, not Lieutenant Robert Barkoff, were flying an F-94 out of Otis that was lost on October 27, 1953, not in June of '53.

Within hours I had microfilm copies of the so-called "non-existent" newspaper articles from the Falmouth Public Library, and discovered that they contradict the legend.

For example, it was reported that the aircraft had caught fire in flight and the pilot had set it on a course for Buzzard's Bay before bailing out. And Air Force officials stated the accident occurred during "a routine training mission", with no mention of a UFO.

It was further reported that authorities assumed the F-94 went down over water, and area residents seemed to support this. Some reported a "deafening roar" like an explosion, before "something" struck the water of Buzzards Bay. This would indicate that the aircraft didn't abruptly vanish into thin air, but either exploded while airborne, hit the water, or both.

Foul weather hampered the large-scale search that followed. A man digging for scallops in Great Pond later reported seeing a dismembered human arm lying below the shallow water, but unfortunately he failed to recover it. This anecdotal report aside, no trace of the F-94 or Lt. Barckhoff was ever found.

*See Strange Legend, page 17*

Although Lt. Suggs survived this ordeal, he later lost his life in another military jet crash on March 12, 1956, and therefore was never interviewed in the 1970s about the legend.

Digging further, I discovered that the official Air Force investigation report is now available to the public. According to the ninety-six page un-redacted report, (No. 53-10-27-7), the F-94, (Serial No. 51-5522), was part of a "two-ship radar training mission." After twenty minutes in the air, at an altitude of six thousand feet, a minor explosion occurred in the rear section of the aircraft followed by an onboard fire. Lt. Suggs then aimed the aircraft towards Buzzard's Bay and gave the order to bail out. As he hung in the air by his parachute he heard the jet explode behind him. Upon landing he made his way to the nearest house for help.

The report also contradicts the legend and doesn't mention any unidentified aircraft. Of course discrepancies relating to names and dates could have been confused over the years, but how does a training accident turn into a legend of alien abduction?

That answer will be revealed next month in Part II.



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# Stargazing

by David A. Huestis,  
Historian, Skyscrapers, Inc.

## Geminid Meteor Shower Report and Observing the Winter Circle

I started my observing session on December 13 at 10:00 p.m. and ended it at 11:30 p.m. During that 90-minute span I counted 20 Geminids. Nothing spectacular. No brilliant fireballs. A few shooting stars rivaled the brightness of Orion's Rigel. Many were much dimmer. Regardless, the frequency of these meteors streaking through the Earth's atmosphere was sufficient to maintain my interest.

As I sat facing east around 10:00 p.m., the constellation Gemini was already above my tree line. Orion the mighty hunter was high in the southeast. Soon, seven of the brightest stars we can see from the Earth would be in full view as the star patterns continued to rise higher into the sky.

I'm sure you've heard of the Summer Triangle. This shape is formed by connecting three bright stars – Deneb (in Cygnus), Vega (in Lyra), and Altair (in Aquila). This triangle of stars is high overhead during mid-summer.

Well, the winter sky has its own special asterism, and this one is huge. It's called the Winter Circle or Winter Hexagon. I'll explain why you can get both shapes from the stars.

Please examine the basic star map accompanying this article. This chart represents the sky for February 1 at 9:00 p.m., looking from a point directly overhead (zenith) towards the southern horizon. A circle, or actually an ellipse, can be drawn through each of the labeled stars. However, you can also draw a straight line from one star to the next and create a hexagon. Betelgeuse, though inside either pattern, is still considered part of the asterism.

Let's start our tour of the Winter Circle with the brightest star we can see in the

sky (besides the Sun of course) – Sirius. Sirius is in Canis Major, the Big Dog. Sirius shines at magnitude -1.44 and it is 8.7 light years away. Do the math and this fairly close neighbor to our Sun is 52.2 trillion miles from us. For you Rhode Islanders that's much farther than Newport or Westerly! Sirius is a hot, blue-white star (spectral class A0) about 1.7 times the diameter of our Sun.

Next, we move northward and clockwise in the sky to locate Procyon in Canis Minor, the Little Dog. Procyon is a white star (F5) shining at magnitude +0.40 and is 11 light years distant. It's about twice the diameter of our Sun. Moving farther northward we encounter the Gemini twins, Pollux and Castor. Pollux is 34 light years distant, while Castor is 18 light years farther away at 52. Pollux is a cool, orange giant (K0) ten times the Sun's diameter, while Castor is a hot, blue-white star (A1) only twice the diameter of the Sun. Pollux and Castor shine at +1.16 and +1.93 magnitude respectively.

Now we swing up and over to a constellation almost directly overhead – Auriga, where we find +1.93 magnitude Capella. While Capella (G6) is a class "G"-type yellow star like the Sun (G2), it has three times more mass and is just over seven times the Sun's diameter. Next, we proceed south to encounter the orange giant (K5) Aldebaran in Taurus. Aldebaran represents the bull's eye in the star pattern known as the Hyades star cluster (shaped like a "V"). Aldebaran, 65 light years away, is a cool star which has expanded to be just over 44 times the diameter of the Sun with only 2.5 times our Sun's mass.

Continue to swing southward in the sky until we arrive at the bottom right star representing Orion's left foot. (Please

note: Orion is facing us.) This star is +0.18 magnitude Rigel, a blue supergiant (B8) 800 light years away – the most distant of the Winter Circle stars. Rigel is 62 times the diameter of our Sun and contains 17 times more mass. We now complete the tour of the Winter Circle by swinging back to Sirius.

But wait. No, I didn't forget about Betelgeuse. Betelgeuse is the red supergiant (M2) star that marks the top right shoulder of Orion. It shines at magnitude +0.45 and resides at a distance of 520 light years. Betelgeuse is also a very large star, measuring in at a conservative 950 solar diameters. If you replaced our Sun with Betelgeuse it would extend out to the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

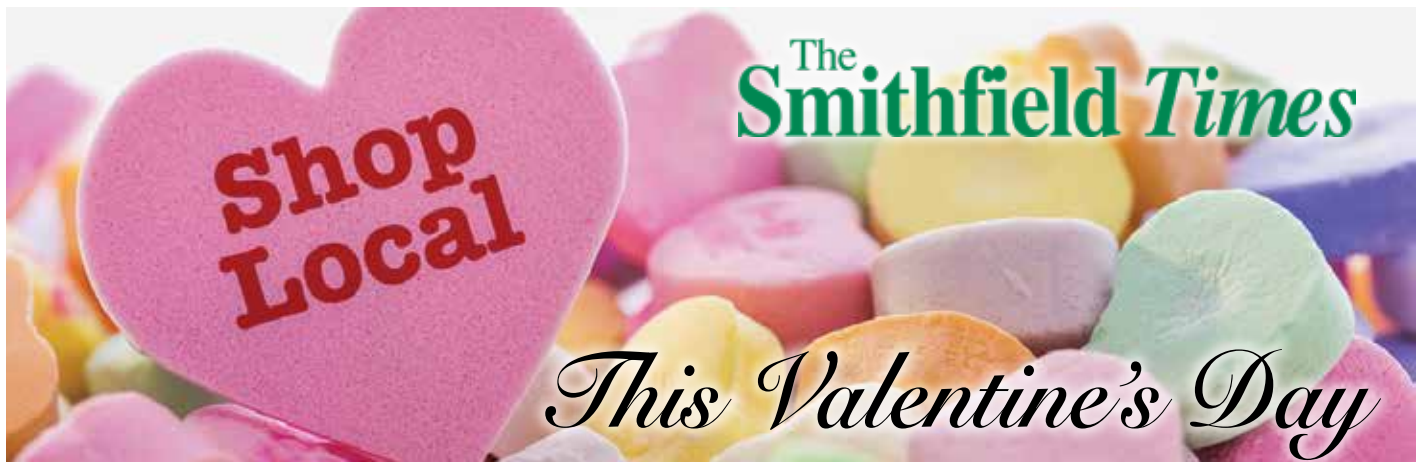
As you can see by this small sampling of stars that comprise the Winter Circle, stars are quite a lot like people. They are all different, but their differences make them unique and important.

The next time you have an opportunity to observe the Winter Circle, you will have a better understanding and appreciation of the scale and diversity of our stellar neighbors in this region of the Milky Way Galaxy.

*Keep your eyes to the skies.*







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# The Nature of Things

by James Gass

## Winter is Wonderful!

“Even for those who have to live with it, winter is a remarkable season. Year after year it comes adorned with snowflakes, ice, pointsettias, colds, narcissuses and last year’s overcoats. It affords the farmer time to finish last summer’s work and to contemplate next summer’s job. It keeps the urbanite in touch with the principles of combustion and radiation. It enables

Florida to sell sunshine and New England to sell snow. It brings long leisurely evenings in which to read digests of books one would enjoy reading. Winter is wonderful.”  
– Hal Borland, from *An American Year*, 1946.

My mother was convinced that I was switched at birth. Her evidence? I love winter, especially the snow. No child of hers could possibly enjoy the cold weather, she would have told you, never mind snow. The fact that I was born during one of the worst blizzards of the 1960’s might have something to do with my affection (and mom’s disdain) of the season, but there are other reasons.

First of all, the woods in winter are wonderfully devoid of heat, humidity, blood-sucking insects and hoards of noisy people. Trails that bore heavy human traffic during the summer and fall are quieter, greatly improving your chances of seeing wildlife. You’ll be surprised at what you might see on a winter walk as long as you keep your



Jim Russell Preserve

mouth closed, both eyes and at least one ear, open.

I love winter because a snowfall tends to have a quieting effect on things. The civilized world by necessity must slow down during a winter storm, but the natural world does too. Critters hunker down to wait out the snow, and except for the light hiss of gently falling flakes, the woods become wonderfully calm and serene. When winter, nature’s great equalizer, blankets everything in a carpet of sparkling white, all living things must adjust, humans included. A snowstorm serves to remind us that in the end, Mother Nature is still in charge.

I enjoy hiking in the woods a few days after it snows because the comings and goings of the things that live there are written in the snow like words on a page. You can read them, if you know how. Small paired footprints that emerge from underneath a fallen log, hopping along until they are eclipsed by the impression of wings, tells the story. A layer of snow enables you to

witness the stark reality of the struggle of life and death in the natural world, otherwise unseen.

A snowfall also allows you to get acquainted with your wild neighbors. Tracks that resemble little bear paws, loping along in pairs of two, belie the presence of a fisher. Although sometimes called fisher cats, they are not felines but are in fact members of the weasel family.

They are quite common, but like most native mammals, you wouldn’t know they were around unless you saw their prints in the snow. The nearness of these and other wild creatures often amazes me.

I find that even a winter landscape devoid of snow can be compelling. Bare trees, standing as silent sentinels, give up their secrets and allow you to see the true lay of the land. Deer runs, creeks, rock formations and ancient cellar holes that were once camouflaged by green are now plainly visible, beckoning you to investigate. Woods that were familiar only a few months ago have suddenly become another world.

Perhaps what I like best about winter are late afternoon walks. As a crisp, bright day gradually gives way to dusk, the western sky sometimes catches fire. First, it blazes wildly in vivid shades of red and purple, then gradually turns to soft, shifting embers of orange and pink, reminding me of campfires past, and the warmth that awaits me at home.



# Health Awareness

by Diane L. Marolla, LICSW

## A Cure for the Mind, Body, and Soul

Pets bring vital energy to our homes and lives. Pets communicate many messages about love and connection. Care tenderly for all pets throughout their previous lives. The interspecies dance of love softens and expands the heart.

— Laura Staley, Feng Shui Expert.

It is almost a year that we have been living with COVID 19. It will be one year in March when we all first learned of the pandemic. I recall on March 6th having friends over. I had just moved into my condo, and my friend Denise, her mother, and her daughters came to give me a housewarming present. I had heard on the news about the virus, but truth be told, I thought it was more fear-based news. I recall my friend's mother, Mama C as I call her, asking me what I thought about the virus. I told her that I thought it was another fear-based news story. On March 11th, is when I heard on the news that it was a pandemic. It was at that time it all became real to me. I knew immediately that with a pandemic our health system could be overwhelmed. I immediately thought, our healthcare system is already fragile won't be able to handle a pandemic. We already had shortages of healthcare professionals. At the time, I was working at one of our health centers in RI. I called my boss, told him what I heard on the news, and said we needed to prepare the team to start working remotely. On March 18th, like many of you, I started working from home and have been working from home ever since.

I think we can all agree for all of us that the virus has been a game changer personally and professionally. All the things we used to take for granted, such as going to a gym, going to a yoga class, going to work in an office, going out to eat in a restaurant are now something we

think about. Many of us have not seen our friends or family. None of us have been left untouched by COVID. Whereas we lost our way of life as we used to know it, as I always say, we must keep our heads above water. Like a boat, we can't take on water, or we will sink.

As I work with my clients each day, many are depressed, anxious, angry, lonely, and scared. My clients are from all walks of life. Many are senior citizens. I am always looking for ways to help them keep their "boats afloat" physically, mentally, and spiritually. I talk with them about having a toolbox of tools to help them day to day. I always look for simple solutions and of course evidence based solutions that can help them.

Having a pet is one solution that can help people of all ages and all walks of life. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) health benefits of having a pet include the following:

- Decreased blood pressure
- Decreased cholesterol levels
- Decreased triglyceride levels
- Decreased feelings of loneliness
- Increased opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities
- Increased opportunities for socialization

Currently, I have two senior dogs. I still do the same thing as I did as a child, which is take long walks with them. I sometimes drive to Conimicut Point and walk. My favorite place to take them to walk, however is Rocky Point. I can say my dogs bring me peace and joy every day.

If you find yourself fatigued, lonely,

angry, anxious, and depressed, consider getting a pet. If you are going to get a pet, make sure the pet matches your lifestyle. If you are a Senior Citizen and live-in elderly housing, you can have a pet, however, make sure you check with the manager of your housing development re: the rules of owning one. If you are a parent, and have children, pets are great for them as well.

If you are considering getting a pet, be sure to try and adopt a pet from one of our local shelters or a rescue. My dog Winnie is a rescue. I adopted him at age 7 and he is now 14. When I adopted him, he was trained, neutered, and up to date on all his shots. His foster mom and I remain friends until this day. I always tell Winnie he has two dog moms.

You will be charged a fee for adopting. These fees are necessary because the pet will come to having already been checked out by a veterinarian. There are costs to keep and manage dogs at a shelter or rescue and the fee you pay supports those expenses.

There are so many pets out there that are looking for a loving home. At the same time you are adopting them, they are adopting you.





# Furever Homes Needed!



## Abandoned Dogs of RI



### Success Story!

Both Penelope and Foxy, who were featured last month, have been adopted! Penelope's new family originally came in to meet a different dog but fell in love with her instead! Who could blame them? Our huge victory was Foxy's adoption.

She didn't just find a home, she found the BEST home! She has a loving, active family with a doggie brother to play with. There's plenty of room in the house and she's already made herself comfortable. She now lives on a farm she can run around on and herd cattle and an inground pool to swim in. She'll spend her summers out on a boat traveling to Block Island and Florida! Foxy's family are going to continue with her training and we have no doubt she is going to do fantastic. It took 6 months but it was worth the wait. This is the best way we could think of to end 2020!

### Meet May!

She's a SUPER sweet 3 year old looking for a forever home. May's favorite ways to spend the day are snuggling with her human, being held, treats, and lounging either on top of her scratching board or in a cat tree. She has recently been a little unsteady/wobbly which we believe could be from a former inner ear infection. She's making improvement every day! May tolerates other cats and could live with a dog that respects her space. May hasn't had the easiest life. Won't you be the wonderful human to give her all the love she so deserves?? May is currently in a foster home! If interested in meeting her, please fill out an application at [www.abandoneddogsofri.com](http://www.abandoneddogsofri.com)



### Meet Boulous!

He's a 1 1/2 year old Potcake from Haiti. He spent the first 11 months of his life chained up on a roof. He was given a fake rabies vaccine that left him blind and unable to walk. His owner left him to die. Luckily, he was saved and made a full recovery! He spent the rest of his time in Haiti with a very kind woman and her pack of dogs until we worked together to get him to Rhode Island, along with 5 other dogs.



Boulous is a very affectionate boy, although he can be timid meeting new people. He has a curly tail, the softest coat, and "frog legs" when he lays down. He loves to be on furniture, even the computer chair! He LOVES to play! Boulous is doing very well with house training and is already crate trained. He does have a little resource guarding which is common in dogs that grew up starving. We have started his training to manage this and he's already making improvement! Management will need to continue post-adoption to assure Boulous is the best boy he can be! Boulous needs a home with no cats or kids. He is dog friendly. If you are interested in meeting Boulous, please fill out an application at [www.abandoneddogsofri.com](http://www.abandoneddogsofri.com)





**IMHO** | by Ron Scopelliti

## A drop in the bucket

I've written in the past about how October is my least-favorite month, but when you get down to it there's a case to be made for February. Even in a good year, February represents the coldest, snowiest, iciest, deepest depth of a New England winter. Every year when it comes around, I think of the line "But February made me shiver," from "American Pie," and the tragic events surrounding "the day the music died." Man, what a downer of a way to start a column about an already-depressing month.

But I figure this February is, even more than most, a good time to remind ourselves that life is short, and that we need to make the most of it while we're here. In that spirit, I'm considering doing something I've always resisted. I'm thinking about making a bucket list.

I've never liked bucket lists, because they seem self-defeating. Whenever you put something on a to-do list, it's obvious that you're looking to put it off rather than get it done. Otherwise, you would just go out and do it, rather than writing it down. And, being that the deadline for a bucket list is literally "death," it's a sure sign that anything on the list is going to be put off as long as possible. Still, I've got this lingering temptation to write one. Before I seriously commit to doing it, however, I'd need to find a definitive origin for the term "kick the bucket." Nothing I've found online conclusively states how the phrase originated. It could have had its origin in a religious rite, an execution procedure, or the reflex action that Jimmy Durante brilliantly portrayed in "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad,

Mad, World."

If I do make this list, the first thing on it would be rather literal: I'd buy a decent bucket to kick. All my buckets are cheap, plastic items, usually bought on a hasty Target run when I realize that my previous cheap, plastic bucket has developed a crack. If I were to kick one of them, the sound would be a weak, plasticky "thwapp." I'd like to get one that will make loud metallic "clang." Maybe something in galvanized steel. And I could store some  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch nuts and bolts in it for added clatter.

Having gotten those preliminary obligations out of the way, the really tough work would begin. A legitimate bucket list shouldn't include every random thing I might enjoy doing before I die. There's lots of stuff I'd like to do, but a bucket list should get down to the essentials – not the stuff I'd "like" to do, but the stuff I "need" to do. Most of the items that pop into my head fall into that first category. Case in point: ever since I was a kid, I've wanted to go to Easter Island, but it definitely strikes me as more of a "like to" than a "need to." When you get down to it, once you've looked at a few big stone heads, there's probably not a lot of entertainment value on the island.

There are other things that I'd leave off the list because they're so unlikely to actually happen that they don't bear consideration. For instance, a recent episode of "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me," noted that Vin Diesel once played Dungeons and Dragons with Dame Judy Dench. I'd really like to join the two of them in a game. But once you



figure in all the modifiers and roll a 20-sided die to determine whether the game will take place, there's not much chance of it happening.

Maybe instead of making a comprehensive bucket list for the rest of my life, I should come up with one bucket list item at the beginning of each year that I can realistically achieve before year's end. It won't be so much a bucket list. Maybe I'll refer to it as a coffee cup list, or a shot glass list. And I can then celebrate the completion of each item with a cup of coffee. Or a shot. Or both. For years, I've been wanting to remedy the fact that I've never ridden a horse. Now that I've finally given in to my own personal "bucket list" concept, this strikes me as the obvious choice for the year's bucket/coffee cup/shot glass list. The additional benefit to this choice? Something with a pastoral angle may come in handy, just in case instead of "kicking the bucket," I end up "buying the farm."

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# 50 years Ago – February, 1971

by Jim Ignasher

Gregory Schroeder of Greenville graduated from the University of Rhode Island Reserve Officers Training Corps and was appointed a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 3 of Greenville offered their services to the town for blazing trails at the Forge Road Green Acres Project. The offer was accepted, and the trails are still in use today.

Members of Esmond Boy Scout Troop 1 camped out overnight at Buck Hill in Burrillville.

On February 5th the Apollo 14 lunar module successfully landed on the surface of the moon. Remote television cameras set up by the astronauts later captured mission leader Alan Shepard driving two golf balls with an improvised “golf club”. The balls sailed off in the much reduced gravity of the moon. Apollo 14 returned to earth safely on February 9th.

If one went to the movies in February, 1971, they might have seen “Cold Turkey”, starring Dick Van Dyke, Bob Newhart, Pippa Scott, Jean Stapleton, and a host of others. Set in the mythical town of Eagle Rock, Iowa, the plot involves a tobacco company which offers twenty-five million dollars to the town if everyone can stop smoking for thirty days. The citizens accept the challenge, and thus the hi-jinx begin.

Popular songs that topped the charts included “One Bad Apple”, by The Osmond Brothers, “Knock Three Times”, by Tony Orlando and Dawn, and “Lonely Days”, by the Bee Gees.



A local oil company was advertising 200 gallons of heating oil for \$32.00 plus tax. For those doing the math, that comes to just over six cents a gallon.

The Smithfield Town Council approved an industrial tie-in with

the Blackstone Valley Sewer System which included plans to run pipes along George Washington Highway to Ashton.

On February 17th, Smithfield Cub Scout Pack 44 held its annual Blue and Gold Dinner at the Smithfield High School. Achievement awards were presented to: Paul Thorpe, Alfred

## Smithfield 1971 Trivia?



**Does anyone remember this Smithfield restaurant and it's location?**

If you do, send us your answer and experience to our new website: [smithfieldtimesri.net](http://smithfieldtimesri.net).

Answers and comments will also appear in our next issue!

D'Angelo, James White, Michael Falls, Blaise Amidy, Robert Shirley, David Conte, Brian White, Todd Provost, Adam Bianchini, Richard Thorpe, Richard Scott, Walter Sullivan, Stephan Falls, Michael Serapiglia, Kevin McMaugh, Roger Paquette, and James Boyle.

*See 50 Years Ago, page 27*





On February 21st Smithfield Cub Scout pack 141 held its annual Blue and Gold Dinner at Wright's Farm. The following scouts received achievement awards: Jason Macari, Michael Winsor, Stanley Freeman, Scott Graham, John Gerlach, Gregg Hall, Francis Conroy, and Craig Noke.

The following scouts received prizes for raising money for the Christmas Fund: Peter Sparmeni, Jason Macari, and Paul Francisco.

Reverend Michael F. Ray was appointed Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Greenville.

Father Joseph A. Besse was appointed the new pastor of St. Philips Catholic Church in Greenville.

The Smithfield Police Department acquired three brand new police cars which had a black and white color scheme and dual "gumball" lights on the roof.

The Elks Lodge on Farnum Pike dedicated its new ball room, said to be the largest in the area. A Valentine's Day dance was held there February 13th which was well attended.

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*On behalf of myself and Thomas Winfield,* we would like to thank all of the people who donated to the Brady Family. We are so grateful to the community and the way they came together in such a short amount of time to help out a family in great need. We want to give a special thanks to the Smithfield Fire Department and to Santa and his elf Buddy for brightening Lucas and Alanna's Christmas by their special appearance on the fire truck and delivering toys and cheer.

We are still accepting donations for the Brady Family. Checks can be made out to "Smithfield Parade" and be mailed to Anderson-Winfield Funeral Home or Simply Elegant Flowers both located in Smithfield, RI.



*Thank you,*  
Robin Heim





# Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

## The Trite, the Tired and the True Origins ...

For example: During these “unprecedented, trying times” of “social distancing” I have found myself “doom scrolling” while drinking “quarantinis” and adjusting to “the new normal”. These are several words and phrases language experts have suggested be relegated to the annual collective universal circular file of overused, cliché and trite expressions forever. Those of use who have achieved a certain age remember others that are or now should be in that file: TQM (our 1990’s devotion to the Japanese business model of Total Quality Management; not in my wheelhouse; corporate management’s dashboards ... I’m sure you can add many of your own.

English is a difficult language to learn and understand, a task that’s compounded by the exploding number of words and phrases that accompany dramatic incidents, corporate management styles, and new inventions and technological advancements over centuries of shared experiences. In addition, the English language in particular is peppered with idiomatic expressions whose origins are never remembered but whose use has become widely understood – even without knowing the context in which they first appeared.

Purely as a way to pass more “pandemic” hours, I began to explore some of our well-known words, clichés, and idioms that are broadly understood but whose origins are rarely remembered. The remaining column

inches are devoted to sharing a few you might find interesting – and provide you with an incentive to make your own list while you are waiting in line for your vaccine. Trust me, there are thousands.

Many are rooted in literature. From Shakespeare, for example, we have “all that glitters is not gold” and a “pound of flesh” (*The Merchant of Venice*); “jealousy is the green-eyed monster” (*Othello*); and “melted into thin air” (*The Tempest*). Or John Milton’s 17th century poem that introduced the idea that “every cloud has a silver lining.”

Mythology and classical literature have given us references that have reappeared with frequency during our last political elections. Some candidates and programs were labelled “Trojan horses” reflecting the Greeks deception of “bearing gifts” that actually hid the soldiers that would destroy Troy. “Achilles heel” has also been useful in identifying certain candidate’s vulnerable points, referencing the only area on Achille’s body that was not protected when his mother held him by his heel and submerged him in the River Styx.

Political labels also have a link in this country to horse racing jargon. Phrases such as “candidates running,” “races,” “dark horse,” “front runner,” and “upset” originated in the late 18th and early 19th century as terms directly related to horse racing. Ben Zimmer of the Wall Street Journal expanded on this theme when Kamala Harris was

nominated as Biden’s “running mate,” referencing the racing practice of a stable running both a fast and slower horse in the same race, the latter to be used as a pace-setter.

The Bible is the source of many, including “everyone has a cross to bear,” with reference to Jesus, and the lesser known “ivory tower” found in the Song of Solomon referring to a woman’s neck, later a term applied to Mary to symbolize nobility and purity – not institutions of higher education.

Just for the sake of entertainment, let me share a few of the more obscure origins of some of our popular clichés and idioms:

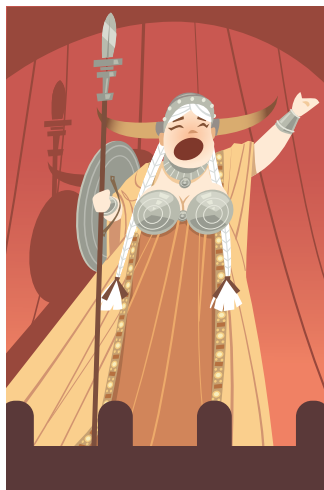
- **Crocodile tears** – based on an ancient notion that crocodiles wept as they devoured their prey.
- **Scot free** – in 12th century Scotland, a scot was a municipal tax levied by England.
- **Big wigs** – Louis XIII went bald as a young man, setting the style led the Bourbon kings of the 17th century to wear elaborate wigs.
- **Big cheese** – in late 19th century America, county fairs displayed huge wheels of cheese. By the 1920’s “big cheese” referred to anyone that tried to look or act impressive.
- **Long in the tooth** – here’s the horse analogy again; as horses age, their teeth grow – hence, an indication of growing old.

*See The Brown Bag, page 29*

- **A feather in the cap** – In some cultures warriors added new feathers to their head gear for every enemy slain; or, for young hunters marking a first kill by plucking the bird's feathers.
- **Take it with a grain of salt** – According to a writing by Pliny (77AD), salt was thought to be an antidote to poison.
- **Show your colors** – in the UK a ship's colors are its national flag.
- **Mudslinging** – another political application originating when, in 1796, Alexander Hamilton, using a pen name, accused Thomas Jefferson of certain questionable behaviors.
- **Mad as a hatter** – not as you might suspect from "Alice in Wonderland," but actually a reference to the hat making industry in England that used mercury to cure fur.
- **Horse of a different color** – again, with the horse! Refers to the practice of jousting knights who rode different color horses so they could be identified by their supporters; likely the origin of team uniforms today.
- **Caught by the short hairs** –not what you think! Actually, a reference to a 19th century Rudyard Kipling account of English soldiers grabbing their opponents in India by the hairs of the neck.
- And, by no means an indication that this is anywhere near an exhaustive list:

**Any port in the storm** – not as you might think – a reference to ships seeking refuge – but actually a phrase used in a 18th century bawdy novel, "Memoirs of a

Woman of Pleasure," eventually know as Fanny Hill.



Now, it's your turn to waste some time! Make this task a new pandemic parlor game. As they say, "it ain't over 'til the fat lady sings," a proverb thought to originate with 18th and 19th century "buxom" opera singers.



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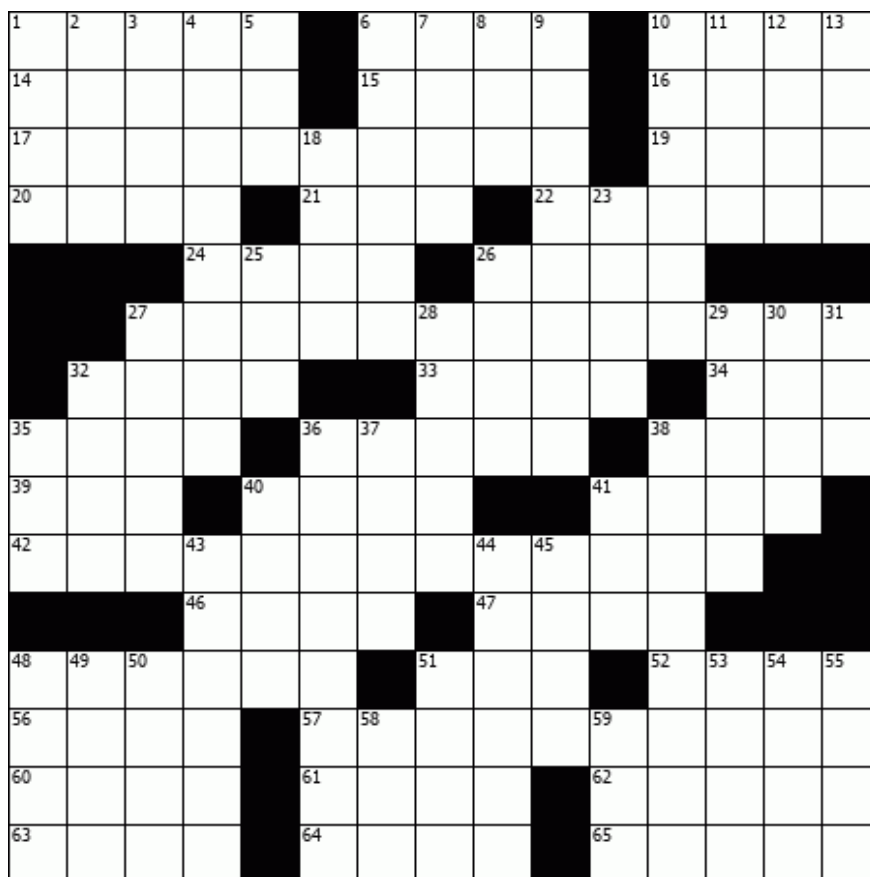
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# Crossword Puzzle

## Across

1. Toy glider wood
6. Northern Finn
10. Fancy dance
14. Nom de plume
15. Director Kazan
16. Dairy tubful
17. Nebraska collegian
19. MGM cofounder
20. Use the stove
21. Hush-hush org.
22. Dreaded fly
24. Nastase of tennis
26. \_\_-bitty
27. Deli sandwich order
32. Aunt Millie's competitor
33. Freeway access
34. Furniture wood
35. Worth a C
36. Weather, in verse
38. Trig function
39. Propel, as a shot
40. Pupil controller
41. Bubbly bandleader
42. Shows liveliness
46. Otherwise
47. Fourth-down option
48. Shippers' cases
51. Yearbook sect.
52. Shopper's guide
56. Monthly outlay
57. Coin last minted in 1958
60. Pot starter
61. Well-ventilated
62. Italian city
63. Dayan colleague
64. Thumbs-ups
65. Ill will



## Down

1. Baroque composer
2. Skin soother
3. Former Florentine money
4. South American capital
5. Volcano spew
6. Not as significant
7. \_\_-Seltzer
8. Round food
9. Working afternoons, say
10. Henry VIII's second
11. "Thanks \_\_!"
12. Vintner's dregs
13. Actor Rob or Chad
18. ICU part
23. Go no further
25. Baton Rouge sch.
26. Shi'ite leader
27. Fake jewelry
28. Greet the day
29. Churns up
30. American, to Brits
31. \_\_ out a living
32. Dissolute one
35. Tanning lotion letters
36. Road intersector
37. Place to wait
38. Pay one's debt
40. Land in the sea
41. Hardly ruddy
43. College athlete's award
44. Uses a mister
45. Give the boot to
48. Study hard
49. Actress Russo
50. Pro's foe
51. Blood fluids
53. Crucifix letters
54. Peeved mood
55. Newcastle's river
58. Speed along
59. Qt. halves

Answers to puzzle on page 38



# Greenville Public Library

573 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI 02828

Contact: Cassie Patterson • 401-949-3630 ext 117

greenvilleasstdirector@gmail.com • greenvillelibraryri.org

## The Greenville Public Library will be closed on Monday, February 15 Presidents' Day.

The Greenville Public Library will be exhibiting the quilt art of John C. Chamberlin now through the month of February 2021. Chamberlin's exhibit consists of pieces from his work with the national non-profit, My Very Own Blanket, which gives quilts and blankets to children in foster care.

John C. Chamberlin is a retired full-time faculty member of the Department of Teaching + Learning in Art + Design at Rhode Island School of Design. During the thirty-one years at RISD he held numerous leadership positions in art and design education, locally, regionally, and nationally, such as President, RI Art Education Association.

While primarily an academic, John has always had a studio practice. For decades, he was a ceramic tile maker, creating and installing handmade custom tiles in kitchens, bathrooms, and on fireplaces for clients in Rhode Island.

Several years ago John learned how to quilt and has created more than sixty

pieces that have been donated to Child Family Services of RI. John works with a national non-profit, MY VERY OWN BLANKET, headquartered in Westerville, Ohio, who has the formal relationship with Child Family Services of RI. CFS distributes the quilts to foster children and youth. John is also the director of the Quilting Ministry at Grace Episcopal Church, Providence.

The quilt exhibition at the Greenville Library are all baby size, anywhere from 35"x35" to 39"x39". Most are gender neutral and in bold colors. The idea with this size is to have each quilt function initially as a comforter and then be repurposed as a wall hanging remembrance as the child ages.

For inquiries on his work, John may be reached at 401-598-6489 or jchamberlin1944@gmail.com.

### Adult Events

Please register for all events on the event calendar at [greenvillelibraryri.org](http://greenvillelibraryri.org)

### Virtual Book Chat

Thursday, February 4 & 18 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Join us for an informal virtual meeting to discuss what books you are currently reading. Share your great read and discover a new one! We meet virtually via Zoom. Once you register for the book chat, we will send you a link and password to join the event. Please register online on our event calendar at [greenvillelibraryri.org](http://greenvillelibraryri.org) or by calling 401-949-3630. We look forward to seeing you soon!

### Home Sweet Home Book Club

Monday, February 22 at 6:30 pm

Join us from home for our Zoom book club. Each month, a book will be selected that is also available as an ebook in Hoopla, our streaming media service that provides access to ebooks with no holds or wait times. You must have a Greenville Public Library card to access this service. Visit [hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com) to get started. Copies of the book, *The Lost Book of Adana Moreau* by Michael Zapata, will also be available in the library for checkout. Please register online on our event calendar at [greenvillelibraryri.org](http://greenvillelibraryri.org) or by calling 401-949-3630.

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Tim Jones – Cartoonist



## Senior Scene

by Paul V. Palange

During a recent television news segment about the vaccine to prevent COVID-19, the broadcaster said government officials were addressing how to effectively reach people in minority communities. I immediately thought, “When are we going to be one community? When are we going to have widespread diversified suburban neighborhoods?”



Unfortunately, it probably won't be in my lifetime. That opinion was reinforced as I watched the recent despicable and sickening siege of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. Racism, white privilege, white supremacy and plain old hatred run much too deep in this country for me to see them wiped away before passing away.

However as long as I'm still alive and kicking, I have to take some sort of actions that might make a difference or

contribute in a small way to affect the change necessary to crush racism.

I am going to address racism and minor aggressions committed by relatives and friends, especially when they are in my home. I will politely interrupt and calmly confront an individual when they make a racist statement or use offensive language, telling the person

how their ideas and words impact me and perpetuate discrimination and prejudice.

Silence is complicity. Saying nothing to “keep the peace” is not acceptable. Just look at where it has gotten us as a society, as a country. We are not in a good place.

In addition, I am going to dig deeper to better understand privilege despite knowing that as a white person who grew up in a white neighborhood,

attended predominately white schools and worshiped with predominately white parishioners that it's likely I will never fully understand the concept or the racism encountered by blacks, Latinos and other minorities.

Another step I intend to take is volunteering online with the United Nations and its “Let's Fight Racism” initiative at [un.org/en/letsfightracism](https://un.org/en/letsfightracism). The website is packed with information, suggestions and links to:

- Combat racism in our communities and promote and defend human rights.
- Help people send electronic messages that state that racism is unacceptable.
- Pass on what people are doing to stop racism.
- Encourage people to join a group advocating for the rights of racial or other minorities and volunteering to help, even if it's through online volunteering.
- Spread the word about human rights by sharing videos and reciting the articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and using the hash tags #StandUp4HumanRights and #RightsOutLoud.
- Seek different perspectives through reading the writings of authors of other races or ethnicity and their real life stories about overcoming discrimination.
- Take a quiz that tests people's knowledge on human rights and

*See Senior Scene, page 33*



discrimination, and that celebrates the human rights defenders who have fought for the rights of others.

- Offer information about the United Nation's global action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.
- Download "United against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance," which contains the outcomes of a U.N. conference on racism in Durban, South Africa.
- Educate people about the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) and the program of activities for the implementation of its objectives.
- Review the U.N.'s Remember Slavery outreach program aimed at educating people about the transatlantic slave trade and communicating the dangers of racism and prejudice.
- Learn more about the Holocaust and the United Nations outreach program, which seeks to encourage the development of educational curricula on the Holocaust and to mobilize civil societies for education and awareness efforts.
- Teach people about the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and the United Nation's outreach program established for victims' remembrance and education to help prevent future acts of genocide.
- Delve into the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

There's also a link about the United Nation's efforts to fight racism between 1965 and 2015, and that there is still so much work to be done throughout the world.

Senior citizens like you and me can do their part to make more progress. Marching or protesting is not feasible for many seniors for a myriad of reasons, but we can still take actions such as the ones outlined on the United Nation's website.

Furthermore, we can educate our peers and family members when it's called for, and we can vote for candidates in local, state and national elections who are committed to ending racism and discrimination.

The scab has been ripped off the festering wound. We must stop the bleeding and nurture healing.



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# A View From the Cheap Seats

## Answers in the Form of Questions: What Will We Learn From Sports In 2021?

Dan Pieroni

As I am writing this Alex Trebek's final week of Jeopardy! programs are airing.

As a tribute to him, his legacy, and the program that has enriched our lives with knowledge through the years, here is a list of predictions regarding local and national sports in the unique style of answers and questions that Jeopardy! has personified throughout its history.

- **Answer:** XFL quarterback, CFL quarterback, NFL backup quarterback, or director of a youth football camp.  
**Question:** What are the likely job descriptions for Cam Newton in 2021?
- **Answer:** Jayson Tatum  
**Question:** Which young Boston area athlete is most primed to make "the leap" into superstardom in 2021?
- **Answer:** Spring football  
**Question:** What sport did Smithfield High School students and supporters think they would never see in their lifetimes?
- **Answer:** Zdeno Chara  
**Question:** Who will undoubtedly win the "Tom Brady Memorial We Got Rid of This Guy Too Early Award" in 2021?
- **Answer:** Nothing extraordinary as long as long as Bill Belichick is in charge of personnel?  
**Question:** What will the Patriots spend all their cap space on?
- **Answer:** Shameless  
**Question:** Which current TV show title will best describe Belichick's treatment of the Patriots current free agents as they try and renegotiate their contracts for 2021?
- **Answer:** Dustin Pedroia and James White.

- Question:** Which longtime stalwarts on the local athletic scene will we likely say goodbye to in 2021?
- **Answer:** The Bills Mafia  
**Question:** Which group of ardent fans deserves to win a championship more than any other in 2021?
- **Answer:** Activist athletes
- **Question:** Which relatively new group of reformists will continue to raise and create systemic change in 2021?
- **Answer:** Mookie Betts  
**Question:** Who will once again cause fans to lament that the Red Sox were fools to give up on him?
- **Answer:** Seattle Kraken  
**Question:** Which pro sports team will have the coolest duds by the end of the year?
- **Answer:** Your guess is as good as mine.  
**Question:** Who will be the Patriots starting quarterback in 2021?
- **Answer:** Tampa Bay vs. New England.  
**Question:** What highly anticipated NFL game of the 2021 season will be guaranteed to be on Sunday Night Football.
- **Answer:** The Summer Olympics  
**Question:** Which upcoming sporting event did you forget is scheduled to take place this year?
- **Answer:** "Wait till next year!"  
**Question:** What tired quote will be uttered by Red Sox fans if they lose on opening day?
- **Answer:** "They need to get bigger."  
**Question:** What tired quote will be uttered by Celtics fans if they come up short in the playoffs?
- **Answer:** Natives of Worcester Massachusetts  
**Question:** Who will be tired of people asking them "isn't this

Pawtucket" during baseball season?

- **Answer:** Portland Maine  
**Question:** Which Red Sox farm team location are you most likely to find me if fans can attend games?
- **Answer:** The Boyle Athletic Complex on the campus of Smithfield High School.  
**Question:** Where is the first place I am likely to go if fans can attend games anywhere?
- **Answer:** All is forgiven!  
**Question:** What will be the rallying cry of fans if Alex Cora and Tucka Rask exceed our current expectations of them.
- **Answer:** Fan support, camaraderie with others, cheering, booing, and the thrill of paying ten dollars for a hot dog that has spent hours under a heat lamp?  
**Question:** Which qualities that have been sorely lacking from the personal experience of being an in-person fan are likely to make a comeback during 2021?

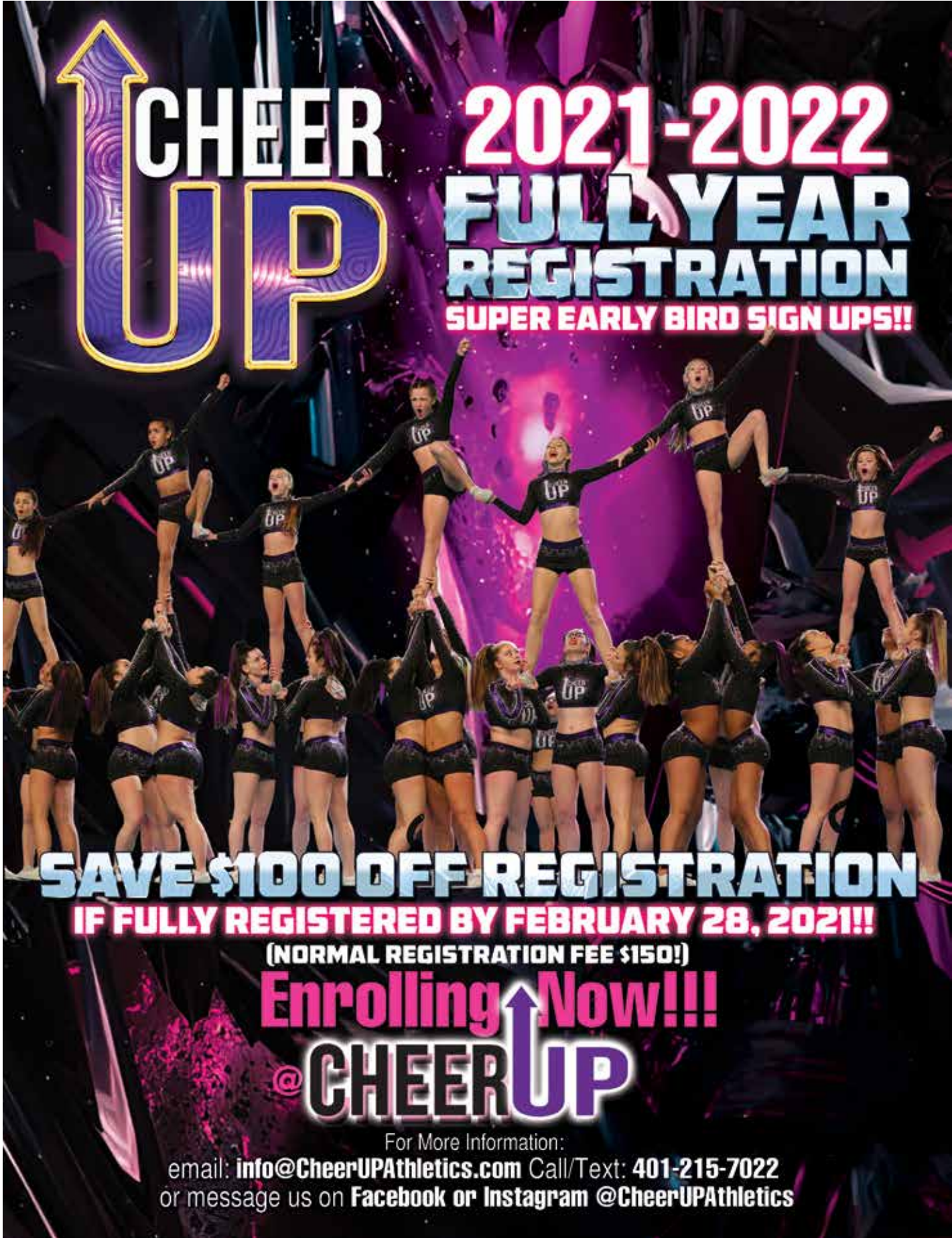
Let's face it, 2020 was a not an ideal experience for the local sports fan. Games were canceled, play was shoddy, and player health was compromised for the sake of making a buck.

However, there is a light at the end of an endlessly dark tunnel, our teams have nowhere to go but up, and I am certain they will be appreciative of any in-person support you can give them.

Although many of these predictions are made in jest, I look forward to seeing if any of them come true.

After all, it can't get that much worse, can it?





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# Payne's Picks

By Sarah Payne

February 2021

## Movie Releases

### I Care A Lot – February 19

Although I haven't watched a really good original film from Netflix since 2019's *Marriage Story*, I'm still holding out hope that one of these days the streaming service will churn out something with some depth. It's all any movie lover can hope for after COVID-19 has turned the film industry on its head. *I Care A Lot* is a comedy thriller starring Rosamund Pike as a legal guardian who takes advantage of elderly clients. Pike told *Entertainment Weekly*: "We were trying to work out how to achieve that tonal balance where you can play somebody who's awful, but they're still fun to watch." Pike is no stranger to playing a deliciously awful character (see 2014's thriller *Gone Girl*).

### Nobody – February 26

Derek Kolstad (one of the creators of the John Wick series) wrote *Nobody*, an action thriller starring Bob Odenkirk (*Breaking Bad* and *Better Call Saul*). He plays a mild-mannered family man who chooses not to defend his family when two men break into his home. However, like the great John Wick or Liam Neeson in his later years, he later gets revenge and starts a chain of violent events. "The character and his own inability to contain his frustration and rage is what provokes the danger around him," Odenkirk told *IGN*. "I trained for two years before we started shooting. I knew I had a long way to go. I was a comedy writer for 25 years, so I didn't even exercise for most of my life."

## TV Review

### The Undoing (HBO)

If you're looking for a truly bingeable TV show, I highly recommend *The Undoing*, written and produced by *Big Little Lies* creator David E. Kelley. It stars Nicole Kidman and Hugh Grant, who play a wealthy New York City couple suddenly embroiled in a high-profile murder case.

As with *Big Little Lies*, this miniseries is a psychological thriller, although *The Undoing* certainly feels more like a cheesy soap opera. Each episode will have you questioning what you know and who is guilty. The ending seems a bit farfetched to me, but it doesn't take away from the suspense that builds each episode prior.

## Movie Review

### The Midnight Sky (Netflix)

For a movie about space exploration and the decimation of the human species, it's surprising how boring *The Midnight Sky* is to watch. George Clooney (who also directed the film) stars as a lone scientist stranded in the arctic – the last man on Earth. It's not clear what happened to our planet, only that humans are squarely to blame. When communicating with astronauts on their return voyage to Earth, Clooney's character basically says, "Sorry we did such a bad job taking care of the planet." Clooney's message of doom and gloom is so heavy-handed that it's ironic he has said he wants the film to end with a "sense of hope." Long stretches without dialogue make it impossible for the film to build any sort of emotional connection with the audience. And what dialogue there is should have been left on the cutting room floor. Did we really need a two-minute rendition of "Sweet Caroline" on the space station? Whose idea was it to put that in the script? This movie is so terrible that it does a disservice to the entire space genre. Its primary flaw is that it's masquerading as a serious film, when it's primary purpose – as with too many Netflix films – is to be thrown on in the background while you scroll through Twitter. Sure, some of the cinematography is cool to look at, but not for nearly two hours and with zero substance to back it up.



## Recipe Swap!

### Tangy Lemon-Garlic Shrimp

#### Ingredients

- 16 large shrimp – peeled, deveined and tails on
- 3 large cloves garlic, smashed
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 2 teaspoons seafood seasoning (such as Old Bay®)
- salt and ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 3 teaspoons lemon zest

#### Directions

##### Step 1

Heat a large skillet over medium-low heat until warm, about 3 minutes. Add shrimp, garlic and crushed red pepper all at once and stir together. Add seafood seasoning, salt and black pepper.

##### Step 2

Cook over medium heat until shrimp are fully cooked, 3 to 5 minutes. Pour lemon juice into skillet and stir again. Reduce heat to low; add parsley and lemon zest. Transfer only shrimp to a serving platter.

This simple shrimp dish can be used as a pre-meal snack or as an appetizer. It's easy and quick to make on the stovetop, especially when the lemon juice, zest and garlic are measured ahead of time.

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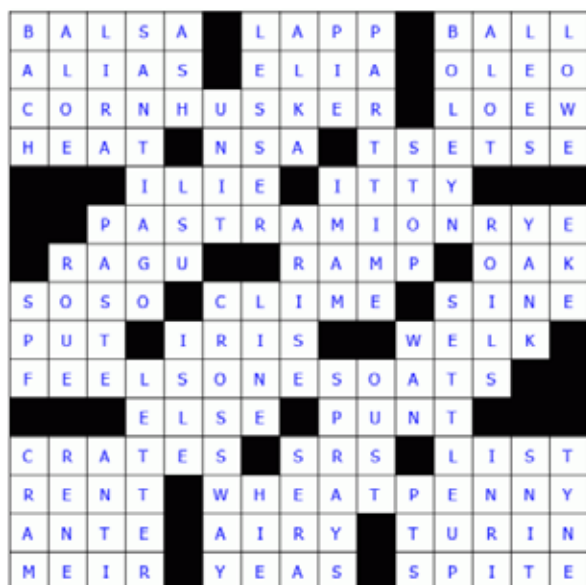


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## Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 30.



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