

COMPLIMENTARY

JANUARY 2021

# The Smithfield *Times*



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Photo: Sandra Achille

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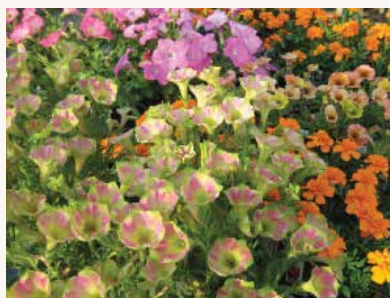
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Medicaid is a state administered program that is funded to a great extent by the Social Security trust fund. It provides for payment of medical services and long term nursing home care for those who qualify.

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.

## Review Your Trust Annually To Protect Your Assets



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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# Retired Town Clerk Leaves Behind a Legacy after 34 Years

By Paul Lonardo

If you applied for anything from a business license to a marriage license to a dog license in the town of Smithfield over the last thirty-four years, chances are you interacted with Carol Aquilante. The chances are just as good that your experience was a warm and genial one. As a civic employee, Carol was hardworking and compassionate, but to everyone who knows her she is a neighbor and a trusted friend. She is one of those people who puts herself last in order to make sure those around her are taken care of first. These traits are not prerequisites for being appointed a town clerk in any municipality, but that's the way it's been at Smithfield Town Hall since 1986 when Carol was hired. Marking the end of an era, on December 1, 2020, Carol retired, and while her colleagues are supportive and happy for her, she will be sorely missed.

Over the years, Carol has worn many hats in her official capacity as Town Clerk. For those who may not know what the position entails, the Office of the Town Clerk is responsible for providing a number of services to the public. The Department consists of six major divisions: Town Council Records, Land Records Registry, Board of Canvassers, Registry of Vital Statistics, Probate Court, and Business Licenses. In addition to receiving, recording, and issuing these documents, the Office is responsible for the maintenance, indexing, and storage of all these records for easy access by the public and other departments. The Town Clerk's Department is the official repository for all ordinances, resolutions and official documents related to the government of the Town of Smithfield. The department is responsible for the



Carol Aquilante

authenticity of all legal documents.

Carol's journey began a couple years after graduating from Mt. Pleasant High School in Providence. In 1986 she was working for Blue Cross/Blue Shield downtown. Her son, Adam, was in second grade and her husband was a ship welder at Electric Boat when he was hurt at work. Wanting to be closer to home and her family, she put in for a job in the Town Clerks office and was offered a position working under Flora Simeone, who among others, aided Carol in her learning experience. Carol had no way of knowing she would be there more than three decades, but Smithfield Town Hall became a second home.

"I remember how much support and love from the ladies and gentlemen of the Town Hall, and Smithfield in general, that we received when mom was pregnant," Adam says. "This was the beginning of the lasting impression I got that people who worked for the Town of Smithfield truly cared about helping every single person in town."

Carol's daughter, Ariel, was born in 1991, and as she moved her way up through the ranks, she earned her CMC and MMC, two professional designations requiring fulfillment of extensive education programs. Carol was Acting Town Clerk twice before she got the fulltime position. As Town Clerk, she helped many people, but the relationships she developed

over the years with co-workers and the strong ties she established with so many people in town is what Carol will be most remembered for. For Ariel, seeing how hard her mother worked to get where did has been a source of inspiration.

“She worked tirelessly throughout the years,” Ariel says. “I remember how proud mom was, as we all were, when she became Deputy Town Clerk. When mom became Town Clerk in 2013, I gave her a copy of *Women in The Revolutionary War* as an example of how a strong woman can make a difference.” *We’ll tell your mother*, was a common expression that Adam and Ariel heard during adolescence if they dared do anything wrong in town because everyone knew ‘Carol in the Clerk’s Office.’

Carol was a whiz with a keyboard and had been a driving force in the introduction and advancement of

electronics in the various departments. The set-up of this technology helped immensely when the pandemic hit last spring and the Town Hall was forced to close. Over the years, she oversaw nine presidential elections, and hundreds of state and local elections. Carol leaves behind a legacy in the Town of Smithfield and she will be remembered for many years to come.

“People would go to see her at work just to talk about a concern or personal issue,” says Ariel. “She wasn’t just the Town Clerk, she was everyone’s confidant, aunt, or sister. After she retired, people still call her to talk about one thing or another, and that will continue.”

With all the changes and uncertainties in these trying times, one thing is for sure, Carol Aquilante’s absence from the Town Hall will be felt by many in Smithfield. We wish her the best for a happy and healthy retirement.



Photo Credit: Sandra Achille



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# Santa Came to Our Town!

Town Manager Randy Rossi and some of Smithfield's First Responders accompanied Santa Claus on top of a Smithfield Fire Truck spreading Christmas Cheer for three nights during Christmas week.

On Sunday night, they stopped to visit a very special little boy and his family. Nine year old Lucas Brady was featured on the evening news last week. It seems his letters to Santa Claus touched many people's hearts from around the community. His original letter asked Santa to bring him some toys, as any 9 year old would. After some thought, Lucas decided to ask Santa for something much more valuable. He sent another letter to ask Santa to make his Mom better and to erase his list from earlier. His Mom, Marlena has Stage 4 breast cancer and is undergoing treatment.



Lucas and his mom, Marlena

The community quickly learned of what the Brady family was going through. Tommy Winfield and Robin Heim of *Simply Elegant Flowers* quickly reached out to locals who contributed to help make the Brady's Christmas a little brighter. Santa brought those extra gifts, gift cards and donations to



the Brady house Sunday night! Marlena and her family were touched by the generosity of the community. She felt "blessed and humbled" at the outpouring of love. She is especially proud of their son, Lucas.

## Saturday, December 19 was Wreaths Across America Day

Several members of Smithfield's Town Council attended a ceremony at Veterans Memorial in Deerfield Park to place wreaths at each of the five branches of US Military; Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Wreaths were donated by Marybeth Ouellette of Mother Nature's Florist.



Town Manager Randy Rossi, Councilman Mike Lawton, Michael Silvia, Commander of Balfour-Cole, Post 64, Councilman David Tikoian, Midshipman Timothy Ferron, US Naval Academy, Councilwoman Angelica Bovis, Town Council President Suzy Alba, Sawyer Alba

# Hip Hip Hooray to Our Healthcare Workers!



Throughout COVID we have all witnessed our healthcare workers step up day in and day out during this crisis. If you know a healthcare worker, you know first hand that they go into the profession because they have a passion for helping people. Our doctors, nurses, physician's assistants, physical and occupational therapists, medical

assistants, and certified nurse's aides are heroes to all of us.

The last week in January is National CRNA Week. According to NationalDayCalendar.com. CRNA's "provide more than 49 million services across the country. They work in surgery centers, dental and ophthalmology offices, pain management facilities, and hospitals." A CRNA is a nurse anesthetist. Nurse anesthetist administer anesthesia before, during and after a procedure.

Thank you to all of our CRNA's in the state of Rhode Island for all you do.

## *Congratulations*

to Sarah Payne and her husband on the birth of their daughter, Eva Marie Mulcahy born on November 18.



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# Happy New Year 2021





# Even in times of struggle, there is always a *Silver Lining*

By Brittini Henderson

In a time when staying home is what's safest for all of us, it can be hard for those who live alone and away from their families. Luckily, there is a silver lining to this situation and it can be found right here in Northern Rhode Island.

The Silver Lining Concierge Service is there for you and your loved ones in need. This service, dedicated to helping seniors with non-medical care and companionship, was created to help busy families with their aging relatives who need assistance. Even before social distancing and stay-at-home orders, Silver Lining Concierge Service helped these individuals with daily tasks inside and out of the home, created companionship, and so much more.

"We tailor services to our client's needs," LeeAnn Brigido of Silver Lining says. "Our services include meal planning, grocery shopping, and preparing healthy meals."

The companion can always assist as being a patient liaison with medical appointments, including telehealth. Other ways the program is of service is through transportation, exercise activities, light housekeeping, mail sorting, bill organizing and paying, and handyman work. The list is endless!

Brigido explains that they pair a caregiver to a client based on need after a comprehensive application and take-in.

"Clients have three hour blocks," she says, "and most clients require at least

twice a week, but some as many as five visits per week. Clients always have the same caregiver. Consistency is very important."

Brigido also says that, unlike many other businesses during this unprecedented time, Silver Lining is busier than ever.

"The fact that it's not safe for our senior population to be out shopping or doing errands has increased the demand for help," she says. "We are happy to keep them safe at home."

Before COVID-19 restrictions, caregivers and clients spent time socializing with friends, attending movies or plays, going out to lunch, or even day trips down to the beach for clam cakes and chowder.

Silver Lining's clients enjoy the companionship they develop as a part of the program, too. Many of their clients aren't able to see their friends or family due to COVID-19, so their time spent with the caregiver is truly valuable.

"I am truly blessed

to have kind, trustworthy, and dedicated caregivers to help our clients," Brigido says.

The Silver Lining Senior Concierge service is available in Providence, North Providence, Pawtucket, and all of Northern RI. Families or individuals interested should contact Brigido at [leeann.silverlining@gmail.com](mailto:leeann.silverlining@gmail.com) or 401.487.8787.

For more information, you can also visit [silverliningri.com](http://silverliningri.com).

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# Students and Teachers Celebrate New School

The Wood Truss Topping ceremony was held at the future Pleasant View Elementary School on Monday, December 7. The Wood Truss was signed by faculty, staff, student and Community members from McCabe and Winsor Schools. The ceremony was streamed in order for both McCabe and Winsor faculty, staff, students and family could attend.

Fifth grader, Juliette Corriea lead the McCabe and Winsor attendees in the "National Anthem." Supporting her are fifth grade students Logan Trainer, Joy Matteson, and Rebeckah Hammond.

After the Wood Truss Topping-off Ceremony, McCabe and Winsor Principal Cathy Pleau reminds everyone that both McCabe and Winsor communities will be joining together to make Pleasant View Elementary School their new "Home."

Fifth grade student, Lily Pato lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Photos Credit: Albert Tavakalov



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# Health Awareness

## It's Never Too Late

by Diane L. Marolla, LICSW

*“Your worst enemy is yourself.” Joe Muschiano (aka Joe the Barber; Joe the Beautician)*

A good friend of mine, Deb Walmsley, took me to the Broadway musical *Wicked* a few years back. I am blessed, with many good friends. Deb, however, was a big support for me when I was going through my divorce. As I often describe to others, Deb helped me keep my head screwed on when I felt like it was falling off. She, as I describe her, was the calm in my storm. She was patient with me and kind. She listened and she helped me stay the course. As I sat with Deb at PPAC watching *Wicked*, a beautiful song came on called “For Good”. My favorite lines in the song are:

*I've heard it said that people come into  
our lives for a reason  
Bringing something we must learn  
And we are led to those who help us  
most to grow if we let them  
And we help them in return*

These lines resonate with me for every person I have ever met. I truly believe we all meet people for a reason, and that everything happens for a reason. I look at people in my life as teachers.

One person, who I randomly met years ago and admire, is Joe Muschiano. Most folks know Joe as “Joe the Barber” who often calls in to talk politics on WPRO. I met Joe at my favorite coffee shop in Cranston, Café Bon Ami. Like many Rhode Islanders, I had only heard Joe on the radio. Now, I am blessed to have him as a friend. I asked Joe if he would talk with me about his journey with alcoholism and recovery. As we start the new year, many of you reading this article might be having a problem with alcohol or know someone who is having

a problem. Statistically, we know that alcohol sales and use are up locally and nationally. We have also seen in Rhode Island many traffic accidents and fatalities related to alcohol. This article is to let you know that it is never too late to get help and support, and to start over. During COVID, there is still help through programs and AA.

Joe, who is now eighty-two years old, has been sober for forty years. Joe became sober in his late forties. When I asked Joe what the defining moment was in his life where he made the decision to get sober, Joe said “There was one morning. I had a barber shop in Apponaug and I had a construction business. I crawled out of bed and was on my knees and said I’ll do anything God, anything, to stay sober. I can’t take it anymore. I was in a third-floor apartment alone. Down the street was my wife and children in my beautiful house. I just couldn’t stay sober.” Joe sought help from a friend who was involved in AWOL (per addiction.com AWOL is a “a way of life”. AWOL uses the steps of AA.) Since that day, Joe has been active with AA, obtained both his bachelor’s and master’s degree, is a successful businessman and is involved in local and national politics. Joe was a key force in getting the movie “Lost in Woonsocket” made. The movie told the story of addiction and homelessness. If you haven’t seen the movie, I highly recommend watching it. Joe also continues to help anyone who is struggling with alcohol. Men and women from all walks of life, come to Joe’s barber shop on 394 Pawtucket Avenue, in Pawtucket, to get advice and help.

When I asked Joe for advice for those who are suffering from alcohol addiction Joe says it is important to get help by getting detoxed and/or through a program like AA. “Someone who is struggling right now should go to detox. If they can’t do it, go to an AA meeting. I never went to detox. I went to AA. You have to live in AA. I went to meetings three times a day. I put everything else second. I’m no good as long as I have this problem.”

I also asked Joe for advice for those who love someone suffering from alcoholism. “Go to Al-Anon. Participate in a program together. It helps everyone.” Al-Anon is a support group for anyone who has been affected by someone else’s drinking. If you love someone who has a problem with alcohol, you know firsthand that it affects you. You also know how difficult it is to try and get someone help for the problem.

Both Joe and I agree that it is never too late to start over. Whether you are in your 40’s, your 50’s, your 60’s, your 70’s, your 80’s or your 90’s, please know that there is help if you are suffering from any type of addiction. There are people who care, and there is always hope.

(If you or a family member are in need of Rhode Island resources for either Substance Use Disorders and/or Mental Health Services, please visit The Rhode Island, Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals website [bhddh.ri.gov](http://bhddh.ri.gov).)



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# Smithfield Student Transportation Employees Unionize

By Paul Lonardo

A group of Smithfield student transportation employees of Durham School Services recently voted to become part of Teamsters Local 251, and these newly unionized workers couldn't be happier. A deal was reached and contracts were signed this past November, just in time for the holiday season.

"We knew how much more Teamster school bus drivers were paid in other yards and the safety protocols the other school bus companies have to follow, so we reached out to the union for help," says Cheryl Vertilotti, who has been driving for Durham School Services for fifteen years. "We are very excited to finally be Teamsters."

The forty-three Smithfield school bus drivers, monitors and aides joined more than 1,000 other student transportation workers from nine other school bus yards throughout the state who joined Teamsters Local 251 in recent months.

"When workers organize collectively to join our union in the numbers we have seen in Rhode Island's student transportation industry, it increases our ability to negotiate better standards for the workers in this field," says Matt Taibi, the secretary treasurer and principal officer of Teamsters Local 251. Durham School Services is owned by National Express, LLC, which operates in more than thirty states.

"These workers safely transport our most precious cargo, our children, to school every school day," Taibi says. "When companies realize the importance of these jobs to our communities; recognize and respect their workers with fair wages,

benefits and safe working conditions – everybody wins."

Labor unions and employers have always been thought to have an adversarial relationship, sparring partners with both mutual and opposing interests. The unions want to negotiate the best wages and benefits for their members, and employers want to have productive employees and make a profit. These objectives are not always at odds with each other, however, and common ground can be achieved when working together, with both sides benefiting.

While some employers may feel that unions hamper business, the fact is that unions bring many advantages to a company. For instance, unions often have their own programs to train employees in their trades, relieving employers from the cost of training inexperienced workers. Well-trained employees create better and safer working conditions. In return, employers have fewer days lost because of work-related injuries or illnesses. Companies with stable, happy employees will experience a lower turnover rate and will have union assurance that more workers will be available if needed. Furthermore, negotiating a contract with one party – the union – is much easier than having to negotiate a wage and job description with each individual employee. But the union's main purpose is protecting the rights and safety

of the worker.

"What we do is empower the workers at a particular workplace," Taibi says, "representing them during negotiations with their company on what are called mandatory subjects of bargaining, including wages, benefits, work hours, workplace conditions and safety, seniority, discipline, grievance and arbitration procedures. There are a whole range of topics that we formalize into a collective bargaining agreement, a contract, and that becomes the document that both sides adhere to during the term of the contract."

The Smithfield employees of Durham School Services are now represented by a labor union that will not only negotiate future contracts for them, but the union will address all issues of concern, including those regarding the COVID-19 outbreak.

Teamsters Local 251 represents 6,000 members in a wide variety of industries, from health care, with Rhode Island hospital being our largest, to UPS, to various school bus yards throughout the state of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts.

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## Senior Scene

by Paul V. Palange

### Communitywide effort necessary to stop abuse of elderly

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have unanimously passed legislation aimed at protecting seniors with dementia from harm and exploitation. It's great that the Promoting Alzheimer's Awareness to Prevent Elder Abuse Act is heading to the president's desk to be signed into law, but on another level, it's pretty sad there is a need for such a bill.

Approximately one in 10 seniors age 60 and older has experienced some form of elder abuse, and for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, the prevalence is much higher, with some estimates putting it at just over 50 percent. You read that correctly: More than half of all seniors with dementia are exploited.

Authored by Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the bipartisan bill will ensure that the Department of Justice's (DOJ) elder abuse training materials take into account individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

In a release from the U.S. Senate, Collins states, "Our bipartisan bill will help to ensure that the frontline professionals who are leading the charge against elder abuse have the training needed to respond to cases where the victim or a witness has Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia."

Sen. Menendez added the bill will ensure Alzheimer's and dementia patients are able to live with dignity in safe and healthy environments, while providing critical education and training to caregivers, health providers and law enforcement.

"I watched my mother struggle and ultimately succumb to Alzheimer's, and it pains me that a growing number of Americans living with Alzheimer's and dementia are at risk of potential abuse, neglect and exploitation," she states.

It pains many people, and they can join the effort to rescue seniors from abusive situations by learning the signs of exploitation and overcoming any reluctance to report suspected cases.

According to the 2017 Rhode Island Annual Report on Elder Abuse, which the state Division of Elderly Affairs released in 2018, there are red flags that indicate someone is suffering a form of abuse.

Signs of neglect include: a lack of basic hygiene, adequate food or clean and appropriate clothing; a lack of medical aids such as glasses, a walker, teeth, hearing aid and medications; a person with dementia left unsupervised; a person confined to bed is left without care; a home that is cluttered, filthy, in disrepair or has fire and safety hazards; a home lacks adequate facilities such as a stove, refrigerator, heat, cooling, working plumbing and electricity; and an individual has untreated pressure "bed" sores.

Indications of financial abuse or exploitation include: a lack of amenities a victim could afford; a vulnerable senior giving uncharacteristically excessive financial reimbursement or gifts for needed care and companionship; a caregiver has control of an elder's money but is failing to provide for the elder's needs; and a vulnerable senior has signed property transfers or changed a will to benefit a caregiver but is unable to comprehend the transaction or what it means.

Signs of psychological and emotional abuse include: unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior such as withdrawal from normal activities and unexplained changes in alertness; a caregiver isolates a senior, not allowing anyone into the victim's home to see or communicate with the elder; and a caregiver is verbally aggressive or demeaning, controlling, overly concerned about spending money or uncaring.

Indications of physical or sexual abuse include: a senior with fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores or burns that cannot be adequately explained; and an individual contracts a sexually transmitted disease.

According to the Senate, the Prevent Elder Abuse Act builds on the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act, which became law in October 2017 and required the DOJ to create training materials to help criminal justice, health care, and social services personnel assess and respond to elder abuse cases. It also aligns with recommendations from the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, which include disseminating information on abuse of those with dementia and educating law enforcement about interacting with those individuals.

The plan should go further, however, and educate the public about elder abuse and how to spot and report it. An intensive effort should be made to educate us seniors so we can look out for each other. After all, many people age 50 and older still have elderly relatives such as parents in their lives and every measure possible should be taken to ensure they are not abused.

# Big Plans for East Smithfield Neighborhood Center

By Joe Siegel

The East Smithfield Neighborhood Center, which has been unused for several years, is being renovated and restored to its former glory.

The Esmond Street building will be the future location for some town offices including the recreation department and human services. There will be a wellness center where residents can go for health services. A food pantry will also be available and a counseling area where people can obtain financial assistance.

Town Manager Randy Rossi said the plan for the center is to reopen in phases.

The town is in the process of applying for grants to pay for the reconstruction expenses. Rossi notes some money has been saved for the project from past town meetings.

The work on the building has already begun. The town has been working with an architectural services firm on the project. “We were able to take the front façade and clear off the (T-111) wood that was covering up the nice clapboard,” Rossi explained. “Even just when they took that off and to see what it looks like behind it was a huge improvement.”

Robert Leach, an architect and member of the town’s Historic Preservation Committee, has been working to rehabilitate the center since it closed in February 2017.

“I’ve never had a project that was so valuable that we had some bad (people)

trying to stop it for no good reason when the community wants it,” Leach said.

In the early 1800s, the Esmond section of Smithfield was known as Allenville, named by then Rhode Island Governor Phillip Allen.

Following the construction of textile factories and mills in the village, a church was built in 1851.

Through the years, the building has served many functions including a recreation center for the town’s upwardly mobile citizens, as well as a dance hall, movie theater and youth center. A bowling alley was installed and became a popular pastime.

The Esmond Free Public Library was located at the site in 1916. Space and some funding were provided by the owners of the Esmond Mill. When the mill closed in 1946, heat to the building was turned



off, causing some pipes to burst and destroying some of the books, according to a 1985 dedication booklet for the library’s current building. In 1951, Esmond Industries deeded the Esmond Community Hall to the town with the stipulation that it be used for recreation.

*See Neighborhood Center, page 15*







George M. Smith, director of the Smithfield Recreation Association, convinced the new mill owners, Textron Inc., to deed the building housing the library to the town. Between 1950 and 1954, books were moved into a large hall while its east wing was repaired.

Events organized by the association included basket weaving classes, indoor Easter egg hunts, dance classes, Little League bowling teams, competitive table tennis league, Halloween parties in partnership with the local police and fire departments to keep youth off the streets and out of trouble on Halloween night, and an annual Thanksgiving Dance.


Recent discoveries have included the uncovering of the earlier heavy timber structure, exposing of the intact frame of the 18 feet tall by 61 feet long elliptical vaulted ceilings, arched windows and the once concealed original balcony and movie projector room. The four hardwood flooring bowling lanes are still intact.

A steel bank vault door exists at the end of the main hall it is conjectured that this may have been used as a mill payroll vault.

Leach is excited about the project, which will hopefully be completed in the next year. He vows the building will serve as a welcoming place to a growing community.

“This is going to be for everyone,” Leach added.

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## IMHO | by Ron Scopelliti

### Call me when the New Year's here

I've never gotten excited about New Year's Day. For me, the only change the "new year" brings is the date that I have to write on the ever-decreasing number of checks I use. This year, any sense of newness is dulled even more by the fact that January 1 sees us in much the same place we were for most of 2020: masked, socially-distanced, and at least temporarily in a state of economic and political unrest. So what's a cynic like myself to do in order to avoid falling into a state of despair?

I've decided to look ahead to the real new year – the year that starts when we've been heavily vaccinated and herd immunified and gotten through the worst of the pandemic. And instead of making a list of resolutions, I'm just resolving to appreciate three things that I took for granted before COVID.

First off, I'm going to appreciate being able to recognize people. Batman, the Green Hornet, the Lone Ranger – they all got it wrong when they decided to cover the top of their faces. They should have done what we're doing and covered the bottom of their faces. I've run into people I've known since I was a kid who I couldn't recognize until they spoke. Maybe it's because I'm so short that I tend to look people in the chin more than in the eye, but I think it's more than that; I think you can tell more about people by their mouths and noses than their eyes. Maybe when we say the eyes are the gateway to the soul, we're just trying to avoid the ugly truth that it's really the nostrils. A couple of my friends recently welcomed their first children, and I've been wondering what these young ones

will think when they first go out among a mask-free public and realize that their immediate family aren't the only people with mouths. Maybe this early childhood experience will make them better at recognizing people by their eyes and foreheads than I am.

The second thing I'll really appreciate is spending more time in museums. At the beginning of the year I stumbled onto a bunch of shows and YouTube channels about museums, and I vowed that this was the year that I'd visit more museums. For obvious reasons, that hasn't happened. As a kid I was obsessed with museums, partly because they helped me feel connected to the world outside my little state. I grew up in a time when you seldom heard Rhode Island spoken of in mainstream media, except for the time when "The Odd Couple" mentioned a monster movie where a creature ate Rhode Island and spit out Providence. Going to places like the RISD Museum and the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology helped put me in touch with the world around me, and going out of state to visit museums helped even more. While other kids dreamed of going to Disneyland or the Baseball Hall of Fame, the dream trips that I went on with my dad were to the American Museum of Natural History in New York and the Smithsonian.

The biggest thing I'm going

to appreciate when COVID subsides is hanging out in coffee shops, and particularly writing in coffee shops. When I was younger, I always thought that people who went to coffee shops to write were posers, trying to channel the zeitgeist of the American expatriates of the twenties, who'd sit in Paris cafes for hours, plying their trade, and discussing deep subjects. Then again who's to say they were discussing deep subjects? For all we know, Hemingway may have been asking Gertrude Stein how to deal with a clogged sink, or wondering why neither one of them could stop eating those brownies that Alice B. Toklas baked. But anyway, when I actually started getting paid to write stuff, I figured that gave me enough credibility to not feel like a poser when I wrote in coffee shops. Then I realized that not feeling like a poser is one of the keys to being a poser. And if I wasn't a poser, why would I be using a pretentious word like zeitgeist in my column? Regardless, I'll be happy to own up to my poser status when my mask comes off. If you recognize my large and slightly off-center nose hovering above a café Americano, feel free to call me out by name. Zeitgeist indeed!

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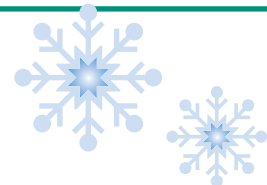


## *Snowball Drop Raffle*



The Annual Snowball Drop Raffle was held in Deerfield Park on November 21. The prizes were awarded to the winners: Thomas Palangio, \$300; Laurie Dio, \$200 and Adam Stanley, \$100.

## *All Lit Up Christmas Parade*



A tree-lighting ceremony was held at the Green on December 6 by Tom Winfield and the Smithfield All Lit Up Christmas Parade Committee along with Santa and his wife. Father Dante Tavolaro of St. Thomas Church led the group in prayer.

Photo Credits: Ball Drop Raffle: Andy Lemery, Christmas Tree Lighting: Heather Maione

# 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!



## Those Pesky Leaks

A request that I have often heard over the past almost 25 years that I have been in the construction industry, is from a bewildered home or business owner that has a leaky "something" which is driving them absolutely insane!

Usually the case is that water is leaking in their home or business from somewhere, but they do not have a clue as to from where.

Some leaks are simple and are very quick to source; such as the time I found holes in someone's roof because they had a satellite dish removed but never filled the holes in the roof after removing the screws that held the dish in place.

Some leaks are much more complicated and take a VERY long time to find; such as the time I had to track a leak over a period of several months before eventually figuring out it was leaking in from where a window jamb/sill seal had been compromised in a miniscule fashion (but big enough to allow water in if thoroughly saturated!).

One of the biggest challenges with finding leaks is that many times one can only test if they have been neutralized when certain conditions are present.

Some leaks only happen, literally, once every couple of years when rain

is hitting the area the leak is stemming from with just enough volume of water at just the right angle.

Other leaks are related to snow or ice damming and can only be found when there is just the right amount of snow or ice built up somewhere and it begins to melt into the home.

Interior leaks can be just as challenging as there is a plethora of possibilities where they can stem from – a leaky shower pan, a seal in a sink that has freed up, a leaky caulk-line in a bathtub or shower, etc.

Whether it is an exterior or interior source of leakage, the two things that one must recognize they need in order to properly find where the leak is

coming from (and then correct it) are patience and trial & error.

Patience is needed because it can sometimes take so long (with the number of possible variables involved) to find the leak.

Trial & error is needed because this is really the only way to 100% find leaks and be able to correct them from there.

Leaks can certainly drive one batty!; but if it is recognized that patience and trial & error are more than likely going to be needed in order to make sure the correct leaking spot is found, it will surely be A LOT easier on one's psyche!

### 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 Ghost of The White Bird

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

Charles Lindbergh is credited for the first transatlantic flight after leaving Long Island, New York on May 20, 1927 and landing safely in Paris, France on May 21, 33 ½ hours and 3,600 miles later. This is pretty widely known in history, but what is lesser known is that two pilots took off from a Paris airfield and crossed the Atlantic Ocean 12 days before. The only difference; they never reached their final destination.

On May 8, 1927, the L'Oiseau Blanc, or White Bird left Le Bouget airfield in Paris en route to New York. The Levasseur PL.8 aircraft was propelled by a 450 hp Lorraine-Dietrich 12 cylinder water cooled engine and held three fuel tanks totaling 1,100 gallons which would have given them 42 hours of flight time, more than enough to complete their purpose. The PL.8 also incorporated small floats attached directly to the undersides of the lower wing, the landing gear could be jettisoned on takeoff, in order to reduce the aircraft's weight. The underside of the fuselage was given a boat-like shape and made watertight for a water landing, as the two planned on landing in New York harbor, in front of the Statue of Liberty.

The pilot, Charles Nungesser was a decorated World War I flying ace and navigator Francois Coli had several successful flights under his belt. The two wore specially designed flying suits for the long journey over the Atlantic. The bi-plane left the airfield at 5:41 am, barely clearing the treetops due to its cumbersome size and weight.

The plane was seen flying overhead a small town in Ireland before heading out over the Atlantic. No further sightings were reported. On May 9, people in New York awaited the arrival of the White

Bird, but after it failed to show, everyone feared the plane had met with disaster. There was enough fuel for 42 hours of flying, plenty of time to make the trip, but the White

Bird and its crew, as Mr. Lindbergh later stated, “vanished like midnight ghosts.”

According to witnesses in Newfoundland, the aircraft was sighted over a dozen times. On May 9 at 9:20 am, Arthur Doyle and three other eyewitnesses spied a white biplane coming off the Atlantic towards land. Just after 10:00 am, several more witnesses saw the plane pass over Harbor Grace. Airplanes were rare at that period in time so the sight of one was certainly memorable. Sometime early afternoon, Anson Berry reported hearing a low flying plane crash near his camp at Round Lake in Maine. He also stated just before the crash, the engine was sputtering erratically. Searches for the missing plane turned up nothing and soon the matter was left to legend until 1980 when Gunner Hanson, better known as Leatherface in the movie Texas Chainsaw Massacre, took interest in the story.

Hanson spoke with a hunter who, in 1950, had discovered a large engine partially buried in the woods of Maine where the plane had reportedly crashed. Subsequent searches for the wreckage turned up pieces of struts and engine parts but little else. The plane, being mostly constructed of wood would have long rotted away.



Another clue that would lead to a dead end for the discovery of the aircraft's remains turned up when locals remembered that a large engine was dragged from the woods during a logging operation in 1974 and sold for scrap.

Lindbergh may have been correct in his statement but in a more supernatural manner. Although the White Bird may never be physically identified, its ghostly visitations are a different story. On the anniversary of the planes disappearance, the woods take on a more ominous tone and the sounds of the White Bird are once again heard. Witnesses near Round Lake hear the eerie sound of a very low flying aircraft and have actually witnessed the trees part as if something was brushing their tops. Some claim to hear a crash but upon investigating, find no sign of any such tragedy. Perhaps it is the ghosts of Coli, and Nungesser reliving that fateful moment when they touched down on American soil but never lived to celebrate their accomplishment.

(One more interesting footnote; If Charles Lindbergh did not change his birth name to the name his father used to gain entrance to the US (Lindbergh), he would have been called by his actual name, Charles Mansson.)





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# The Nature of Things

by James Gass

## Tracking Animals in Winter: Canine or Feline?

Winter is a great time to find out what critters live in your neighborhood, because as you recall from my last article, most of them don't hibernate. During the winter, mammals in our area are either active during the day (diurnal), night (nocturnal) or are crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk). Some species sleep for a while, wake up to forage a bit, then go back to sleep. Coyotes, foxes and bobcats are all active during the winter months. You might see their tracks in the snow in your back yard. If you live in the vicinity of West Greenville Road in Smithfield, you might be visited by all three.

Coyotes and foxes are common in southern New England and are found throughout Rhode Island, including suburban areas. Since they are generally crepuscular or nocturnal, you may not know they are around, especially foxes. As they walk or trot in the snow, these members of the dog family (Canidae) make tracks that appear as single footprints travelling in a straight line. The reason for this is, as they put their hind foot in the track of the front foot, it appears as one print. This is known as direct registering, and only wild dogs and cats do this. Foxes and cats do it when they walk; coyotes, when they trot. When these animals are running, the pattern is different. The prints are spread out in diagonal groups of four.

Telling the tracks of a coyote apart from a domestic dog is fairly easy. Though similar, coyote tracks are narrower and more oval than a domestic dog's, and are about 2.5" – 3" long. When trotting, a coyote's stride is generally 19 to 21 inches, in a straight line, with prints directly registering. Domestic dogs do not direct register. They tend to wander around all over the place with their prints making random patterns in the snow, rarely if ever going in a straight line. Fox

prints are smaller, also directly registering in a straight line.

The two species of fox that occur in our area are red fox and gray fox. Both are smaller than a coyote, with the red fox being larger than the gray. Red fox tracks are similar to a coyote's but are a little smaller, about 2.3" in length, with the rear paw print often showing a "bar" across the heel of the pad in good snow. There is a chevron-shaped callous on the heel of the red's hind foot which causes this, the prints of the other two canids will not show this feature. Gray fox tracks are the smallest of the three, approximately 1.25" to 1.75" in length, about the size of a domestic cat's. Since both gray foxes and domestic cats direct register, it might be difficult to tell them apart. Look for the slight impression of a toe claw mark in a gray's tracks. Gray foxes have semi-retractable, but not fully retractable claws, as cats do.

With foxes, habitat is also a helpful indicator of which species might be there. Red foxes generally prefer open fields and forest edges, grays prefer mostly woodlands. But there can be overlap between the two. I live in Georgiaville near a wooded area and have found gray fox tracks in our yard.

Telling the difference between dog or cat prints is also not that difficult. The main difference is the orientation of the toes, and if there are any claw marks. The tracks of canids tend to be oval in shape and have claw marks, with four toes oriented symmetrically above/around the heel pad. Feline tracks are more circular and have four toes asymmetrically arranged at the top of the heel, with no claw marks in the track. All members of the cat family retract their claws when they walk, dogs do not.

**Bobcat Track**



Bobcats, our native feline, have much larger prints than those of a domestic cat. According to Paul Rezendes in his book *Tracking & The Art of Seeing* (1999), bobcat tracks are generally 2.5" long by 1.5" wide, but a domestic cat's tracks are considerably smaller, usually 1" long by 1" wide. The Bobcat's walking trail will have prints appearing in a zig-zag pattern, a domestic cat's trail will be largely straight.

The Farmer's Almanac has predicted a long, cold snowy winter with the possibility of a February blizzard. Deep powdery snow is not good for tracking, but a coating of 1-2 inches of light (or wet) snow is. Besides your neighborhood, good places to go tracking are ASRI's Powder Mill Ledges in Smithfield, Steere Hill Farm Conservation Area in Glocester and The Fort Nature Refuge in North Smithfield. Perhaps I'll see you there.

**Eastern Coyote Track**



# Drive Thru-ing Through a Pandemic

By Harry Anderson



In the seventh week of mandated home confinement I was itching to go somewhere, to bite into a coconut jelly stick and wash it down with a cup of coffee made with hands other than mine, notwithstanding the closing of all eateries. On a balmy spring morning, therefore, rather than putting on work clothes I took from the closet my khaki trousers and polo shirt. I even shaved.

“You look nice. What are you up to?” Pauline asked. “You know we’re not supposed to leave the house.” “I know, I know. But let’s treat ourselves to breakfast. That is if we can find a place.”

It felt strange to be driving. Not since a couple of weeks ago when I picked up a prescription at CVS had I touched the car. As we approached the Greenville Dunkin’ Donut shop, I gave a whoop when spotting a pick up truck at the take-out window. Veering left off the pike into the parking lot, I followed the drive-thru arrow and coasted to the “Order Here” sign. A disembodied female voice crackled from a speaker, asking what I was having.

“Two small coffees, black with sugar, and two coconut jelly sticks.” For the next half hour we delighted to our treat and especially to our return to the confluence of society. Never before neither the sound of traffic nor the muffled bantering through face masks of three workmen beside a DOT van delight us.

That began for us – call it what you will – a favorite pastime, a hobby that six months later continues. We have concocted games to amuse us as we sip coffee and watch traffic zip by. For example, one variation has us counting the gender of drivers. To date, Pauline leads in this competition (by a slim margin more women are out on the highway than are men).

This drive-thru entertainment in the midst of a pandemic has re-vivified our fondness for exploration. Thus far we have munched crullers in donut shop parking lots well beyond Greenville. For example, in Connecticut: Norwich, Putnam, and Terryville; in Massachusetts: Bellingham, Wayland, and Holliston; in Vermont: Bennington and Rutland. Our aim is to visit 50 of these shops, a reasonable aim because of their ubiquity.

To be sure, the unvarying uniformity of these far-flung shops makes frequenting them less than adventurous. But adventure comes when you morph each visit into a game. For us, we have learned that white cars are most popular, SUV’s outnumber sedans, drivers of pick up trucks favor wearing baseball caps, and that I’m a poor loser. Most of all, however, by pretending we are on a scavenger hunt when we head out of Greenville we have marveled at the beauty of New England.

In his autobiographical novel, *The Thread That Runs So True*, Jesse Stuart tells of his turbulent introduction to teaching. He was only seventeen. Because he had almost finished high school – a rarity in Appalachia – qualified him to teach. Assigned to a remote one-room school in mountainous east Kentucky that served grades 1-8 kids of poor tobacco pickers, Stuart had to overcome numerous obstacles in order to teach them the three R’s. Not until he had discovered that gamesmanship is the linchpin to learning did he succeed.

Yesterday, as we sat in our car parked in front of Chepachet’s Dunkin’ Donuts, my eyes fixed on Glocester’s Little

League field. Two boys were tossing a ball back and forth on the outfield grass.

“’Tis a shame, Love, the kids couldn’t use the field this season.” “Oops, there goes another Jeep. That ties us, six to six. Am I right? Come on, you better concentrate.”

The new game we were playing had Pauline’s counting Jeeps passing by on the Pike vs. my counting Subaru Outbacks. The coconut jelly sticks had been eaten, and only a gulp of coffee remained in the cups. I said that unless the tie be broken we could not go home and would have to go to the drive thru for re-fills.

A mammoth Dodge Ram pulled up to my left, blocking my view of the Little League field. At the same time to my right a Toyota Camry parked. Not long past middle age, the man in the truck – alone – seemed dejected, and the grandmotherly driver of the sedan clearly was upset as she wildly flounced the fingers of one hand while holding a cell phone with the other.

Pauline emptied her cup and brushed coconut flakes off her lap and asked what we were to do. End the game right then and there, settling for a tie? “Sure, why not? We’ll be going with the flow the way things are these days.”

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# Stargazing

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

## Astronomical Highlights for 2021

Happy New Year everyone. I can't believe it is 2021! Happy 50th Anniversary to my fellow 1971 graduates of North Smithfield High School. Perhaps later this year we will be able to celebrate this milestone in our lives. For now, I will focus on some of the astronomical highlights for 2021. We are always at the mercy of the local Southern New England weather, but I hope when the skies are clear you will venture outdoors to experience a few of Mother Nature's beautiful stargazing events.

On the night of January 2-3, the peak of the Quadrantid meteor shower occurs. These fast-moving shooting stars blaze across the sky at 25.5 miles per second. Usually blue in color, the Quadrantids can appear anywhere in the sky, but their radiant point (the area of sky from where the meteors appear to originate) is not far from the end star, Alkaid, of the Big Dipper's handle. From midnight till dawn, this area of sky will rise higher and higher above the northeast horizon.

While the Quadrantid meteor shower can produce up to 100 meteors per hour during peak, a more modest 60 meteors per hour is likely under a moon-less sky. Unfortunately, a bright waning gibbous Moon (which was Full on December 30) will rise around 8:30 p.m. on the 2nd and will be in the sky almost all night.

Also, on the 2nd of January, the Earth is at perihelion – closest to the Sun for the year. Why then is this time of the year usually so cold for us in New England? The northern hemisphere where we are located is tilted away from the Sun as the Earth's axis of rotation remains fixed in space in its solar orbit. Head to the southern hemisphere if you wish to bask in the more direct rays of sunshine.

For you early risers during the first week of January you can still spot brilliant Venus low in the southeast sky before sunrise. Venus will soon be unobservable as it moves closer to the Sun from our vantage point in space. Venus will return to the evening sky very low after sunset in the west-northwest during early June.

On January 24 Mercury will appear low in the southwest sky within 10 degrees of the horizon during late twilight. Another evening elongation occurs on the night of May 17 about 12 degrees above the north-northwest horizon during late twilight as well. For early risers there is a morning elongation on October 25 when Mercury will appear about 10 degrees above the east-southeast horizon. These dates will provide you the best opportunity to get a glimpse of this hellish world (unless you were fortunate to view its transit across the face of the Sun last November 11).

There is another eclipse visible locally in 2021, but this time it is a partial lunar eclipse. Soon after midnight on the morning of November 19, the Full Beaver Moon will glide through the Earth's dark

umbral shadow. The eclipse will begin at 1:20 a.m. EST with the Moon high in the sky, 64 degrees above the southern horizon. Mid eclipse, or when the greatest amount of the lunar surface is immersed in the umbral shadow, occurs at 4:20 a.m. 97% of the lunar disk will be eclipsed. After that moment the Moon will begin to slide out of the Earth's shadow. For us here, the Moon will set below the west-northwest horizon at 6:50 a.m. before the end of the eclipse. This eclipse will take place with the Moon within the constellation Taurus.

I am slightly optimistic that later this year the local observatories will be able to resume public observing sessions. Frosty Drew has remained open under strict Covid-19 mitigation protocols. See their website for details. Regardless, while the other observatories remain closed, do visit their respective websites for a wealth of astronomical information.

- Seagrave Memorial Observatory (<http://www.theskyscrapers.org>)

*See Astronomical, page 25*

### Meteor Shower Prospects for 2021

Month	Shower	Date	Moon Phase
January	Quadrantids	2-3	Waning Gibbous
April	Lyrids	21-22	Waxing Gibbous
May	Eta Aquarids	4-5	Waning Crescent
July	Delta Aquarids	28-29	Waning Gibbous
July	Capricornids	28-29	Waning Gibbous
August	Perseids1	1-12	Waxing Crescent
October	Orionids	20-21	Full Moon
November	Leonids	16-18	Waxing Gibbous (Full on the 18th)
December	Geminids	13-14	Waxing Gibbous

*Astronomical, from page 24*

- Ladd Observatory (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Physics/Ladd/>)
- Margaret M. Jacoby Observatory (<http://www.ccri.edu/physics/observatory.htm>)
- Frosty Drew Observatory (<http://www.frostydrew.org/>)

Some of the topics highlighted in this column may be covered in depth as an event date approaches.

Please clip and save the chart on page 24 showing the observing prospects for the 2021 meteor showers. These displays of shooting stars only require your eyes, dark skies, and patience to enjoy.

Keep your eyes to the skies for 2021 and always.

Before you know it, I will be writing my highlights column for 2022!

Be safe and remain healthy.  
David A. Huestis



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# 50 years Ago – January, 1971

by Jim Ignasher

Navy Petty Officer 3/c Lloyd Courtemanche of Greenville was serving aboard the U.S.S. La Salle.

James P. Hegarty of Greenville was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Air Force T/Sgt. Kenneth W. Fuller of Spragueville was serving in Torrejon, Spain.

A local newspaper held a “first baby of the year” contest of which Robert H. Hartley III of Esmond was the winner. His parents received an assortment of prizes donated by local businesses.

At midnight on January 1st a new law went into effect banning cigarette advertisements from television and radio. The law was aimed at keeping youngsters from wanting to smoke.

A local newspaper carried an advertisement for an “Air-cycle”, said to be an “all season escape machine”. It carried one person and behaved like a hover-craft. It was driven by a powerful propeller blade and would float on a small cushion of air thus enabling it to perform on water, ice, snow, muddy terrain, and sand, at speeds in excess of 40 mph. As to price, one had to call for details.

On January 12, the television series “All in the Family” starring

Carroll O'Connor, Jean Stapleton, Sally Struthers, and Rob Reiner, aired for the first time on CBS.

The Smithfield Jaycees honored Buddy Balfour as “outstanding young man of the year” for his work done with the Smithfield Raiders football team.

Sergeant James H. McVey and Detective Saverio E. Serapiglia of the Smithfield Police taught a driver's education class at the Smithfield High School.

Student Dennis Henlin received an award for highest marks.

A local Ford dealership was advertising a 1971 Ford maverick for \$2,247; a 1971 Mustang for \$2,982; a Galaxie 500 for \$3,247; and a Pinto for \$2,107.

On January 28, the group, Ecology For Smithfield held a meeting at the Greenville Grange to discuss pollution reduction.

On January 31, Apollo 14 took off from Cape Kennedy bound for the moon carrying astronauts Alan B. Shepard, Jr., Stuart Roosa, and Edgar Mitchell. This was the second trip in space for Shepard, who in 1961 became the first American to travel in space in a one-man Mercury space capsule.



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9:30 & 11:15AM  
Small Groups & Youth  
9:30AM

**WEDNESDAY**  
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Youth, Young Adult  
& Kid's Programs  
7:00PM

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Michael Woodward

[OceanStateBaptistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/OceanStateBaptistChurch)





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# Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

## And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon – (Mother Goose’s Melody, 1765)

How could Mother Goose have possibly predicted exactly what might happen during a 21st century pandemic? Because, I know in my family, silverware and dinner plates, replaced by plastic and Styrofoam, have left cabinets filled with lonely flatware and utensils. Even Thanksgiving dinner this year, which in my youth required getting out the “good china” (secured with Green Stamps at the grocery store piece by piece) and cleaning the “good silver” (silver plate in our case, not sterling), failed to live up to the Norman Rockwell iconic picture of the family huddled around an elaborate table.

With a little research it seems that many of us might actually have resorted to pre-Renaissance times where only spoons, but largely hands, were used at meal time. I am also guessing that many of us have resorted to dining around a centrally located coffee table or kitchen island, confirming that the “dining room” is truly a complete waste of space (except now as an office or classroom). While formal dining practices had already started to disappear over the past 50 years, the pandemic has certainly spelled the death knoll for that “good china” and silverware no one wants – not even consignment shops!

Yet, I am stubbornly holding on to the illusion that setting a beautiful table will take one last gasp. As an admitted dish-alcoholic, I continue to want to save every beautiful piece of china I see in thrift and consignment stores.

Trusting that there a few of us left, I thought I might spend a few words reminding myself how to set a tablescape for those very special functions.

Let me offer a few rules we were taught as children. Even though we had a very modest upbringing (we never ate at a restaurant), there were those occasions were our grandparents and parents passed down what they had been taught or observed. We eventually collected a complete set of good china which included all of the ancillary pieces – bread plate, soup bowl, dessert plate, matching sugar and creamer, and even a gravy boat in the same pattern – and no dishwasher. Washing, drying and putting back the dishes after a holiday was consider a bonding event for all of the females in attendance!

By the time the 1800s rolled around, elite families in Europe had set the standard for dining. While in the Middle Ages the only utensil in wide use was a very large and sharp knife that was also used as a weapon. Dinner was served by crowding the table with everything that was to be consumed as more food and drink represented the wealth and status of the host. The most important dish contained the salt. As the first item to be put on the table, it also dictated seating positions. To “sit above the salt” was considered a high honor.

By the time Queen Victoria assumed the throne, forks were commonplace (thanks to Catherine De Medici), as were all other utensils familiar to us. However, they also had fish and butter knives, asparagus and sugar tongs, dessert forks and spoons, pickle forks – you get the idea. This is in direct contrast to the Middle Ages when cutlery was not provided for guests, as they were expected to bring their own. (I think that was one of our pandemic control suggestions!) Until the 18th century, the elite dined off gold and silver, the

poor off pewter and wood. However, the development and mass production of porcelain (which was much more sanitary than metal or wood), in matched services, became the norm.

There were also elaborate rules for the placement of items on a table. Victorian maids, for example, were instructed that knives had to be placed one-half inch from the edge of the table. (A la Carson with his ruler in *Downtown Abbey*.) Table service had evolved from the French style where all courses were arranged on the table at the same time and the Russian model which dictated that each course of the meal is brought out in a specific order. (Wild guess – we use the French model and put the pizza and chicken wings on the table at the same time.)

However, just in case you decide to return to the table using real dishes and cutlery, let me offer a few basic rules from the experts:

- All cutlery should be placed about one inch from the edge of the table.
- Place the dinner knife to the right of the plate.
- Place the salad fork on the left, then the dinner fork.
- Place the butter dish above the forks, with the knife at an angle and the blade pointing toward the guest.
- Place the water glass directly about the dinner knife; the white wine glass directly to the right of the water glass; and the red wine glass centered above both.
- The napkin either goes under the forks or, preferably, to the left of the forks.

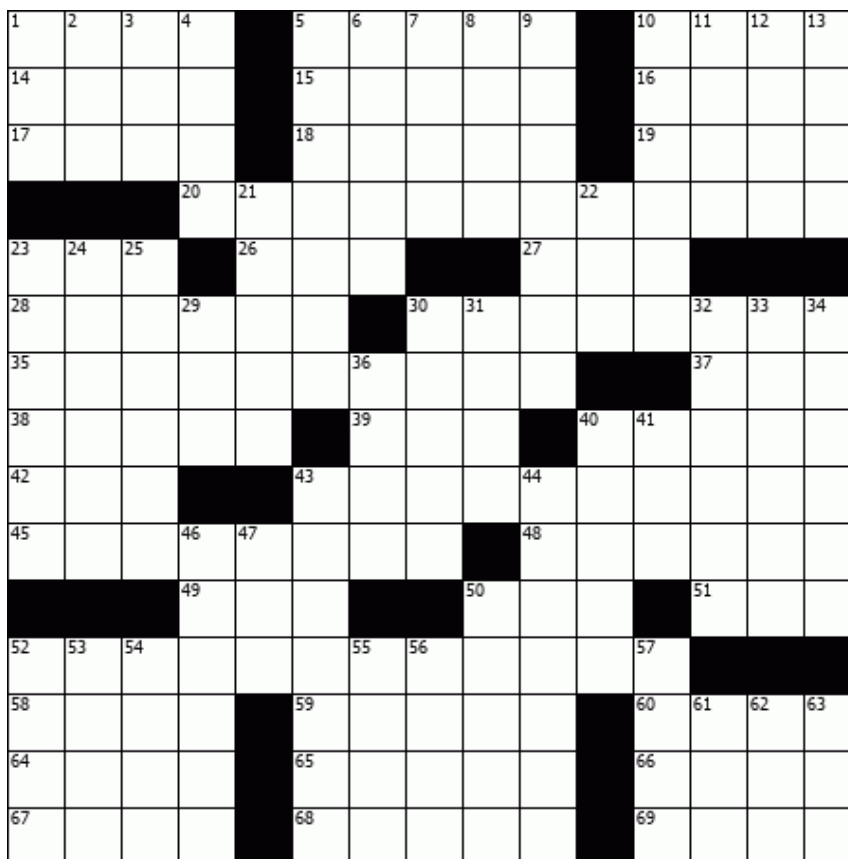
These suggestions do NOT apply to picnic and coffee tables!



# Crossword Puzzle

## Across

1. Yorick's skull, for example
5. Louvre location
10. Part of a ship
14. Emanation
15. "\_\_\_ we all!"
16. Bridge toll unit
17. Couple of bucks
18. It needs a good paddling
19. River through Nubia
20. 1943 Walter Brennan movie
23. Retirement org.
26. Running perfectly
27. Melville setting
28. Reflexive pronoun
30. Sandra Day and Carroll
35. 1955 James Dean classic
37. Agent in brief
38. Gravity-powered vehicles
39. Animated canine
40. Cowpoke's rope
42. Component of bronze
43. 1945 Zachary Scott vehicle (with "The")
45. Lobby
48. Final letters in Corfu
49. Sign of August
50. TX institution
51. I - I connector of palindromic fame
52. 1958 Gary Cooper epic
58. On the crest
59. Hang over
60. Having the right stuff
64. Sulk
65. Skip a syllable
66. Mountain goat's perch
67. \_\_\_ Brothers (early singers)
68. Struck out
69. Roundhouse result, sometimes



## Down

1. Add to, unnecessarily
2. Lament
3. Assayer's concern
4. Hair line
5. Measure by feet?
6. No more than \_\_\_ amateur
7. You need a good deal here
8. "Are you \_\_\_ out?" (poker dealer's question)
9. Cowboy hat
10. Dorothy, for example
11. Sartre's "No \_\_\_"
12. Contemporary of Count and Duke
13. Overly amorous gaze
21. Angelic circles
22. Egg manufacturer
23. Afternoon nap
24. One of the Yalta threesome
25. Acquiesce
29. Takeoff, approx.
30. Concert hall
31. Where Abe faces right
32. It's sometimes served in slices
33. Make one torn strip into two
34. Meager
36. Ending for switch or buck
40. Famous Uncle
41. Intense anger
43. Calmed
44. Went out of the park
46. Splits to unite
47. Short whistle blower
50. Goteborg resident
52. "I Remember \_\_\_"
53. Democritus' unit
54. "Uh-uh"
55. Golf course feature
56. Rank and vile
57. It may be on a bulletin board
61. Supportive item
62. Not of the cloth
63. Start of a trip

Answers to puzzle on page 37



# A View From the Cheap Seats

## Dear Worcester: You Can Take Away My Team But Not My Memories

Dan Pieroni

I remember the first time I became aware of the Pawtucket Red Sox. I was about eight years old standing inside the old *Apex* department store in downtown Pawtucket, when I noticed two physically fit gentlemen sitting at a table signing autographs.

Upon further investigation, I learned that the men were an outfielder named Luis Ortiz and a pitcher named Nate Minchey. They were making a personal appearance on behalf of the ballclub. Both gentlemen were nice enough to sign autographed photos of themselves for me. When I asked one of them if they would ever play in Boston, they both looked me dead in the eye and said, “Why don’t you come see for yourself and make the judgement on your own, we’re playing tonight.”

Taking their advice to heart, I asked my father if we could go and he quickly agreed. There aren’t too many things better than a boy and his Dad enjoying a ballgame on a warm summer evening. I don’t remember much about the game. I didn’t realize it then, but this was big time baseball, and if someone I saw that night ended up becoming a star in “the show” then I would have a great story to tell my kids someday.

As it turned out, that night started an annual summer ritual between me and the PawSox, especially after a mutual friend of my parents became a Vice President for the team a few years later. My bedroom was filled with Pawsox pennants, hats, and programs. If there were any giveaway items left over from a promotion, my brother and I could be sure to have a package waiting for us.

I always tried to make it to a game at least twice each summer.

How well I remember the time I got tickets to the annual PawSox/Red Sox exhibition. I had never been to Fenway Park before, so this was the closest chance I had to see the mythic heroes of my youth up close and personal. I was so thrilled to be there that I can forgive Mo Vaughn for walking right past me in the autograph line while I was screaming like a banshee to get his attention.

I also fondly remember the young shortstop from California with the weird idiosyncrasy of stepping out of the box and twisting his arms after every pitch. It may have looked weird to the naked eye, but you couldn’t argue with the results. I knew Nomar Garciaparra was destined for stardom, and I was proven right.

McCoy Stadium wasn’t the most modern and high-tech of ballparks, but it was as cozy and quaint as its bigger brother in Boston. I still maintain they had the tastiest French fries in all of baseball, and who didn’t have a souvenir cup commemorating the longest game in the history of baseball?

When summer rolled around you could count on two things, The Pawsox would always be competitive and the tickets would be reasonably priced. Until the winds of change swirled around Pawtucket in the form of a new ownership group. This new ownership group told us that McCoy was too small and antiquated a facility for professional baseball.

It was no longer enough to just come to the game, you needed creature comforts like luxury boxes, wider concourses, and gourmet food to entice a clientele

there for prestige rather than baseball.

Plus, building up the area surrounding the ballpark with bars and restaurants which the team would earn a percentage of revenue from became more important than just providing an affordable night out for your loyal fans. Pawtucket chose not to partake in this paradigm as did Providence, but the city of Worcester listened to their demands and welcomed them with open arms.

They’ve now got their modern ballpark, extra revenue streams, and creature comforts they never got in Pawtucket. In perhaps the cruelest irony of all, the pandemic prevented us from saying a proper farewell to a pillar of community pride that provided scores of memories and never took the fans for granted until the very ends.

Those memories will never die or fade away if you reflect upon them. They clearly had an impact on your life. That’s why my sincere hope for the fans in Worcester is to make their own memories surrounding the team. Don’t take for granted that they’ll always be there for you. The memories will always remain, but the priorities will change.

Don’t give the businessmen any choice but to commit to your loyalty.

Then, and only then will they see the error of their ways.





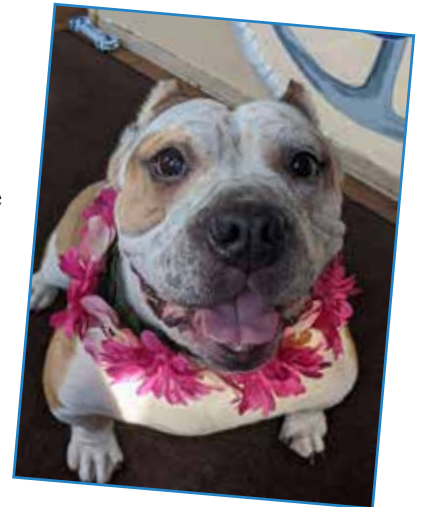
# Furever Homes Needed!



## Penelope

Meet Penelope! She's a 5-7 year old spayed female Bully Mix. It's clear that she was used for breeding and dumped on the streets. She doesn't let her sad past keep her down. Penelope is super friendly, sweet, and silly! She loves to play and give affection. She's always smiling (or snorting!). She's playful with other dogs but we do not know how she is with cats. She's good with children but can be a little jumpy when excited so older kids would be best. She's house trained and crate trained! Penelope does have skin and ear issues that are clearing up but will most likely be a minor reoccurring issue throughout her life. Otherwise, Penelope is healthy!

If you are interested in meeting Penelope, please fill out an application at [www.abandoneddogsofri.com](http://www.abandoneddogsofri.com)



## Foxy

This handsome boy is a 3 year old special needs purebred Ragdoll. He's super friendly and absolutely stunning! He loves to be held and to play with toys. He's looking for a home where he can be the star of the show (only pet). He's easy to handle for grooming and medication. He needs medication for a heart condition twice a day. The vet thinks he may be able to come off them in the future.



If you're interested in meeting Snuggles, please fill out an application at [www.abandoneddogsofri.com](http://www.abandoneddogsofri.com)



## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Tim Jones  
Cartoonist







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Michael Woodward

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You can find us online at <a href="http://osbc.org">osbc.org</a> or on Facebook.	Tuesday Worship & Word 8:00 PM
 OceanStateBaptistChurch	Wednesday Word 12:00PM
	Prophecy Watch Thursdays 7:30 PM



# Town of Smithfield Collection Schedule 2020-2021



Bulk Collection

Metal & Appliance Collection

Holiday

Lawn & Leaf Collection Weeks

Special Events

Christmas Tree Collection Weeks

## July '20

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## August '20

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## September '20

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### Holiday Schedule:

When an observed holiday falls on a normal collection day, collections will be delayed by one day for remainder of the week. The following holidays will result in delayed collections:

Victory Day  
 Labor Day  
 Columbus Day  
 Veteran's Day  
 Thanksgiving Day  
 Christmas Day  
 New Year's Day  
 Martin Luther King Day  
 Presidents Day  
 Memorial Day

## October '20

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## November '20

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## December '20

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### Special Events:

Electronics Recycling, Sensitive Document Shredding, Large Rigid Plastic Recycling & Mattress/ Box Spring Recycling:

To be held at Smithfield DPW from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

July 18<sup>th</sup>  
 November 7<sup>th</sup>  
 March 13<sup>th</sup>

## January '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## February '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## March '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## April '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## May '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## June '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### 2021 Earth Day Clean-Up:

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Call (401) 233-1034 x105 or email: [recycle@smithfieldri.com](mailto:recycle@smithfieldri.com)

For updates and current event information.

To report a missed curbside pick-up please contact **Waste Management (800) 972-4545**.

To schedule Bulk, Metal and Appliance pick-ups please contact **Waste Management (800) 972-4545**. Bulk, Metal and Appliance collection appointments must be called in before 11 a.m. the day before the collection. Pick-ups are scheduled on a first come first service basis.

To review current recycling information please visit the Town's webpage: <http://smithfieldri.com/recycling/>

Compost to reduce your household waste by almost 20%! Bins available for purchase from the DPW & RIRC.

Consider donating gently used household items to those in need. Please visit the Town's webpage to view our Donation Database.

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## RECYCLING TIPS

**Plastic Rule:** Any plastic container up to 5 gallons in size can be placed in your recycle cart. Please empty and rinse. Place plastic caps and covers back on the item they came from.

**Glass Rule:** Bottles and jars only. Empty and rinse. Separate metal lids from glass jars.

**Metal Rule:** Cans, foil and lids. Empty and rinse. Bunch up foil. Do not flatten cans.

**Paper and Cardboard Rule:** Paper and cardboard (flattened) and cartons. There is a cardboard only dumpster for large pieces of cardboard, at the Smithfield DPW, available from 7:30-3:00 M-F.

- Please do not place plastic bags in your recycle bin. No plastic bags, bags of bags or recycling inside of bags.
- Plastic shopping bags should be brought to a ReStore Container, available at most markets.
- Clothing and shoes should not be placed in the recycling cart. Please deposit clean clothing in one of the clothing donation boxes around town. They will even accept ripped or stained clothing, as long as it has been washed.
- Large rigid plastic items (lawn furniture, toys, etc.), electronics, tires, mattresses and box springs are recycled during town sponsored drop-off events, see calendar for dates.

## Special collection by Appointment ONLY

<https://www.smithfieldri.com/recycling/whitegoods-electronics-recycling/> or call 401-233-1034 X105

This is a list of common items under the categories to select for collection:

### Metals & Appliance (RECYCLE)

hot water heater  
air conditioner  
refrigerator  
weed whacker  
metal tools/electronic tools  
treadmill  
bikes  
metal swing sets  
microwaves  
metal patio umbrella (remove fabric)  
metal file cabinets  
metal desks  
metal shelf  
dehumidifier  
washing machine  
clothes dryer  
dish washer  
gas grill (no propane tank)  
stove  
metal fire pit  
metal furniture (remove fabric)

### BULK ITEM (TRASH)

vacuum cleaner  
wooden furniture  
upholstered furniture  
hot tub cover  
vertical blinds  
strollers  
pool floats  
toddler and crib mattresses  
futon mattresses  
carpet (cut, rolled, tied in 3 ft. sections)  
pool liner and cover

**Please do not place plastic bags in recycling carts.** No plastic bags, bags of bags, or recycling in bags.



**IMPORTANT**



Photo Credit: Sandra Achille





# Payne's Picks | By Sarah Payne

## January 2021

### TV Releases

#### ***Cobra Kai* (Season 3) – January 8**

As I write this month's column, Rhode Island is in the midst of a two-week "pause" in an effort to curb another COVID-19 surge. It's another major setback for movie theaters, which have struggled since the beginning of the pandemic. Although the end seems to be in sight, more and more movies are moving to direct release through various streaming services. That's why I've chosen to preview original content from Netflix this month as opposed to traditional theatrical releases.

The third season of *Cobra Kai*, which originally launched on Youtube Red and moved to Netflix last year, premieres early this month. Based on *The Karate Kid* franchise, *Cobra Kai* takes itself less seriously than the movies (although there's plenty of karate rivalries and fighting sequences, if that's your cup of tea). There are fun callbacks to 1980s fashion and music and William Zabka, who plays Johnny Lawrence, is by far the show's best actor and saving grace.



### TV Review

#### ***The Royal House of Windsor* (Netflix)**

With the recent release of season four of *The Crown*, there's been a resurgence of interest in the British royal family. I've been particularly interested in the history surrounding the royals (as opposed to the dramatization played out on *The Crown*). If you're also a history nerd, I highly recommend the six-episode miniseries *The Royal House of Windsor*. Drawing on recently released evidence and letters, the series explores the various evolutions of the British royal family, beginning in the early twentieth century when King George V adopted the name of Windsor to downplay his family's German roots. As someone without much knowledge of recent British history, I found the miniseries to be a fascinating view into Queen Elizabeth's heritage and upbringing.

### Movie Reviews

#### ***Diana: In Her Own Words* (Netflix)**

Another interesting documentary focused on the British royals, this film features tapes recorded by Diana, Princess of Wales, discussing her marriage and personal struggles. I was particularly struck by her candor in these interviews, set against the backdrop of public footage from her engagement through her divorce. I'm old enough to remember watching footage of her funeral in 1997, but I didn't know much about her

relationship with Prince Charles or the royal family until I watched this film. It offers an intimate and sympathetic perspective on someone thrust into the public eye – and public scrutiny – at a very young age.

#### ***Hillbilly Elegy* (Netflix)**

J.D. Vance's best-selling 2016 memoir about growing up in Middletown, Ohio was recently adapted into a film directed by Ron Howard and starring Glenn Close and Amy Adams. Vance's book is a fairly quick read, and he balances personal anecdotes with broader political and socio-economic context and commentary to explain how hillbilly culture came to be what it is today. The film, however, barely touches on politics, which I found to be a relief after the intensity of last fall's political season. Instead, *Hillbilly Elegy* focuses on the personal story of how Vance pulled himself out of poverty to become the first in his family to graduate college and law school. Adams plays Vance's abusive, drug addict mother and Close plays his hillbilly grandmother, who raises him and gets him on the right track in high school. I found some of the scenes featuring domestic violence to be a bit hard to watch, but that also is a testament to the incredible acting chops of Adams and Close, who I've never seen in roles such as these before. Haley Bennett, who plays Vance's sister, is also almost unrecognizable (you may remember her as the love interest in *The Girl on the Train*).

# Recipe Swap!

## Crabbies

One 8 oz. can of white crabmeat  
Old English Cheese spread. (in refrigerated section)  
2-3 tablespoons butter  
1 tsp crushed garlic (fresh)  
½ tsp black pepper  
Dash onion powder  
1 package of Thomas' English Muffins

Combine Old English Cheese spread with butter and soften slightly in microwave

Drain Crabmeat and squeeze out excess water, fluff with fork, and stir in butter/cheese mixture

Add crushed garlic, pepper and onion powder

Split English muffins in half

Spread mixture on muffins and pop in refrigerator for 10 minutes. (this makes it easier to cut)

Cut in quarters

Broil until bubbly and crisp

(These can be frozen and served as a quick appetizer!)



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## Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 30.

P	R	O	P		P	A	R	I	S		K	E	E	L
A	U	R	A		A	R	E	N	T		A	X	L	E
D	E	E	R		C	A	N	O	E		N	I	L	E
				T	H	E	N	O	R	T	H	S	T	A
S	S	A		A	O	K				S	E	A		
I	T	S	E	L	F		O	C	O	N	N	O	R	S
E	A	S	T	O	F	E	D	E	N			R	E	P
S	L	E	D	S		R	E	N		R	I	A	T	A
T	I	N			S	O	U	T	H	E	R	N	E	R
A	N	T	E	R	O	O	M		O	M	E	G	A	S
			L	E	O			S	M	U		E	R	E
M	A	N	O	F	T	H	E	W	E	S	T			
A	T	O	P			H	O	V	E	R		A	B	L
M	O	P	E			E	L	I	D	E		C	R	A
A	M	E	S			D	E	L	E	D		K	A	Y

# Obituaries



**Paula Blackmore**

11/14/20

[www.robbsfuneralhome.com](http://www.robbsfuneralhome.com)



**Patrick Joyce**

11/20/20

[www.robbsfuneralhome.com](http://www.robbsfuneralhome.com)



**Beverly Hanson**

11/28/20

[www.robbsfuneralhome.com](http://www.robbsfuneralhome.com)



**Albert "Al" Francis Bruno**

11/30/20

[www.andersonwinfield.net](http://www.andersonwinfield.net)



**Jennie R. "Gigi" Palange**

12/2/20

[robertsmitchellcaruso.com](http://robertsmitchellcaruso.com)



**Vincent A. Mattera**

12/5/20

[www.andersonwinfield.net](http://www.andersonwinfield.net)



**Patricia C. Mende**

12/14/2020

[www.thequinnfuneralhome.com](http://www.thequinnfuneralhome.com)



Photo Credit: Sandra Achille

# The Smithfield Times



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