

COMPLIMENTARY

JUNE 2021

The Smithfield Times



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Cameron VanNostrand, age 4, from Smithfield, visits his friends at Blackbird Farm.

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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.

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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In Our **Community**



Charlie Boyd, Councilman David Tikoian, Bruce Beaumier, Melissa Devine, Brian Devine, Nicole Beaumier Jules, Becky and Tom Winfield and their dog, Nicky all met for coffee at Fast Freddie's on Saturday, May 15 prior to them closing for renovations.



Ryan VanNostrand, age 2, from Smithfield, also likes to visit his friends at Blackbird Farm.



The Eagle Court of Honor was held on May 8, 2021. The Eagle Scouts pictured here include: Desmon Dagraca, Zachary Isble, Alexander Brenner, Garrett Marcoux, Reece Geller, Anthony Girard, Joshua Keene, Michael Gemma



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Canoeing

By James Gass

Now that summer is here, my attention turns to canoeing. There's nothing more relaxing in my mind than floating down a quiet, wooded river in one of these elegant crafts. Worry and stress just seem to flow from my body into the water, ending up downstream somewhere far, far away.

My earliest experience with canoeing was with my father when I was a young boy. We used to go to a place called The Great Swamp in Somers, NY. It was a vast flooded forest that you could paddle all day in, and if you weren't careful also get lost in, because it all looked the same. I can remember gliding along in our mahogany-ribbed Mansfield canoe on hot July mornings as gigantic, shimmering carp rose lazily to the surface then quietly disappeared into the murky depths as we passed.

When I was twelve years old, I took a canoe trip down the Allagash Waterway in Maine with an outfit called Camp Wanderlust. The day before we were to shoot Chase's Carry, a long roiling stretch of Class 4 rapids, my counselor took an indelible magic marker and wrote "L" on my left hand and "R" on my right. I was insulted. Although it was my first shot at rapids, I at least knew my left from my right. Or so I thought. Once on that savage stretch of whitewater with huge boulders quickly approaching and frantic calls from the stern to "bow left" or "bow right," you better believe I checked my hand more than once to see which was which. Everyone made it down OK, no small feat considering the boats were 18-foot Old Town wood and canvas canoes fully loaded with gear.

Canoes have been in New England for centuries, but not always as pleasure crafts. At one time they were a necessity. Native Americans and fur trappers plied the "path of the paddle" to reach far-

flung hunting grounds and trading posts in the north country, since dense forests of the region made overland travel too difficult. These crafts were native in design, with planking and ribs made from white cedar and an outer skin of birch bark. These "bark canoes" were strong enough to carry loads of men, equipment and furs, but were light enough to be carried (or portaged) between water bodies, sometimes over several miles. Practical yet pleasing to the eye, John Burroughs quipped that they were "one of the fairest flowers the thorny plant of necessity ever bore." Trappers eventually switched to the factory-made wood and canvas canoes.

Most northern tribes had craftsmen that built these vessels, but those made by the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy and Malecite peoples of Maine and New Brunswick are generally considered the finest expression of the canoe maker's art, their designs having been refined for over centuries. Sadly, few of these original bark canoes survive, but there are still a handful of craftsmen including Bill Novacek of Coos Canoe and Snowshoe in Lancaster, NH keeping the traditional native construction method alive.

In contrast to their northern neighbors, the native people of southern New England hewed their canoes from a single log, usually white pine or chestnut. A tree was felled and roughly fashioned with a stone axe, then hollowed out by repeatedly burning the wood with hot coals while scraping it smooth with an oyster or clam shell. These "dugout" canoes were used for fishing and collecting game, and could be as long as 30, 40, even 50 feet. In 1965, a large dugout canoe made from a single piece of white pine was



Wood and Canvas Old Town Canoe.
Photo by Caoilinn Gass

exhumed from the bottom of Great Pond in Weymouth, MA. It was over 500 years old and still in good shape. It's currently on display in the Weymouth town museum at the Tufts Library.

Today, wood and canvas canoes are the true heirs to the birch bark legacy. Depending on which book you read, they were either an American or Canadian innovation, but it was E.H. Gerrish of Bangor, Maine who in the 1870's was the first to commercially produce these boats based on the old Penobscot design. Later, they were mass produced by companies such as Old Town Canoe and the Chestnut Canoe Company. Construction-wise, bark canoes are built on the ground from the outside-in, wood-canvas boats are built from the inside-out on a "form."

Except for the outer covering and some metal, wood and canvas canoes are very similar to their Algonquin predecessors. Both have white cedar planking and ribs with an independent water-proof skin. Both have superior handling characteristics (especially in rough water) and lines that are pleasing to the eye. And like a bark canoe, a wood-canvas boat will last several lifetimes, the covering, ribs and planking all being easily replaced if damaged. That's how good the original native design was.

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Fireworks return to Deerfield Park on July 2

By Ron Scopelliti

For Smithfield residents, the light at the end of the COVID tunnel may be brightest above Deerfield Park on Friday, July 2, when Smithfield brings back its annual Fourth of July fireworks display, after missing a year due to the pandemic. Though the display will return to the park, after taking place at Bryant University for several years, it will still be sponsored by Bryant in conjunction with the town.

“We’re going to kick it off at 4 o’clock with a wide array of food trucks,” Town Manager Randy Rossi said. While the U.S. Navy Band was scheduled to headline last year’s event, this year’s show will feature a band that’s based closer to home, and holds a close connection to many Smithfield residents – Steve Smith and the Naked. There will also be a DJ playing music when the band isn’t performing.

“So we’re going to have non-stop entertainment from 4:00, right into the liftoff of the fireworks,” Rossi said.

He pointed out a number of collaborations that have made the event possible.

“We always partner directly with the Smithfield All Lit Up Parade Committee who help make all of these events happen,” he said. “They’re the ones who are pulling together the food trucks, and the entertainment and everything. It’s all these fantastic volunteers who team up with our staff to make these events possible.”

He credited town Fire Marshal John O’Rourke and Fire Chief Robert Seltzer, as well as the town’s Police Department and Emergency Management Agency (EMA) for helping the town comply with changes in the fire code that have taken place since the last time the event was held at Deerfield Park. He also noted that the event will be in compliance with the latest state standards.

“I’m going to run everything by the Department of Business Regulation and DEM who are making the rules,” Rossi said. “They’re allowing everything to open up for large events, but we’re going to make sure if there’s any certain guidelines that are in effect at that point, we’ll enforce them. But it’s our hope that we’ll be able to run the event at full capacity.”

“We are following the Governor’s orders,” he added, “so as it stands, anyone who is fully vaccinated does not need to wear a mask. Anyone else who is not vaccinated, if they can’t maintain necessary distancing, would be required to wear a mask. That could potentially change again by the time we get to July 2nd.”

For those who aren’t yet vaccinated, the event will have a unique vaccination option.

“With the help of our Smithfield EMA and our COVID team we’re going to have a pop-up site,” Rossi said. “So anybody that hasn’t gotten vaccinated and wants to get vaccinated that night – we’ll be right there to vaccinate.”

Rossi is advising anybody who can walk to the park, instead of driving, to do so. Because of the small number of parking spaces, a limited number of cars will be allowed into Deerfield Park. Those who come later will be directed to alternate parking areas.

“The less traffic, the better,” he said. “Our Police Department and the whole team are working on a necessary parking plan with our EMA director to make sure we have traffic controlled properly and have the necessary personnel in areas. We’ll have parking again at the high school, the middle school, the ice rink, and places like that.” The area between the high school and the park will be lit up so people can walk in from the side entrance.

“I think it’s a time to get people out of their houses and back together as a community, and enjoy life as we know it,” Rossi said. “So we’re looking forward to a true celebration to see the end of such a troubling time.”



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A Steamboat Called “Rhode Island” – another forgotten tale of New England

By Jim Ignasher

The first successful steamboat was perfected by Robert Fulton in 1807, and by the 1830s commercial steamboats were navigating the waters of Long Island Sound and Narragansett Bay on daily runs from New York to Providence. One of them was the Rhode Island, a “boat” with an interesting story which has all but been forgotten.

The Rhode Island was built in 1836 for the Boston & New York Transportation Company. She was 211 feet long, 28 feet wide, with 170 berths, and was considered large and luxurious for the time. She was also considered fast, powered by a single 350 hp. engine that could take her from New York to Providence in a mere twelve-and-a-half hours. The cost of a one-way ticket was five dollars.

The Rhode Island’s first captain was Seth W. Thayer, an experienced officer from Seekonk, Massachusetts, who’d previously commanded the steamboat Providence.

Shortly after going into service, the Rhode Island gained widespread notoriety due to an onboard gold heist. On the night of September 19, 1836, the Rhode Island left Providence bound for New York with a keg full of gold coins valued at \$39,000 – a huge fortune at the time. The gold belonged to a Boston bank, and had been locked in the captain’s office for safe keeping, but when the boat arrived in New York it was discovered that the keg was empty!

Police speculated that someone had



entered the office by climbing down the side of the boat and crawling through the outboard window. By the time the theft was discovered some passengers had already departed, and a search of the boat found nothing.

Theories ranged from professional criminals to an “inside job”. Two weeks later, most of the gold was recovered by accident when the ship’s chief engineer went to oil the engine and discovered four bags of the missing gold at the bottom of a half-full oil drum. The rest was recovered after suspicion fell to two members of the crew.

The following month the Rhode Island was heading to New York when she collided with the sloop Eliza Nichols. One woman was killed, and two passengers were seriously injured.

It should be noted that in a time before modern navigational aids, collisions between ships on the Sound were fairly common.

In February of 1838 seven workers were severely scalded by a ruptured steam valve as they were cleaning the Rhode Island’s boilers while in port. It was uncertain if they would live.

Later that year, the Rhode Island was involved in a collision with the ship John W. Richmond, but there was no loss of life.

Two years later a passenger’s leg was crushed when he fell into an unguarded portion of the ship’s machinery.

In 1842 a lawsuit was brought against Captain Thayer by millionaire Cornelius Vanderbilt over damage caused to the steamboat Kosciusko during a collision with the Rhode Island on March 3rd. The two boats had been racing at the time, and the jury couldn’t decide who was at fault so the case was dismissed.

In October of 1842 it was reported that a band of professional pick-pockets had relieved several passengers of their valuables. Three “suspicious” looking men were detained and searched, but nothing was found. However, the New York Police were well acquainted with the individuals and their “street names”; “Sheeney”, Jem Rose”, and “Dumpty Diddledum”. The valuables were subsequently recovered.

During a storm in November of 1846 the Rhode Island was driven aground in shallow water off Huntington, Long Island. Heavy seas breaking across her decks made it impossible to launch lifeboats. No lives were lost, but the danger of the ship breaking apart was real.

It was also in 1846 that Captain Thayer left the Rhode Island to command the steamboat, Governor, but a short time

See Steamboat, page 13

later took command of the newly built Oregon. He died in 1848 of typhus.

In September of 1849, with the California Gold Rush gaining momentum, the Rhode Island was purchased by investors who intended to establish service to San Francisco. She began her first westbound voyage on January 25, 1850, but four days later broke apart in rough seas off Bermuda. Of the 44 passengers and crew aboard only 12 were saved.

One unlikely survivor of the sinking was the 200 lb. ship's bell. It was found months later floating at sea by the whaling ship Elizabeth, still attached to a crossbeam which was apparently buoyant enough to keep it afloat. The bell was recovered and brought to Massachusetts. The maker was James Allaire of New York, who confirmed its pedigree. What became of the bell is unknown.


In 1873, the Providence & Stonington Steamship Company christened a new steamship named Rhode Island, but that's a story for another day.

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Ask an Expert

My name is Tom Lopatosky. I'm the President of LOPCO Contracting (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 or call 401-270-2664. Thanks in advance for taking the time to read this column!



Why does my home have SO much mildew on it?

As the weather begins to get nicer and you are able to comfortably be outside more and more often, you will naturally have more of an opportunity to look at the exterior of your home.

Whether you are doing so with the intent of admiration or with the intent of evaluation in terms of noting things that may need to be done, one thing that many notice as they are engaging in such an activity, is the presence of mildew on the exterior of their home.

Mildew is a flat, black, speckly phenomenon that many view as not the most pleasant thing to look at. Sometimes mildew takes years to set in as the mildew resistance of a paint finish wears down. Other times, mildew can appear REALLY soon after a home receives a new finish (within a year!).

This is typically not the case if the exterior of the home was finished with one of today's waterborne/acrylic/latex products that are actually very good in terms of warding off mildew. The challenge more so comes with the oil finishes (particularly stain products) that are on the market today. Oil paints & stains have always been notorious for aiding in the quickening of the pace of formation of mildew.

These days, with the ways that many of the stains in particular have been formulated, it seems that their finishes promote mildew growth at light speed in comparison with any time that I

have seen it before. Sometimes the environment itself is ripe for mildew growth. Perhaps your home (or parts of it) is/are situated in an area that is quite damp and never really thoroughly dries, this could definitely lead to a sped up rate of mildew growth.

Whichever of these cases is the reason why your home seems to have a mildew challenge, all is certainly not lost. Usually washing the surfaces with some type of cleaner can do the trick of removing it, at least for the time being.

When called upon to wash a home, we do so in the form of a soft wash rinsedown process utilizing either an organically-oriented cleaner or a diluted chlorine solution (depending upon what we believe the situation best calls for).

We typically allow the cleaner to do the work and use very low pressure so as not to damage the home's finish or the surfaces it is on top of.

Mildew is by far not one of the most attractive things to look at. It can be controlled, however, by using as mildew resistant a finish as your home will allow in-line with what you are hoping to achieve cosmetically and overall longevity of your coating; and by washing every now & then as necessary for general maintenance purposes.

If you believe you have a particularly bad mildew challenge or maybe a few questions about mildew in general, please reach out to us as we would be happy to have a conversation with you about it!

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.

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Smithfield Ice Cream Parlors Open for Summer

By Joe Siegel

The summer months in New England are known for many things such as swimming, barbecues, picnics, and ice cream. Smithfield has many places to buy sweet treats.

With vaccinations for Covid up and infections down, businesses are preparing to welcome back their loyal customers.

Powder Mill Creamery at 777 Putnam Pike in Greenville is hoping for a return to normality after the last year. The menu has such diverse offerings as Banana Me Crazy, Bubble Gum, Cake Batter, Coffee Heath Bar, and Cotton Candy.

The shop also sells frozen yogurt in flavors including Banana Chip, Black Raspberry Chip, and Coffee.

“We closed in October to end our 2020 season and reopened the first week in April,” said owners Mark Sacco and Amanda Femino. “We are very optimistic for this year, considering the outpouring of support we had last year during such a trying time. The only issue we have experienced this year so far is the New England weather.”

Sacco and Femino still recognize the pandemic isn’t quite over and are making the proper adjustments.

“We take all precautions needed to keep our staff and customers safe and

healthy,” Sacco added. “We have a large common area by the water with picnic tables that customers are able to sit and enjoy their ice cream outside with a beautiful view and be still be socially distant.”



Wright’s Dairy Farm has already opened their ice cream trailer, The Wright Scoop.

“It is all outdoors, we do not offer any indoor seating,” said Marketing Manager Kelly Lemoine. “We have picnic tables around the farm, we

can pack orders to go or customers can enjoy in their vehicle.”

Customers’ favorites include Coffee Oreo, Vanilla, and Black Raspberry. Lemoine says masks are required while ordering.

“We do expect to be busier this summer with Covid restrictions being lifted,” she added.

Del’s Lemonade on 109 Pleasant View Avenue offers hard and soft ice cream in

traditional flavors such as Maple Walnut, Pistachio, Moose Tracks, and Peanut Butter Cup. More exotic flavors are Amaretto, German Chocolate, Pina Colada, and Tutti Frutti.

Manager Mike Renzi said Del’s is a takeout business only.

Renzi said Covid only had a minor impact on Del’s. The plexiglass on the windows will be taken down.

Another popular ice cream shop is Scoops at 265 Putnam Pike.

“This is our 10th year,” said owner Stephanie Parker. “It’s been pretty consistent each year.”

Some of Scoops’ most popular flavors are Chocolate Peanut Butter, Traditional Cookie Dough, and Rhode Island Coffee.

“I think more people will be out doing things for the summer,” Parker said.

“We had a good year (in 2020) in spite of Covid because they could come to the takeout window. They were masked, I was masked, the window was down, it was a very easy takeout situation so people were very supportive and got us through another year. It’s tough to have a seasonal business.”





End of Year Excitement

by Sophia DeJesus



After a wild and stressful year, the 2021 seniors finally have an end in sight. The seniors this year refused to take “no” for an answer and fought all year long for events such as their fashion show, prom, and graduation. It has been debated whether or not the seniors would be able to have a prom and graduation, but thankfully due to the lightening of COVID restrictions, the class of ‘21 will be having both.

On Saturday, May 8th, the first ever virtual fashion show took place. The class council spent countless hours putting the show together and making sure that the stream would go smoothly. With the help of greenscreens and dedicated seniors, class of ‘21 was able to put together a fantastic fashion show that will definitely be hard to forget. On behalf of my senior class, we would also like to thank everyone who streamed the show and donated to our class.

Currently, senior prom is scheduled for June 4th, at Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown. Of course, this prom will be a bit different than the years prior, but the senior class is excited and so thankful that they will get one last chance to come together with their classmates and celebrate their years spent together. Masks will be required the entire night, and there are multiple COVID guidelines put into place to ensure that the 2021 seniors will be able to have a fun, safe, and COVID free prom.

Seniors final day at Smithfield High School will be on June 9th, and from there they will begin preparations to walk the stage. Graduation will be held at Deerfield Park on Saturday, June 12th. The rain date for graduation will be Sunday, June 13th. Details and guidelines are still being finalized, but it's finally official; class of 2021 will be able to walk the stage!

It's been an interesting four years for the seniors at SHS, but if there's one thing that I've learned from being a part of this class, it's that we never give up even when the odds are against us. Class of 2021 is filled with some of the most dedicated and hardworking people. We may have a reputation of being loud and rambunctious, but that's never stopped us from meeting our goals and getting things done. Thank you to all of our teachers that have pushed us for the last four years to grow and mature, especially our class advisors, Mrs. Pereira and Mrs. Pimental. We love you.

Being the student writer for SHS has been so much fun, and I'm so thankful for the opportunities I've been given. Thank you to everyone involved with *The Smithfield Times* for allowing me to be a part of this magazine, I'll never forget this experience. And to the town of Smithfield: thank you for supporting our class, and thank you for reading.



Senior Center Cautiously Blossoms Back To Life

By Ron Scopelliti

The weather on May 10 may have started out damp and bleak, but on the bocce court of the Smithfield Senior Center there wasn't a trace of gloom to be found. The balls being bowled down the court marked the beginning of the Senior Center's re-opening process, after it spent the better part of 14 months without its regular visitors. Though the doors were not fully opened yet, the center was open to people who were signed up for a limited number of programs.

"We're starting with bocce, book club, yoga, meditation, quilting, and billiards," said Director Karen Armstrong, also noting that the workout room would be open. The center was still unable at that time to restart their high low jack or mahjong programs.

"Just because of the close contact, and touching the cards and tiles and the pieces for cribbage, we can't do that yet," Programs and Activities Director Kate McAdam-Prickett said, "but we're hoping that changes at the end of this month." This change would depend on the latest set of state guidelines, due to be issued at the end of May.

The Senior Center had attempted to re-open last fall, but the attempt was short-lived due to national statistics.

"We opened last September for limited programs," Armstrong said, "then when the uptick in corona virus got too high we had to shut down again in the middle of November."

Although the center was closed to visitors, the staff was far from idle. From January through April, the Senior Center was at the forefront of Smithfield's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. In addition to hosting vaccination clinics, they were an initial point of contact, helping seniors sign up for their vaccines over the phone, sometimes handling 200 to 300 calls a day.

"It was great, because most of the people we spoke to were just so happy to be getting the vaccine," McAdam-Prickett said. "They were stuck in their houses for over a year, and it was heartbreaking, really. It was tough to hear the

stories from some of the people, but we were so glad to be able to help them."

In addition, the staff had to take over Meals on Wheels deliveries for volunteers who could no longer take part because they were in the at-risk age group. They also participated in a grant-funded program where seniors could

See Senior Center, page 19



The Smithfield Senior Center opened its doors on Monday, May 10. Marion Pfeiffer, Gil Pfeiffer, Rep. Bernie Hawkins, Karen Armstrong, Kate McAdam-Prickett, Steve Beaulieu, Doe Corriveau and Dick Corriveau participated in the event with a Bocce Game afterwards.



pick up soup or a hot meal once a week for free. On top of that, they took the opportunity to make upgrades to the facility, including a grant-funded air purification system, as well as new tables and chairs, and touchless faucets for the bathrooms, paid for through another grant.

McAdam-Prickett noted that Fire Chief Robert Seltzer and EMA Director Todd Manni have been instrumental in helping to reopen the Senior Center, guiding the staff through the paperwork that had to be completed and the safety guidelines that need to be followed.

“The two of them have just been fantastic,” she said.

Participants taking part in May’s programs were still required to practice social distancing and follow a set of rules posted on a large bulletin board at the door.

“Everybody that comes in has to look at the board and make sure they don’t have any symptoms,” Armstrong said. “Then they sign in, so we have our list for the day, then they can go to their program.”

In addition to the bulletin board, visitors were greeted with a stand-up “Welcome Back” sign that covered a large portion of the front lawn. The sign was sponsored by State Representative Bernard Hawkins, who also started the first bocce game by throwing out the “jack” (also known as the “boccino”), the small ball that players aim for.

“Our seniors deserve this,” Rep. Hawkins said. “We need to get back to normal. This is the first sign around here that the Senior Center is open for business – welcome back!”

Asked what she missed most about the Senior Center, bocce player Marion Pfeiffer immediately responded: “The people! Oh my God!”

Inside the center, and contemplating whether her bowling experience would translate to bocce, 93-year-old Lillian DeLorio was equally enthusiastic: “What else is there to do?” she said. “I miss coming here because I used to run the bingo.” Also a member of the Smithfield singers, she highlighted a point made by several others: “It keeps my mind busy.”

As the sun began to poke through the morning clouds, Bocce player Dick Corriveau noted the isolation that many have felt during the COVID crisis, and how the reopening of the Senior Center offered a sense of relief. “This way here, at least we get to be with people, and enjoy socializing. It’s good to be outdoors again.”

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Moe's Mower Repair Provides Affordable, Dependable Service Year Round

By Paul Lonardo



As summer begins to rev up, you have to be sure that your small engines are up to the tasks of mowing and trimming, cutting and sawing, which come with the season. If a piece of equipment fails to start or breaks down in the middle of a job, there are limited places you can bring it, and still fewer shops that can do the work in-house. Sending anything out for repair is costly, and you'd be lucky to get your equipment back before the fall. If you live in or around Greenville, however, count yourself lucky to have Moe's Mower Repair, which has been in operation since 2012.

"Moe" is short for Morris, and the owner/proprietor, Morris Merchant, can fix all gas-powered lawn and garden equipment, including chainsaws, pressure-washers, golf carts, not to mention every make and model of lawnmower. Whether it's a major engine repair, carburetor rebuild, tune-up, or just blade sharpening, all the work is done in-house and at affordable pricing. Moe's also offers maintenance services to keep your power equipment running smoothly all year. He buys and sells used equipment, and while he

doesn't sell new mowers, he'll make your old one run like new.

Moe's experience speaks for itself, and his returning customers speak to just how capable and fair his work has been over the past decade. Before opening his shop, he worked at Sears for twenty-two years doing small engine repair. And if you can't get your piece of equipment to the shop, pick-up and delivery service is available at Moe's Mower Repair.

"The big thing for me is customer service," Moe says. "I try to get everything done in a timely fashion, and I do it at a fair price compared to some of the other shops."

Moe stays busy year-round, servicing and repairing snow blowers in the winter months, and even though his skills are most

in demand this time of the year, he puts in extra hours to ensure that customers get their equipment back as quickly as possible. He does most of the work himself, but he will hire help as needed. He has a relationship with Davies Career and Technical High School in Lincoln, which provides him with interns who assist him when needed.

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Health Awareness

by Diane L. Marolla, LICSW

Does your health insurance company care about your mental health?

"We have never seen such an egregious case of delayed access to care."

The American Psychological Association's (APA) assessment of Kaiser Permanente.

If I walked around the state and asked Rhode Islanders who Kaiser Permanente is, most individuals would not know. Kaiser is California's largest health insurer. They operate in 8 states and Washington DC. Why should any Rhode Islander care about Kaiser Permanente? Because they are intentionally denying access to mental health care. Kristy Hutchings recently wrote in Capital & Main, "according to the APA and other observers, Kaiser continues to ignore calls to match the level of its treatment of mental illnesses and substance use disorders with that of its care for physical health conditions – an equation known as mental health parity."

I am seeing certain health insurance companies in RI attempt to deny access to mental health care. I wrote in my April 2021 article, one for-profit health insurance company who provides health insurance to our Medicare and Medicaid population and our commercially insured population is calling clinicians asking why they are providing mental health care. This insurance company has a process of using algorithms to deny payment for mental health care. How do I know this? Because I worked for this company from 2002-2017.

If I look at cost related data, managed healthcare does not work. They continue to push costs to consumers by having high co-pays, high deductibles, authorization protocols, utilization management protocols, and by refusing to pay for services. Health insurance companies care about profits only, and about paying their executives high salaries and fat bonuses.

Thankfully, in Rhode Island we are fortunate to have advocates like John Tassoni Jr. John is well known in RI as he is a former State Senator for the Town of Smithfield. He is a business owner. Currently, John is also the VP of Operations, Community and Government Relations for the Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council. Recently, John and I had a conversation about legislation being proposed this year to mandate insurance companies to cover mental health services and to fairly pay providers.

One piece of legislation this year is specific to telemedicine. Telemedicine is critical in being able to provide mental health and substance abuse care to Rhode Islanders. The legislation will require insurance companies to pay for this service by audio/visual technology or by only audio technology. We have many Rhode Islanders who are not savvy with technology and can only do their visits by phone. The legislation will also ensure that the insurance companies will not pay a provider less money for doing telehealth services.

Other legislation that is being proposed is specific to a rate review process. If passed, this will ensure that health insurance companies are looking at the rates that they are paying providers and increase rates periodically. What most individuals don't know is that there is no process in place for a health insurance company to review what they pay a provider. Healthcare providers in RI know that they get paid the same rate by the rich insurance companies year after year after year without any increase. Truth be told, a health insurance

company does this so that they make more in profits.

Legislation is also being proposed to mandate a 90 day stay for any Rhode Islander who is seeking residential care for a substance use disorder. Insurance companies do not like paying for residential services, particularly for those individuals who have had multiple relapses. Insurance companies label individuals who have repeatedly tried to access inpatient or residential care for a substance use disorder as a "frequent flyer".

During the pandemic and because Rhode Island has increased access to gambling via the internet, there is a surge of gambling addictions among high school and college students. There is no funding to support prevention and education of gambling addiction. With all the money made through legalized gambling, none goes to education or prevention. John stated that the Council is not against legalized gambling, but that they want to make sure there is responsible gambling. John is having parents of high school and college students contact RICPG (RI Council on Problem Gambling) whereby their child has charged thousands of dollars on credit cards for on line gambling.

If you want to know more about this legislation, or if you support this legislation, I encourage you to call or email your state Senator or state Representative. The pandemic is going to have long lasting effects for all of us mentally. It is important that every Rhode Islander, young and old is able to access the treatment they need.

The Deep History of the Pocket

By Paul Lonardo

Most of us grew up wearing jeans of one kind or another, and whether they were bell bottoms, skinny jeans, acid wash, or the kind that come with the tears and rips already in them, they all had pockets to accommodate things like a comb, wallet, cell phone, and other items. The pockets are just as important as the style of the pants itself, and we all may be guilty of taking them for granted. After all, besides accommodating all manner of personal items, where would we stuff our hands during awkward moments?

Pockets have gone through many makeovers over the years. Their standard presence seen today is relatively recent, and its history is rife with class and gender politics.

Pockets first began appearing on waistcoats and trousers about five hundred years ago. Up until then, pockets were separate bags, detached from clothing. These portable pouches were typically tied around the waist or hung from a belt and were used to carry essential items including currency. This practice was not new, as ancient people have long carried leather or cloth pouches to hold valuables. The so-called “Iceman” who lived around 3,300 BCE had a belt with a pouch sewn to it that contained a cache of useful items: a scraper, drill, flint flake, bone awl, and dried tinder fungus. In the middle ages, both men and women lugged around little pouches that were slung from a rope, allowing them to carry essentials around with them.

For 20th century man, the names of the various things carried in these tucked-away pouches were hyphenated with “pocket” to create a moniker that described their small size and portable nature: pocket-handkerchief, pocket-knife, pocket-watch, pocket-

money, pocket-book. While today “pocketbooks” mean lady’s handbags, a man’s pocket-book at this time was a small leather notebook-like case used for carrying papers, diary entries, notes, etc.

As thieves and “cutpurses” became more of a problem in the 17th century, men began to cut slits in their shirts and pants, tucking their pouches inside their clothing for safekeeping. This practice necessitated making the bags flatter, which ultimately led to the next obvious step of attaching the pouches to the clothing itself. Tailors began to sew pocket bags into the seams of men’s breeches, and then into their coats. In the 18th century, pockets were added to vests, and in the 1900s, many kinds of men’s garments began to include a wide range of pockets: inside/outside breast pocket, watch pocket, side/hip pants pocket, ticket pocket, etc.

This was still a time when only half the population wore pants. For women, pockets remained a separate garment tied on between a skirt and petticoat so that they could be removed and worn with multiple outfits. True pockets occasionally appeared as details on country-style dresses and aprons, but most were layered underneath their clothes with built-in slits to provide both concealment and easy access to the pouch without having to throw off yards of material.

For the most part, women continued to carry pouches under their billowing dresses through the late 1800s. These internal, reverse fanny packs proved no match for professional pickpockets, however, so it soon became common for women to carry a small drawstring reticule in their hand instead. Attached pockets made their way into some women’s garments, but they never quite



took off, while pockets continued to be a fixture on men’s tailoring.

Then, in the late 1800s, as the Victorian era was coming to a close, women’s fashions shifted toward slim skirts and tiny waists. Consequently, the pockets became smaller, more ornate, and virtually useless. Women embraced outside pockets in a big way, and very quickly purses and handbags came into vogue. Hence, the modern-day association of bags-and women, pockets-and-men.

It wasn’t until the late 1920’s, when women co-opted menswear styles for themselves, that attached pockets made a comeback in women’s wear. This fashion trend remained somewhat controversial and off-the-radar until 1933, when *Women’s Wear Daily* became the first major publication to address the trend in an article titled, “Will Women Wear Trousers?”

As women increasingly sought their independence over the course of the previous century, part of their rebellion took focus on the pocket, and this included the writing of instruction manuals on how to sew pockets into skirts and other attire.

Today pockets are so common on apparel of all kinds that you don’t even think about it. One thing is for certain, pockets are here to stay, and they are certain to evolve to accommodate our needs. With cell phones continuing to get larger all the time, we may just need a separate pouch just to lug them around.

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The Nature of Things

A Tale of Two Turtles

by James Gass



As I was taking an afternoon hike at one of Massachusetts Audubon's larger wildlife sanctuaries last summer, a pleasant but rather uneventful walk was about to come to an end. Or so I thought.

Rounding a corner on the trail, I noticed a small but colorful object slowly making its way across the forest floor. It was an eastern box turtle, a species that is becoming increasingly rare in southern New England. It offered no resistance as I picked it up, not even withdrawing into its shell. Perhaps it was simply used to being handled by hikers over the years. I took a minute to admire the subtle shades of orange and yellow on its shell, and then placed it deep in the woods. It was one of the few wild box turtles I had ever seen.

Another chance meeting with an even rarer species of turtle happened just the other week. My work crew and I were walking along the Quinapoxet River in Massachusetts, when we noticed a medium-sized turtle in the shallows. At first we thought it was a snapping turtle, but quickly realized it was a wood turtle. We took some pictures and then watched as it slowly swam downstream. The only other time I had ever seen one was in northern Maine and along the Wood River in Rhode Island.

Box and wood turtles are easy to identify if you are lucky enough to find one. Box turtles have a highly domed upper shell (carapace) that looks something like a helmet. The bottom shell (plastron) is hinged at both ends allowing the turtle to close up tightly like a box, hence the name. The color of the carapace is variable, but it is usually dark brown with orange or yellow streaks. Adult wood turtles are generally larger than box turtles, up to 10 inches long. Their carapace is varying shades of brown and is more sculpted than a box turtle's,

having highly ridged plates (scutes) that resemble little pyramids. Unlike a box turtle, a wood turtle's neck and forelimbs are a solid, bright orange.

Box turtles are strictly terrestrial. They prefer open woods, fields or meadows. Young turtles consume a variety of



Eastern Box Turtle



Wood Turtle

items including earthworms, slugs and snails. Adults are mostly vegetarian, blackberries and raspberries are favorites. Their home range is relatively small and they won't move beyond it much except to breed. Having said this, relocating a box turtle can prove fatal, as it may attempt to cross a busy street in an effort to return home. If you see a box turtle (or any turtle) trying to cross the road, always take it off in the direction it was heading or else it will turn back into traffic. Captive box turtles have lived to be 100 years old, wild ones have a shorter lifespan.

Wood turtles were once thought to be entirely terrestrial, but recent research suggests that slow moving rivers and streams with sandy bottoms are equally important (they are excellent swimmers).

They often wander through the woods during summer. In late fall, they burrow into undercut riverbanks to hibernate. They are omnivorous, feeding on grass, moss, berries, fungi, worms, snails, fish or tadpoles, depending on the season. Little is known about their home range. Wood turtles can live up to 40 years old in the wild, over 50 in captivity.

Unfortunately, box and wood turtles are declining in southern New England. In Rhode Island, they are both listed as "Protected" (P) by RIDEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife, which means it is illegal to possess one without a permit. Wood turtles are additionally listed as a species of "Concern" (C), a native species not presently considered to be State Endangered or State Threatened but are listed due to various factors. In Massachusetts, both turtles are listed as "Species of Special Concern" (SC). These are native species which have suffered a decline that could further negatively impact their numbers if allowed to continue unchecked.

If we are not careful, these beautiful and unique creatures may disappear for good. Slow moving and late to reach sexual maturity, they are no match for a busy highway, farm machinery or a bulldozer. Because they are popular as pets, local turtle populations are being decimated or completely destroyed by collectors. It may take centuries for their numbers to recover. We need to be more aware of how our actions affect these and other living things. As author Ted Andrews once said, "As the turtle cannot separate itself from its shell, neither can we separate what we do the earth."

So if you are lucky enough to come across a box or wood turtle slowly making its way through the woods, admire it for a little while, and then put it back in the wild – where it belongs.

50 years Ago – June, 1971

by Jim Ignasher

Airman Paul R. Sherboken of Brayton Road just completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

Navy petty officer 3/c Joseph S. Smith, Jr., of Greenville graduated from radar training school at Great Lakes Naval Air Station.

On June 1st, the St. Philip's Rosary Guild held a dinner at the Club 44 where new officers were elected. Mrs. John Higgins became the new president; Mrs. George Hebert, vice president; Mrs. Peter Almon, treasurer; and Mrs. John DeAngelis, secretary.

Smithfield artist Alexis Krupka of Georgiaville displayed some of his paintings at the Saylesville Library in Lincoln.

On June 13th the Georgiaville Fire Company held a memorial ceremony honoring fallen firefighters.

Smithfield's animal control officer George Kelley was faced with a mystery. He'd found a dog wearing a North Smithfield dog tag that was in the shape of a fire hydrant, and dated 1971. He contacted his North Smithfield counterpart for information about the animal's owner, and was informed that he'd ordered the hydrant shaped tags, which were made at the ACI, but that they never arrived, and instead North Smithfield was now issuing ones shaped like flowers in case the others should be "found" and misused. The dog was taken to the animal shelter for further investigation.

New cars advertised by local auto dealerships included a brand new Chevrolet Monte Carlo, with air conditioning, disc brakes, electric clock, full wheel covers, powered by a 350 V-8 engine for \$3,699, and a Mercury Comet, "the better small car", for \$2,217.

Gift ideas advertised for Father's Day included colognes and after shaves such as English Leather, Old Spice, Brut 33, British Sterling, Black Belt, Jade East, and Tabac Original. One store advertised briar smoking pipes for \$5.

If one went to the Apple Valley Cinema they saw "Promise at

Dawn" a pre WWII drama starring Melina Mercourt, or the dark comedy, "Little Murders", starring Elliot Gould, and Marcia Rodd, set in a crime-ridden New York City neighborhood in the late 1960s. There was also "Little Big Man" a western starring Dustin Hoffman, who played an elderly man recounting the fanciful days of his youth.

On June 16th a large barn on the farm of Seth Steere (located on Steere Road in Greenville) was lost to fire. It was said the glow of the flames could be seen for miles.

On June 18th a group of local citizens established a community theatre group known as the Apple Valley Players. The following officers were elected at an installation dinner: Nancy St. Pierre, president; William Johnson, vice president; Donna Nicholson, treasurer; and Grace Gebhart, secretary. Plans were announced for their first production to be performed at Waterman's Beach Club on July 23-24th. It was to be the first time summer theatre was to be performed in this area.

The Apple Valley Junior Women's Club elected new officers. Mrs. William Stamp was elected president; Mrs. Jerome Butterfield, vice president; Mrs. Anthony Simeone, treasurer; Mrs. Lloyd Thomas, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Paul Levesque, recording secretary.

The Smithfield Elks Lodge inducted forty-six new members which was the largest induction in the history of the lodge.

In Smithfield Little League news, the Greenville Hardware Nine defeated the Christiansen's Dairy team of North Providence 6 to 5.

From June 29th to July 4th the Smithfield Jaycees held a carnival at Waterman's Lake in an area now occupied by housing.

Entertainment included rides, karate demonstrations, trained dog acts, a pig chasing contest, an egg throwing contest, a watermelon eating contest, and nine parachute jumps from airplanes in which the skydivers landed in the lake, and of course, fireworks.

A "deluxe stereo system" and two bicycles were raffled.





Payne's Picks

June 2021

By Sarah Payne



Movie Releases

The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It – June 4

With the vaccine roll out well underway and summer quickly approaching, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Unfortunately, that light didn't come soon enough for movie theaters that had to permanently close this year at Warwick Mall and in South Kingstown. And the movie drought that began last year persists – hence the only movie that looks somewhat interesting this month is the third installment of *The Conjuring* horror series. Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga are back playing paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren. This film is based on the real-life murder trial of Arne Cheyenne Johnson in 1981 in Connecticut – and that's what makes it the “darkest” film yest, according to director Michael Chaves. He told Collider: “The first *Conjuring* was so great that the franchise has been going back to that classic haunted house format. With this, even though the first 11 minutes feel very haunted house, it's almost the goodbye letter to the haunted house. What comes afterwards is what happens after that. It's the fallout of what happens when it goes wrong. So, one of the big ideas with this was, let's shake up the franchise a little bit.”

Movie Review

Together Together

What happens when a single man over forty decides he wants to have a baby via surrogate? That's the basic premise of *Together Together*, a quirky and sweet, but ultimately frustrating, film starring Ed Helms and Patti Harrison as Matt and Anna. Matt's desperate, last-ditch effort to have a family without a significant other will nearly break your heart. There's a scene where Matt brings champagne to his brother's house to share the news he's having a baby via surrogate. His brother and sister-in-law are completely engrossed in attending to their small children before they give a half-hearted toast and congratulations. Matt is late – way late – to the party. He develops an unlikely friendship with Anna, his 25-year-old surrogate, which becomes the crux of the film. The question of what happens when the baby arrives is always lingering just under the surface. It leads to uncomfortable moments at Matt's baby shower, which he invites Anna to, and at the lamaze class where they talk about Matt doing skin-to-skin with the baby instead of Anna. The ending of *Together Together* is frustrating because the viewer is left without closure. Does Anna stay in the child's life? Do Matt and Anna develop a relationship? We'll never know, and that's a big miss.

TV Review

Mare of Easttown (HBO Max)

If you're a mystery fan, I recommend *Mare of Easttown*, starring Kate Winslet. She plays a small-town Pennsylvania detective investigating the murder of a teenage girl. As of this writing, four of the seven episodes have aired, with each episode teasing a different suspect. I'll admit that seeing Kate Winslet act crass and disheveled was completely disorienting at first. She has such an iconic, elegant presence that the role didn't seem like a fit. But once I got past her small-town schtick, the show hooked me in.

ZeroZeroZero (Prime)

I saved my absolute favorite review for last. *ZeroZeroZero* is an Italian crime drama based on a book by the same name by Roberto Saviano. It centers around a high-stakes cocaine business involving an American broker and Mexican and Italian organized crime. I love everything about this show – the characters, the music, the cinematography. I especially love the play with time and perspective. In nearly every episode you see a scene play out from one character's perspective and then later witness that same time period from the shoes of a different character. Apparently the series ends on a cliffhanger, but there's no news yet of another season.

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Stargazing

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

Sunrise Partial Solar Eclipse

Who can forget the amazing partial solar eclipse spectacle seen locally on August 21, 2017, as part of the Great American Total Solar Eclipse experience across the United States? Here in Rhode Island 65% of the solar disk was covered by the Moon during maximum. My wife Tina and I had travelled to Adams, Tennessee, and witnessed totality for two minutes and thirty-six seconds. You can read about our entire experience by clicking on this website: **The Journey to Totality** (theskyscrapers.org).

This year on June 10 there will be an annual solar eclipse that will be seen along a path in Canada, Greenland and Siberia (<https://skyandtelescope.org/wp-content/uploads/Annular-solar-eclipse-path-June-10-2021.jpg>). Briefly described,

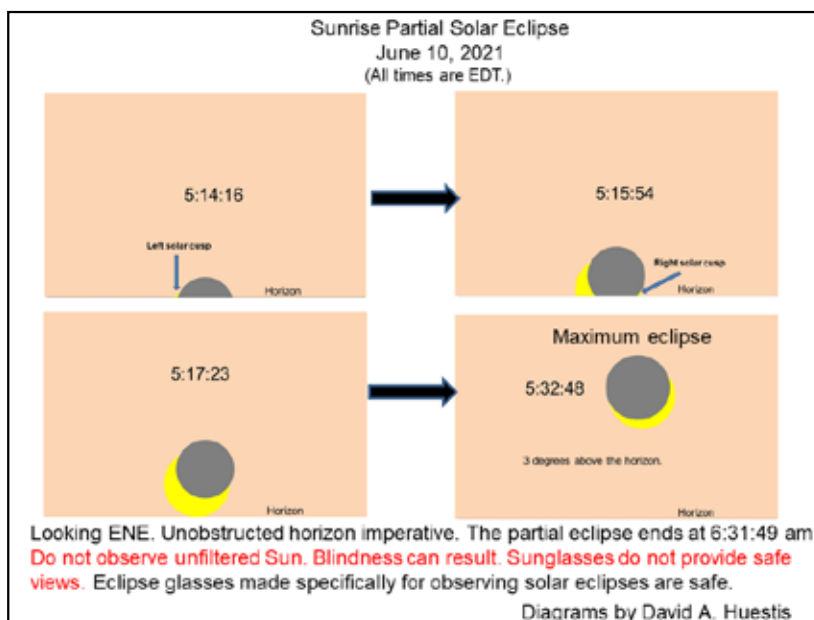
an annular eclipse occurs when the Earth, Moon and Sun are in alignment, but the Moon's elliptical orbit has caused it to be a little farther from the Earth so that it doesn't completely obscure the Sun. We then see a ring (annulus) of the Sun's photosphere and chromosphere surrounding the Moon. As with a total eclipse, observers outside the path will only see a partial eclipse.

For this event you will only see the Moon where it obscures the solar disk. If you could see the Moon's limb (edge), it breaks the horizon at 5:13:05. The first cusp of the bright solar disk rises (the left hand portion) around 5:14:16. Then the bright cusp of sunlight on the right hand side will rise above the horizon at 5:15:54. An observer will only see the portion of the Moon that encroaches upon the Sun

and sweeps across it. The solar disk will completely clear the horizon at 5:17:23. At that time 53% of the solar surface will already be covered by the Moon. As the Sun and Moon continue to rise, more and more of the solar disk will be covered by the Moon. Mid or maximum eclipse

For the 2017 partial solar eclipse, as long as you had solar eclipse glasses or specially filtered telescopes, the eclipse was easy to observe because it was high in the sky. However, there will be a few challenges for observing this event locally. First, you'll require an unobstructed view

of the east-northeast horizon. Second, and most importantly, please be very cautious. I know we all watch sunrises and sunsets through the Earth's dense atmosphere just above our local horizon, but do not be tempted to stare at the partial eclipse for any length of time. Despite a large portion of the Sun being covered by the Moon, harmful visible and invisible radiation will cause irreparable eye damage. Refrain from monitoring this event without proper



occurs at 5:32:48 when 72% of the solar surface will be obscured. The maximum obscuration occurs with the Sun and Moon just over three degrees above the horizon. After that time the Moon will begin to uncover the Sun and the eclipse will end at 6:31:49. At that time the pair will be 13 degrees high. From start to finish for us in Rhode Island the duration of this eclipse will be approximately one hour and 17 minutes.

See the accompanying diagram for how the eclipse will appear at specific times. Also, check out the following website for an animation of how this partial solar eclipse will look from start to finish in the Providence area: <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/usa/providence?iso=20210610>.

filters or alternative observing methods.

Sunglasses will not provide adequate protection from the Sun's harmful rays. Number 14 welder's glass is safe to use. DO NOT use exposed film, if you are old enough to know what it is, of any kind. This method is not safe. In past columns on observing solar eclipses I have instructed folks on how to build a solar eclipse viewer using a shoe box. I'm not sure this observing method will efficiently work for this eclipse. With the Sun so low, the resulting image may not be bright enough to project a reasonable image.

Only if you are an experienced solar observer should you attempt to observe this partial eclipse with a properly filtered telescope or by using the solar projection

See Stargazing, page 31

method. If you have never observed the Sun before this event, don't start now! Don't risk your eyesight due to an oversight or an outright mistake. Even if you have one of those department store refractors that often come with small glass or plastic filters, do not be tempted to use them. They have been known to shatter when exposed to the Sun's concentrated image.

By far the simplest observing method will be to use those solar eclipse glasses. So if you haven't heeded my earlier advice in prior columns to locate yours from August 2017, you still have some time to do so. Keep your eyes to the skies, but please remember to keep them protected if you intend on viewing the partial solar eclipse of June 10.

And lastly, after four plus decades of enlightening southern New Englanders

about astronomical events, this is my final column. There have been many news editors and meteorologists who have facilitated my mission to encourage folks to look to the skies. I would like to publicly thank them all, but I fear I would inadvertently forget to include an important name or two. By including my entire column or elements thereof as part of their news outlet duties, they have all contributed to the education of many of our fellow citizens.

However, there are two individuals who deserve recognition for helping to improve my columns. First up is Jim Hendrickson. Jim is Skyscrapers' newsletter editor and web master. Over several decades Jim has provided countless star maps and other graphics to accompany my columns. The old adage, "a picture is worth a thousand words," should be doubled when referring to Jim's contributions. Thanks Jim.

And last, but certainly not least, a big thank you to my wife Tina. She has been my editor for 30 plus years. Her corrections and suggestions have earned her the nickname "Red Pen" Tina. Tina's recommendations have always improved the finished product. Only a couple of times did some grammatical error get by both of us. And seldom have I seen an editor make any significant changes to my columns prior to going to print.

Thank you readers. I trust that over the years you found the time to watch a meteor shower, observe a lunar eclipse, or simply just gaze at the heavens and contemplate our place in our vast universe.

Please consider visiting the local observatories once their Covid-19 protocols have been lifted.

Be well. Dave Huestis



Potato Salad

Recipe submitted by: Laurie Dio of Smithfield

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. potatoes (5 to 6 medium), peeled and cut into 3/4-inch chunks
- 1 cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. vinegar
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 cup thinly sliced celery
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 hard-cooked eggs, chopped (optional)

Cover potatoes with water in 4-quart saucepan; bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 10 minutes. Drain and cool slightly.

Combine Hellmann's® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise, vinegar, salt, sugar and pepper in large bowl. Add potatoes and remaining ingredients and toss gently. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Sprinkle with paprika

Tip: Make sure to toss potatoes with the dressing while they are still warm. That way they really soak up the flavor!

Also terrific with Hellmann's® or Best Foods® Mayonnaise Dressing with Olive Oil.



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Tails & Tales 2021 Summer Reading Program

Join us this summer for our Tails & Tales Summer Reading Programs for kids, teens, and adults! Visit the Greenville Public Library website (greenvillelibraryri.org) for more details on how you can participate. Plus, check out our online event calendar or sign-up for our email newsletter so you won't miss out on any cool activities this summer!

Virtual Book Chat

Thursdays, June 3 & 17 at 6:00 pm

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. Please register online on our event calendar at greenvillelibraryri.org or by calling 401-949-3630. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Home Sweet Home Book Club

Monday, June 28 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 to get started. Copies of the book will also be available in the library for checkout. For our current book, and to register, please visit our event calendar at greenvillelibraryri.org or by calling 401-949-3630.

Greenville Public Library Online Art Gallery

Are you an artist or maker looking for an accessible place to show your work and meet other creators? Submit to our Virtual Art Gallery and your work will be displayed through the Library's digital channels (website, Social Media, etc.) on an online exhibition platform. Any medium will be accepted as long as it can be exhibited virtually (with documentation, scans, images, video links, etc.) The virtual exhibition will be on view with an ongoing, rolling submission. Questions? Contact Ali at greenvillepubliclibrary@yahoo.com or 401-949-3630 for more information. Submit at bit.ly/GVLArt!



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A sincere debt of
gratitude to our nation's
Military personnel and
First Responders who have given the
ultimate sacrifice for our Freedom,
Health and Safety.

God Bless America, Rhode Island and
the Town of Smithfield!



Councilman David P. Tikoian



Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

The Glitter That Is Not Gold –

Before we give Walt Disney full credit for the current glut of newly minted princesses gracing our families, we might reflect (no pun intended) on the why glitter has been enhancing our clothes, bodies, art work and accessories for thousands of years. Out of persistent boredom, a need to enhance our environment, or wear something moderately frivolous for those zoom meetings, glitter seems to have reemerged as a new fashion trend, and not in just the toy and costume market.

Centuries of fashion history reveal an ongoing use of glass and synthetic materials on clothes and decoration to attract attention, demonstrate wealth, and bring light to homes before gas and electricity. Social mores of late 18th century England required that individuals were “not suppose to reveal anything of their inner feelings” leading to formal men’s wear encrusted with glass paste jewel embroidery, essentially turning themselves into mirrors. France, as often is the case, was setting the trend by promoting shiny buckles, big buttons, embellished sword hilts and high hair styles, all accented to reflect the light of candles.

France was also setting the architectural model for reflecting light in home décor. The hall of mirrors at the Palace of Versailles inspired many of the nobility to panel their rooms with colored glass, often embedded with copper flakes.

The pivotal moment for glitter ironically occurred during the Depression when a young machinist from New Jersey came up with a way of grinding up plastic that caught the light. However, glitter as we now know it took a while to place us in its grip, coming into full fashion beginning in the 1970s. There are records dating to World War II that suggest glitter had uses other than decoration. A 1942 article in the New York

Times advises applying mica to evergreens displayed in the windows for Christmas as candles had been banned for use after sunset by the US Army. There are also reports that the Allies considered exploding glitter bombs to interfere with German radar.

Although this strategy never became a reality, the concept of glitter bombing surfaced again in 2015. This time however, it was not a war strategy, but rather a service offered by ShipYourEnemiesGlitter website, that would send a glitter bomb disguised as a gift, to be opened by unsuspecting targets who would spend the next month trying to remove glitter from their carpets. In fact, in 2011 Newt Gingrich, then a presidential candidate, was the first prominent target of a glitter bomb. The business was so successful, the entrepreneur was forced to sell after just a few short months because he couldn’t keep up with the demand!

Rock stars like David Bowie turned glitter into a fashion statement for entertainers in the 1970s, and adoring concert going fans often applied Vaseline to adhere glitter to their faces and arms. In the 1980s Clairol helped the fans along by creating a glitter hair mousse so that followers of bands such as the Motley Crue could imitate their favorite idols.

The decade of the nineties witnessed the glitter make-up craze, as cosmetic manufactures all added glitter to eyeshadows, fingernail polish, face powder and lipsticks, likely influenced by stars such as Lady Gaga. While the Disney princess craze was still a decade removed, toy companies began producing items such as a sparkle filled wands and glitter pens, hooking another generation on glitz. Mariah Carey’s movie Glitter was essentially a 2001 flop, but glitter has dominated the toy, costume and fashion

market for the past two decades. Christian Dior, for example, in his fashion show of 2007 entitled Circus, used glitter to encrust the eyes and faces of his runway models.

Glitter today is not limited to Disney’s princesses and toys such as Little Pony, but been adding bling to phone cases, enhancing shoes, and even being “swirled into margaritas” all in our continuing hunt for a bit of affordable opulence and celebration, certainly enhanced by the events of the past year.

Glittering facts:

- Silver is the most popular color of glitter; red is the most difficult to produce.
- Glitterex, a company in New Jersey, founded in 1963, is the largest producer of glitter in the world, with 10,000 varieties available. A ten-pound bag sells for \$1,000.
- The best way to get glitter off your skin is to use adhesive tape.
- In case you need to buy something for your granddaughters, Etsy has almost 35,000 Disney glitter items for sale under \$10.
- While the phrase “all that glitters is not gold” can be found in literature dating to the 12th century, the aphorism is largely attributed to William Shakespeare’s “all that glisters is not gold.”
- The plastic variety of glitter can take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade and plays havoc on the environment, often ending up in rivers, streams and oceans to be ingested by unsuspecting wildlife and fish. Eco friendly glitter is available produced from vegetables, seaweed and biodegradable materials.
- A 21st century glitter story: An 11-year-old recently used a 3-D printer to create a prosthetic arm that can also be used as a glitter bomb.

THIS IS EMS

Caring for Our Communities

Over the last year, the pandemic has given people a small glimpse of the vital role of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals. The sacrifice and dedication of EMTs, EMT-Cardiacs, paramedics and other EMS practitioners has rightfully earned them admiration and gratitude in their communities.

Calling us heroes sometimes obscures the fact that - behind those masks - are people who, every day, take on many crucial roles: Healthcare professional. Emergency manager. Social worker. Crisis counselor. Consoler. Caregiver.

This year, for National EMS Week, which was held in May, the many roles of EMS professionals and the people behind the scenes who support them was honored throughout the United States. The slogan for this year was THIS IS EMS - Caring for Our Communities. The slogan was selected to share our story with the rest of the world, to make sure people understand that EMS isn't defined by lights and sirens or ambulance rides. The full portrait of what EMS does and who we are is much more complex, diverse and nuanced.

It's the paramedic who makes sure someone will feed an elderly patient's cat when she's at the hospital.

It's the department that steps up to run testing and vaccination clinics when no one else can.

It's the EMT who holds a child's hand on the way to the hospital to make sure he isn't scared.

It's the crew that spends an hour fighting for a cardiac arrest victim's life at the end of long, sleepless night.

It's the emergency medical professionals who care for our communities, day in and day out.
THIS IS EMS.

The Tale Of Ephriam Gray

By Thomas D'Agostino – www.tomdagostino.com

Here is a story from our latest book, *Strange New England* by Arcadia Publishing. Enjoy.

The secret of immortality. So many people have attempted to concoct a potion, spell, or some other way to live throughout eternity unscathed by the ravages of time. Impossible you say? Well, one man may have actually cheated the reaper and to this day, lives among the masses unchanged by the passing of the years. That man is Ephriam Gray.



Ephriam lived as a recluse in a large house in the center of Malden, Massachusetts during the early to mid 1800s with his male servant. The hired hand took care of all outside business and chores while Ephriam toiled through the late hours in a makeshift laboratory in his apartment. The neighbors constantly inquired as to the nature of Gray's work and the foul odors that often emanated from the windows of his chambers. The servant slyly dodged the queries with a joke or passing comment of no real meaning.

For years the goings on inside those walls remained a mystery until one morning in 1850 when Gray's manservant showed up at the police station claiming his employer had passed during the night. He went on to explain that Ephriam had, for many years, experimented in attempts to create an elixir that would grant him immortality. Although he had tested his attempts countless times, he expired before he could perfect the formula.

The servant gave explicit instructions for Gray's body to be taken and entombed immediately, as there was no need for embalming or autopsy. The reason for this was the fact the Ephriam had imbibed many of his experiments and was sure that in the least, his corpse would remain forever as it was when he first passed. The explicit instructions were carried out to the letter and Gray's body was quickly committed to a small crypt in the center of the town cemetery. The servant lived in the home for several more years before he too passed away.

The legends and tales of Ephriam's experiments eventually reached the ears of a group of Harvard medical students who became tempted to see if the stories were true, and his body was still preserved. One dark evening in 1870, the throng crept out into the cemetery to the crypt where Ephriam lay in repose. Upon entering the burial chamber, they pried the lid off the coffin and stammered back in awe. The body of Ephriam Gray had not decayed even the slightest in the twenty years it lay in the casket. The students quickly resealed the coffin, returned to Cambridge, and swore among each other never to tell anyone of their discovery, for it was assured they would be expelled from medical school or worse, be charged with the crime of grave robbing.

In 1900, the advent of a new invention, the automobile made it necessary for the roads to be widened and better paved, thus came the need to relocate

See The Tale of Ephriam Gray, page 37



IMHO | by Ron Scopelliti

One leg at a time

As I write this column, it's about 14 months into the COVID crisis. So far I haven't caught the virus, and by the time this article comes out I'll be fully vaccinated, so I don't have all that much to complain about. But that won't stop me from taking this opportunity to air one gripe: I'm really tired of hearing people joke about attending Zoom meetings without pants. It was funny the first couple of times people made the observation, but come on – it's been 14 months! Can't we come up as something new?

I don't want to sound all uptight, but I don't really go around looking for excuses to not wear pants. If I'm not wearing pants, it's for certain particular activities which, to crib a phrase from James Fennimore Cooper, are better imagined than described. So I don't really have any great desire to ditch my pants for a Press Association meeting or a visit with my socially distanced friends.

As it turns out, right around the time this thought occurred to me, a documentary with the catchy title "The Invention of the Trousers" popped up in my YouTube recommendations. It was produced by the German Archaeological Institute, and describes their discovery of the world's oldest pants, a pair that they found in western China that are 3,000 to 3,500 years old. The people of that time and place were highly regarded for their skills in mounted combat, and it's widely assumed that the worldwide movement from skirt-

like garments to pants was because they were more practical for horseback riding. And the fact that most mounted soldiers were men may account for the reason that pants were long considered to be a strictly masculine garment.

I was kind of disappointed that the 3,000-year-old pants don't seem to have any pockets. For me, pockets are among the best things that pants have to offer. And the discovery of a long-forgotten pair of pants just isn't the same if there isn't a folded-up five-dollar bill or a half-used Barnes & Noble gift card in one of the pockets. What's a poor Chinese horse soldier to do when he ends a day of hard-fought combat and can't reach into his pocket to pay for a macchiato?

Speaking of pockets, as I was logging on to dig deeper into the history of pants, I stumbled onto a "news" item involving a pair of multi-pocketed pants. While playing golf with Donald Trump, Newsmax host Greg Kelly was called out for wearing a rather ugly and complicated pair of pants that look like a hybrid of cargo pants and skinny jeans. In a tweet sent out to defend himself, he points out that the makers of the garment are "the most prestigious brand in PANTS."

I'm not drawing attention to him for golfing with Trump. And I'm definitely not calling him out for wearing ugly pants, because I wear more than my share of those, even

though they don't have the \$1,000 price tag that Kelly's do. I'm drawing attention to him for emphasizing the word "PANTS" in all caps. Back in the early days of the internet, typing in all caps was used almost exclusively to express anger, and quite a few bitter disputes broke out between bulletin board users simply because someone accidentally hit the "Caps Lock" key. But in this case, I'll forgive the breach of online etiquette because it's helped me reach a conclusion: The pandemic jokes, the ancient discovery, and Kelly's typographic display of passion, all lead me to believe that I should be paying more attention to pants.

I'm working on it, but I still have so many unanswered questions. Why are pants always referred to as a pair, despite being a single garment? Why do people always go on about putting their pants on one leg at a time? I find it easier to sit down and put both legs in at once. And maybe this is just an American thing, but why do we use the term "pants" so much more frequently than "trousers." I suppose there are more important things in the world, and I shouldn't spend too much time thinking about pants. I should be figuring out ways to reduce my carbon footprint, or to get rich through cryptocurrency or non-fungible tokens. Or, for that matter, I should try to figure out what non-fungible tokens actually are. Now that I think of it, I wonder if there's such a thing as non-fungible trousers.

The Tale of Ephriam Gray, from page 36

the cemetery. The crews began moving the bodies and stones to a new location without any occurrences until they came to the coffin of Ephriam Gray. When they hoisted the coffin, they found it to be unusually light. Upon opening the box, the bewildered gravediggers found it to be void of a tenant. Mr. Gray's body had vanished. It was not long before the word

got out around the region, causing the once medical students, now in their middle age to come forth and swear they never touched the body. All asserted to have taken extreme care in resealing the coffin and carefully placing it back in its original resting place, with Mr. Gray's remains inside.

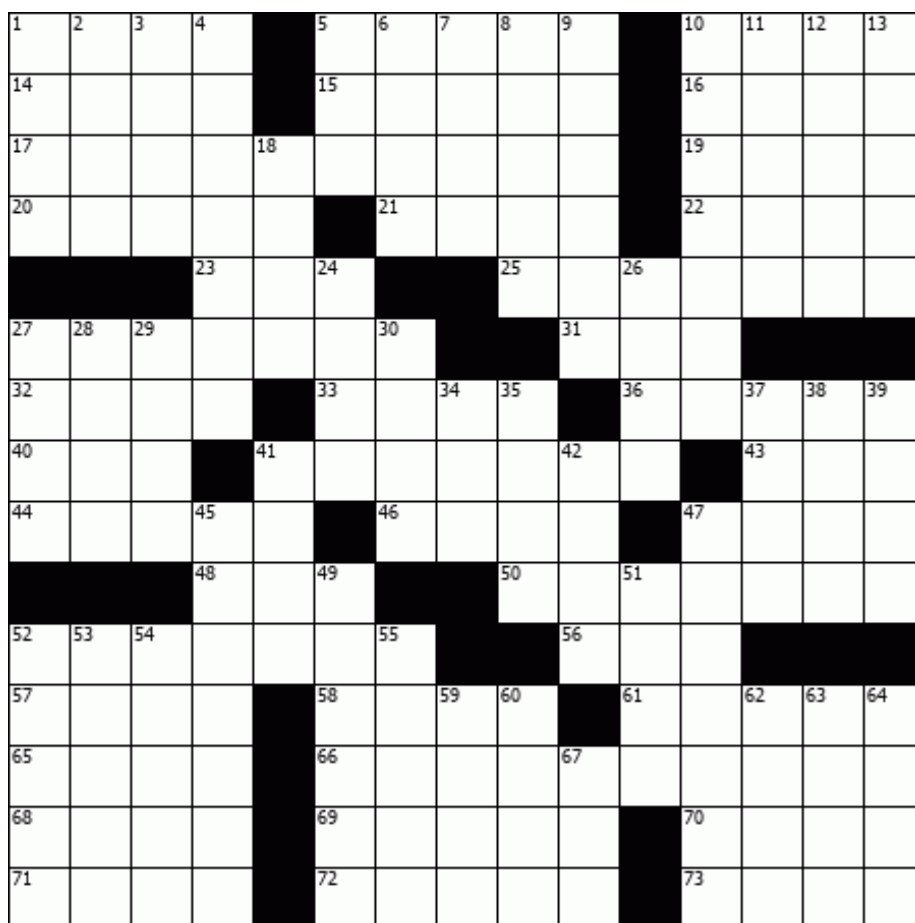
The whereabouts of Ephriam Gray's

body has never been determined. Could he have actually discovered the secret to immortality? Perhaps he walks to this day among the mortal souls as they meander through their aging life, moving on before anyone begins to wonder why they turn old and gray, yet Gray stays young and vibrant.

Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Floor cleaners
5. Hooded snake
10. Blemish
14. Wyatt ____
15. Once more
16. Ashen
17. Sneaker lace
19. Initial stake
20. Actress ____ Sarandon
21. Differently
22. Street
23. Disencumber
25. Chalkboard wipers
27. Removed
31. Compass dir.
32. Parched
33. Give temporarily
36. Angry
40. "Leaving ____ Vegas"
41. Birmingham's state
43. Utter
44. Singer ____ Hayes
46. Hot, molten rock
47. Masculine
48. That gal
50. Got free
52. Pretend to sing (2 wds.)
56. Contains
57. At rest
58. Tibetan monk
61. Rascal
65. Teddy ____
66. Relaxing initial activity
68. Rave
69. Like old bread
70. Agitate
71. Pub offerings
72. Laid bathroom flooring
73. Artist ____ Warhol



Down

1. Military cafeteria
2. Honolulu's island
3. Paid athletes
4. Harpooned
5. Tabby, e.g.
6. Mythical giant
7. Scoop water
8. Remove suds
9. Enrages
10. More thinly distributed
11. Narrow boat
12. Church table
13. Marsh grasses
18. Fit of anger
24. Wooded valley
26. Largest continent
27. Surrealism's Salvador ____
28. Epochs
29. ____ Marie Presley
30. Transaction
34. Hoop gp.
35. Writer ____ Barry
37. Urgent abbr.
38. "A ____ of Two Cities"
39. Ogled
41. Sore
42. Prepare potatoes
45. Declares
47. Eyelash makeup
49. Join the army
51. Valise
52. Heavenly scales
53. Perfect
54. Jet
55. Desert plants
59. Ground grain
60. Skilled
62. Similar
63. Blend
64. The hunted
67. Primary color

Answers to puzzle on page 42



Furever Homes Needed!



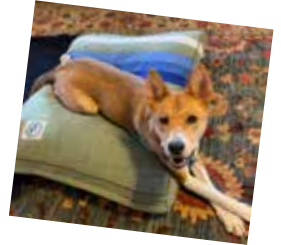
Abandoned Dogs of RI

Adoption Update: Foxy Found Her Home!



Foxy has been with us since early summer of 2020. She had two in-home placements throughout the year that didn't work out. As time went on she started showing more and more... interesting behaviors. She really struggled with kennel life and we had to utilize every resource and form of physical/mental stimulation we could. We worked with 3 trainers and were ready to spend \$6,000

on a board and train program. She was featured in multiple newspapers as well as 4 features on TV.



Jen Reynolds from Pawsitive Reinforcement Training stepped up and made ALL the difference! She helped Foxy and she helped US help Foxy. She also found two loving and willing men who put in an insane amount of training hours, dedication, and structure to make this adoption successful. They rearranged their entire life schedule to fit Foxy perfectly into it and make sure she was getting everything she needed, and more. They absorbed every ounce of knowledge and advice Jen had to give and didn't stray from the training plan at all. So far, everything is going great!

Along with her new life, Foxy also got a new name, Lucy! Follow her on Instagram at @loving_life_with_lucy



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A View From the Cheap Seats

Dan Pieroni



Look out Old Mackie is Here!

I could sense the feelings of Cam Newton's detractors from a mile away as they awaited the draft day decision of the Patriots brain trust. It felt almost as if Wayne Brady showed up in the Patriots war room and offered Bill Belichick and his henchmen a choice of three doors.

Behind door number 1 was a potential franchise quarterback, a quarterback would be seen as the rightful successor to Tom Brady and whose talent could ensure years of future competitiveness.

Behind door number two was the option to dump most of your draft capital and acquire a quarterback that had fallen out of favor in his current location, and has a reputation for being erratic, injury-prone, and not worthy of the money he is being paid.

That said, Patriots fans still fondly remember him as Jimmy G, the one-time substitute caretaker of the Patriots offense. He may not be Brady, but he is an adequate passer, is comfortable and familiar enough with the offense is still young enough to provide potential stability at quarterback for years to come.

Behind door number three was the option to trade down in the draft for depth and stockpile picks for the future. That choice would ensure that Cam Newton is the quarterback for the entire 2021 season, and the Patriots were content with the way things were.

The Cam Newton Haters of New England had seen Belichick make that choice too many times before. If it happened again, no amount of internet chat room

vitriol, sports radio rhetoric, and booing of Newton could soothe their anger. The reality was the Patriots needed a quarterback, they needed one now, and most of the fan base could not bear to watch Newton one-hop a throw that resonated with a louder thud than a double off the Green Monster.

Conventional draft wisdom dictated that the Jacksonville Jaguars would take Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence with the first overall pick, as he was the consensus best choice at the game's most important position. After that, the New York Jets would select Brigham Young's Zac Wilson at two. Wilson may not be Lawrence, but he still had loads of potential and could be a long-term solution for a team that desperately needed one at quarterback. Then, at number three, the San Francisco 49ers were expected to take a quarterback.

In the days leading up to the draft, every podcast, television program, and article I consumed said Alabama quarterback Mac Jones was the can't miss pick for the Niners. There were whispers that they liked North Dakota State quarterback Trey Lance, but most everyone thought it would be ludicrous of them to pass up a quarterback that had a 41 to 4 touchdown to interception ratio, won the Davey O'Brien Award for best collegiate QB, and led his team to the National Championship. Nonetheless, they passed on Jones and took Lance.

Meanwhile, the Patriots chose to bide their time and wait it out. It appeared Belichick was going off script and would take the best player available. As quarterbacks, receivers, and cornerbacks

went off the board, Patriots fans grew anxious with the notion that they would be able to draft their potential franchise quarterback. As expected, Lawrence and Wilson had been drafted by the Jaguars and Jets respectively, while the Patriots held firm. When the Bears took another quarterback off the board at number 11, Things grew tense in Patriots Nation. Now, Jones was the best option for the Patriots but would he last?

The only potential roadblock was the Vikings picking at #14 and they could have used a younger quarterback. The Newton Detractor's palms grew sweaty as their hearts raced. But wait! The Vikings traded their pick to the Jets.

The Jets already drafted a quarterback, but you couldn't help but think they would pick Jones to spite their hated rival and break their hearts. The Jets ultimately chose to address a bigger need on the offensive line. Jones was there for the taking, and untrue to form, Belichick chose door #1!

The most heralded Patriot draftee since Drew Bledsoe was headed to Foxboro to likely be the heir apparent to the legendary Brady. When? Who knows? How? Who knows? Why? Do you really expect Cam Newton to revert to form? Neither do the Patriots.

I could on about Jones' role, how short a leash Newton has, and what Jones brings to the table, but I do not have the time or the space. All I know is I and many other Patriots backers are joyful over the fact that a high-caliber draft prospect fell into their lap, and the potential he brings makes us giddy!

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

THERE'S SO MUCH NEGATIVITY IN THE WORLD TODAY, AESOP.



IF PEOPLE WOULD JUST TRY TO STAY POSITIVE, THERE MIGHT NOT BE SO MANY PROBLEMS.



DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT?



Tim Jones – Cartoonist

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Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 38.

M	O	P	S		C	O	B	R	A		S	C	A	R
E	A	R	P		A	G	A	I	N		P	A	L	E
S	H	O	E	S	T	R	I	N	G		A	N	T	E
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R	A	N	T		S	T	A	L	E		R	I	L	E
A	L	E	S		T	I	L	E	D		A	N	D	Y

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A woman with brown hair, wearing a blue beanie, a red long-sleeved shirt, and brown work overalls, stands in a workshop. A respirator mask is hanging from her neck. The background shows a concrete wall and a dark, possibly painted, surface on the left. The entire image is framed by a thick orange border.

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