

COMPLIMENTARY

AUGUST 2021

The Smithfield *Times*



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Peaceful brook that runs along the Stillwater Scenic Trail.
Photo courtesy of Elaine S. Amoroggi

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Review Your Trust Annually To Protect Your Assets



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

Because of the ever increasing cost of long term nursing home

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

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

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

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

— George M. Prescott

Courtesy of:

George M. Prescott

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In Our Community

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Front: Preston Oliver, Henry Goodrich, Cathal Currid, Brayden Huoth, Gabriel Breder, Maddox Amaral.



Smithfield Rotary adopts Cemetery #61



Congratulations to Joseph Farrar and Rocco LaGrecia, who graduated from LaPerche Elementary School



Anthony N. Miccoli Named to President's List at Merrimack College

Anthony Miccoli of Smithfield, RI has been named to the President's List at Merrimack College for the spring semester of 2021.

He is the son of Angelo and Celeste Miccoli of Smithfield, RI.

A Business Administration major, he graduated Summa Cum Laude in the Honors program at Merrimack in May of 2021.

(The full dean's and president's lists can be found at www.merrimack.edu/deanslist.)

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Deerfield Park's new "Victory" bench has a story all its own

By Ron Scopelliti

Since the end of June, visitors to Deerfield Park have been noticing a new and genuinely unique feature. Sitting in a shady corner of the park's main road is a massive, handmade wooden bench with one word carved prominently on the backrest: "Victory." The bench was donated to the town by Smithfield resident Linda Grant in memory of her late husband Harry, who built it from scratch starting with a tree that he cut down on their property.

Linda says the story of the bench started some 20 years ago, when Harry cut down a pine tree in front of the house, and made it into a totem pole. The totem pole became a landmark on the street where the Grants live, before the base rotted away. Parts of it still survive, however, as a sign outside the house.

From there, the abundance of trees on the property led him to keep creating, and to build his own sawmill so he could process the raw lumber into planks.

"He just picked it up as a hobby," she says of Harry, who was an electrician by trade. "We had all this wood, all these trees, and he wanted to do something with the wood besides just burn it." He came up with a variety of projects, including two-foot-high, cut-out letters and numbers for neighbors to use on name and address signs.

"That's how it all started. He cut the trees, he milled the wood, and he decided he would start to make benches." He sold some, but kept a number of them on the property, including the Victory bench, which had a particular meaning for him: Victory was the brand of motorcycle he used to ride.



Linda Grant

After Harry passed away in December Linda felt it was time to find the bench a new home.

"It was right in front of my house, right in front of my bow window, for a couple of years since he built it, but nobody used it and I was afraid it was going to deteriorate," she says. "I thought it would be nice to be at the park, where a few people could sit on it at a time – it's nine feet long."

Due to its size and weight, she says it took a number of workers to load it for transport. Fortunately, they were able to disassemble it to load it on the truck.

"Nobody could just pick that up," Linda says, noting that the town "did a beautiful job fixing it and cleaning it up." In addition to being cleaned, the bench was coated with marine-grade polyurethane to protect it from the weather.

Though the word "Victory" on the bench had a specific meaning for its creator, Smithfield Parks and Recreation Director Robert Caine says visitors have been coming up with their own interpretations of what the bench means to them.

"Even when we were putting it in, people were stopping to look and asking," he says. "Everybody has their own ideas about it."

"I was fortunate enough to know Harry for many years," he adds, "so it had a lot of meaning to me that we were asked to have it."



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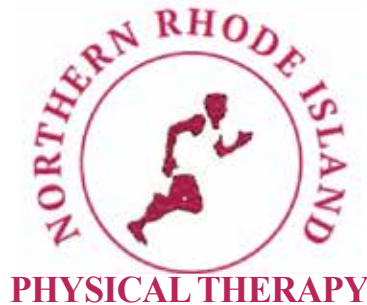
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Local Veteran-owned and Operated Business Continues to Thrive

By Paul Lonardo

Brothers Jim and Mike Lape started J&M Power Washing thirteen years ago and have continued to expand their reach over the years, growing J&M from a part-time business. When they first began, it was just the two of them and one truck. Their business was almost entirely local then, while today they service all of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts with four full-equipped trucks on the road all year round.

One thing that hasn't changed is their goal of providing their customers with the highest quality service of anyone in the power washing business. They have built a solid reputation by providing their customers with superior quality work at a fair price. There is nothing they can't handle, commercial and residential.

"We do everything," Jim says. "From entire condo communities to individual homes to storefronts, pool patios and fencing, we pretty much power wash any surface.

In the ever-changing housing market, 'curb appeal' is one reason to consider J&M Power Washing. "If you plan on selling your home, having the exterior look good with a professional soft wash is a sure way to increase its value," Mike says.

For do-it-yourselfers and those who believe it would be more cost effective to rent a machine from the local box store, it would be wise to give J&M Power Washing a call.

"With the time it would take a

homeowner or businessowner to do the job themselves, along with any damage that can occur, in the long run, people will save a lot more money by hiring us," Jim says.

"We see damage on a weekly basis," Mike adds. "Often multiple times a week, where the homeowner tries to power wash their house or patio and end up seriously damaging their property."

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Their "soft wash" service is

low-pressure cleaning will not damage any surface, including vinyl, the way that traditional power washers have a tendency to do.

"Our attention to detail, our quest for

See Local Business Thrives, page 11



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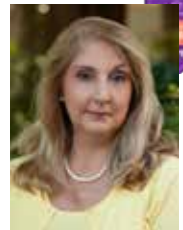


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Tree Dedication Ceremony



The Greenville Public Library held a Tree Dedication Ceremony for donors and families who contributed to the library's memorial and honorary tree campaign. Library Director Dorothy Swain addressed the crowd gathered on the library grounds Sunday, June 27th thanking them for their contributions.



Local Business Thrives, from page 9

perfection, and our belief in taking care of our customers set us apart from our competitors,” says Jim. “We back each and every job with a 100% satisfaction guarantee to back up our quality work.”

As life-long residents of Smithfield, Jim and Mike are actively involved in the community, particularly with Smithfield Little League. They plan to be around for a long time, and to continue to grow their business, with a goal of having ten trucks servicing Smithfield and the entire state in the next couple of years.

Whether it is an entire community of condos in need of revitalization, or if your home requires a good washing, concrete-brightening, complete deck cleaning, or any restoration project,

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Jim and Mike Lape are confident you will be amazed at the difference J&M Power Washing can make for your home or business.

“We have a great staff, including Abby, who we would be lost without,” Jim says. “She is on our front line, the first person customers talk to. She handles everything in the office. And Anthony, one of our foremen, is trained in all aspects of soft washing. We’re fortunate to have him.”

Contact J&M Power Washing today at (401) 595-0726
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Smithfield Unites for PRIDE



Photo courtesy of Albert Tavakalov

By Joe Siegel

Supporters of the LGBTQ community gathered on the steps of Smithfield Town Hall Thursday, June 17 to celebrate Gay Pride Month. The Town Council had received criticism from some residents for displaying the Rainbow Flag in front of the building.

Town Council President Suzy Alba and Town Manager Randy Rossi organized the event to show that Smithfield is a welcoming and diverse community.

Members of the Smithfield Anti-Hate Coalition, which has organized community forums to discuss prejudice, were

on hand to provide a message of love and support for a marginalized population.

In a letter to the Town Council, which was read at the June 15 meeting, The Reverend Dante Tavolaro wrote: “As a queer man, an Episcopal priest, and the Priest-in-Charge of St. Thomas Church, I offer my heartfelt gratitude for the commitment you have shown to the full inclusion of all people in Smithfield. Please know that I, and St. Thomas Church, are ready to support these efforts in any way we can.”



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!



The BIGGEST painting mistake I ever made ...

As a business owner, I do understand when coaching an employee through things, sometimes thoughts may cross their mind as if I am one that doesn't make mistakes.

Every now and then I have one of them mention this to me as I am walking through something and I usually cannot help myself but to chuckle.

Whether they believe it or not, I tell them (and I REALLY mean it!) that I make more mistakes on a daily basis than probably all of our employees combined!

If I were to be asked what my biggest mistake in my actual painting days was, there would be several VERY good candidates!

My biggest mistake as a painter, however, I would have to say occurred way back in the year 1995 ...

I was just starting out in business and we were doing a new construction home. The home was sided in cedar clapboard. There were a ton of nail holes that had to be filled throughout the home.

For some reason, I thought it would be a good idea to fill all the nail holes with caulk. The home was painted with a medium-tone olive color on the body.

When the painting process was complete and I stepped back to admire our work, the house was covered in dark-colored dots as EVERY nail hole that was filled was MUCH darker than the color all around it!

UGH!!!

What was determined to be the best way to fix it, was to, literally, dig out the caulk from every single nail hole, spot prime the nail holes, fill all the nail holes with the proper putty, spot prime the putty that was put in, completely prime all of the siding, and then apply 2 coats of finish.



As one might imagine, this was a VERY expensive problem to properly correct.

To this day, I really don't think the homeowner ever caught the mistake as the crew jumped right on fixing things and the home looked beautiful in the end. My guess is the client just thought we had an EXTREMELY extensive prep process!

In the course of my travels, I happen to pass by the home every once in a while and I always seem to just shake my head – this was CERTAINLY an experience I will NEVER forget!

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.

Jersey Mike's Opens in Smithfield

By Joe Siegel

The town's first Jersey Mike's Subs shop opened July 7 at 473 Putnam Pike where the old Benny's used to be. The menu features hot and cold subs, including the Original Italian, made with provolone, ham, prosciuttini, cappacuolo, salami, and pepperoni. Another favorite is Mike's Famous Philly cheesesteak made with grilled onions, peppers, and white American cheese.

Snacks include Lay's potato chips, cookies, brownies, and Tastykakes. Beverages include various Pepsi products, bottle water, orange juice, and Pure Leaf Tea.

Jersey Mike's also provides catering services to businesses and other social gatherings.

The chain launched in 1956 with a single shop in the sea-side town of Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

"The Town of Smithfield welcome's Jersey Mike's with open arms," said Town Manager Randy Rossi. "They have the ingredients to be a successful business and partner in Smithfield."

"I'm happy to see new businesses moving into Smithfield, especially as we resume normal life post-pandemic," said Town Council Vice-President Sean Kilduff.

The rapidly expanding chain also has locations in North Providence and Johnston. Manager Matt Silvia has been working for the company for 11 years.



The ribbon cutting ceremony included Town Manager Randy Rossi, employees Matt Silvia, Alyssa Massey and Dave Stebbings, and Council President Suzy Alba

"It's been a fun ride," Silvia said. "Our product speaks for itself, everything's fresh, nothing's pre-sliced, pre-cut, pre-grilled. We're here at seven in the morning, baking all that bread, cutting all the veggies – onions, lettuce, tomatoes, cutting our steaks, our chickens, so it's always nice and fresh."

Silvia said the shop has eight full-time employees and 14 part-time employees.

Jersey Mike's is open every day from 10 am until 9 pm.

Jersey Mike's was offering coupons for a free regular sub with a minimum three dollar donation to the Smithfield High School athletic department.

"A lot of people responded to it. It's a really good way to help the community too," Silvia added.

For more information, go to: <https://www.jerseymikes.com/14006/smithfield-ri>



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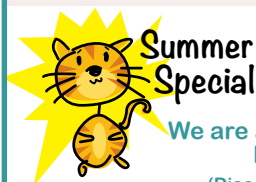
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David Coia, D.O. is a family physician who has been practicing medicine for 18 years.

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‘Recovery TV’ Debuts on Local Channels in September

John Tassoni, president of The Sentinel Group, announced his company is launching a new television program, “Recovery TV,” which will air on local channels on Sunday mornings. “Recovery TV” will be a pre-recorded 30-minute show that features host John Tassoni discussing the issues pertaining to the addiction epidemic, along with information and guidance on services that are available.

Recovery TV will air on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on Providence’s CW Channel 9 and 9:30 a.m. on MY RI TV on Channel 15. Both are affiliates of WPRI TV Media group in Rhode Island.

Recovery TV comes at a time of a deepening crisis in Addiction crisis, Behavioral Health crisis and the Pandemic. Opioid overdose deaths along with suicides have continued to steadily rise over the last several years. Last year, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, opioid-related deaths are estimated to have increased to nearly 90,000, almost double the previous year, according to a *Washington Post* report. In Rhode Island, accidental drug overdose deaths went up by 25 percent, according to official state estimates.

“‘Recovery TV’ will shed light on the ongoing epidemic of drug and alcohol addiction, along with mental health issues, which continues to have a profound impact on our local communities,” Tassoni said. “This show will discuss the issues surrounding this crisis and provide real information and meaningful guidance to help those seeking recovery.”

In addition to “Recovery TV,” Tassoni is the publisher of *Common Ground* newspaper, which focuses on issues that affect the labor community. He also is the past host of “Common Ground Radio” and “Recovery Radio,” which won a national award from the mental health community. Tassoni has partnered with The Substance Use Mental Health Leadership Council of RI to ensure that critical issues adversely affect community members are brought to the forefront. Tassoni has over 30 years of experience in the private sector and labor community. He served as a senator in the Rhode Island General Assembly from 2001 to 2012.

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Endless Summers That Were Too Short

By Jim Ignasher



Recently a friend of mine related a story about his grandson. It was a beautiful day, but the kid was on the couch playing video games. He suggested that he go outdoors and enjoy the day, but the boy replied that it was “too hot”.

Too hot! Really?

When I was a kid, if we hung around the house our parents found things for us to do. The garage and basement always needed straightening, windows needed washing, the lawn mowed, etc. etc. etc. Who wanted to be doing chores?

I can recall sitting in my elementary school classroom perspiring from the heat, for classrooms of the 1960s weren't air-conditioned, waiting for the final bell of the last day of school to ring. Minutes hung like hours as the hands on the clock crept at a glacial pace as we eagerly anticipated summer vacation. “No more pencils, no more books, no more teacher's dirty looks!”

And we had plans to fill those carefree days. There were trees to climb, bikes to ride, forts to build, woods to explore, and fireflies to catch.

Do kids today still catch fireflies in a jar?

There were no computer games and smart phones to distract us, and organized sports leagues as we know them today consisted mainly of Little League baseball. In my neighborhood we painted the bases of an elongated diamond on the street and played kickball. Little did we know we were learning some important life lessons along the way, such as planning, and problem solving skills.

“He's out!” “No, he's Safe!” “Out!” “Safe!” And if we couldn't reach a consensus, there was always the “do

over”. “Okay, then it's a ‘do-over’” “Fine!”

We also played “kick-the-can”, and “cops-n-robbers”, which involved strategic thinking and adept stealth skills.

Overall we learned good sportsmanship – how to be humble winners and graceful losers.

Perhaps our favorite time of the summer was around the Fourth of July. Although fireworks were illegal, there was always some resourceful entrepreneur classmate who somehow had them for sale. These generally included fire crackers, bottle rockets, and roman candles – items considered tame by today's standards, but still fun, and nobody lost a finger or an eye.

When it came to climbing trees we “invented” something we called “an elevator”. It involved tying a rope around a sturdy stick, then tossing the stick over a limb we were unable to reach from the ground, then hauling ourselves up into the tree. We let ourselves down the same way, never considering what might happen if the rope broke.

Our bicycles were our steeds, and we rode them everywhere, and without safety helmets. It was a time when many places like libraries, the YMCA, and schools still had bike racks out front. (Yes, kids actually rode bikes to school!)

Building a fort or clubhouse developed our engineering skills. If it didn't fall over in a day or so then we knew we'd done it right. Building materials consisted of whatever was on hand; usually scraps of wood liberated from house construction sites. The only thing better than a fort was a tree house.

And exploring the woods offered all

kinds of possibilities from catching snakes and turtles to digging for treasures in old trash dumps. We'd disappear for hours. Nobody knew where we were, yet they didn't worry, just as long as we got home for dinner, or before the street lights came on, which in the summer meant between eight to nine o'clock.

By a show of hands, how many remember lying in the grass looking up at the sky and discerning animals and other things from the shape of the clouds? I'll bet that activity has gone the way of catching fireflies and running through sprinklers.

Unfortunately like the old saying, “all good things must end”, so it is with summer. The approach of Labor Day signaled the start of “back to school shopping”. We'd try to pretend that the first day of school was still a long way off, but we were only kidding ourselves for summer always ended too soon.

And who can forget those essay assignments – “How I spent my summer vacation”.

By the time we passed from childhood to adolescence summer vacation took on a different tone. We no longer climbed trees, but looked for a summer job, began dating, and hoped for that elusive first kiss. Eventually we graduated from school and entered the real world, where that endless summer vacation was shortened to two weeks.

The echoes of those long ago summers still linger in my memory and I treasure them as I recall childhood friends whom I haven't seen in more than forty years, and it's sad to think that today's youth will never experience many of the simple pleasures of my generation, one of them being my friend's grandson.

Citizen Scientists Help Conserve Rhode Island's Rarest Turtle

By James Gass

This past June and July, I was fortunate to be a part of an ongoing study conducted by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) that is documenting diamondback terrapin populations throughout the state. Led by State Herpetologist Scott Buchanan, the Rhode Island Diamondback Terrapin Volunteer Monitoring Program enlists volunteer “citizen scientists” to visit select sites along the coast to search for these rare reptiles. The ultimate goal is to get a better understanding of where they occur and to monitor trends in populations over time.

The program was launched in spring 2020. Four volunteers visited up to four sites twice a week from late May through mid-July, and another volunteer surveyed a dozen more. They discovered terrapins in 15 previously undocumented areas along mid and upper Narragansett Bay. Encouraged by the findings, Buchanan added additional sites for the 2021 survey. There are now a total of 50 survey sites with 33 volunteers.

Found in estuaries, coves, barrier beaches, tidal flats and coastal marshes, diamondback terrapins are the only brackish water turtle in Rhode Island. They regulate their internal salinity by excreting salt from glands located behind their eyes and drink fresh water when it's available. During the day, they feed and bask in the sun, and then bury themselves in the mud at night. Their diet consists of crustaceans,



Diamondback Terrapin

mollusks, carrion, fish, marine worms, and some plants. They reach sexual maturity at about 6 years old. Females lay a clutch of 4 to 18 eggs which hatch in late August. The young spend their early years hiding under seaweed and are rarely seen.

According to Buchanan, the current population of terrapins in Rhode Island is “probably a shadow of their former distribution and abundance.” They are listed as State Endangered and are the state’s only endangered reptile. They are also considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the northeast. Poaching, overharvest (turtle soup was a delicacy), illegal collection for the pet trade, road mortality and habitat loss has drastically reduced their numbers. Nests and hatchlings are also routinely preyed on by coyotes, raccoons, foxes, skunks and birds, and

the predation rates can be very high. But the majority of threats to terrapin populations come from humans.

I found out about the project last May through RIDEM’s online newsletter and immediately signed up. I thought it would be a great way for my daughter, who will be majoring in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Maine this coming fall, to do some real science for a meaningful study.

We were allowed to choose which sites we wanted to survey. I chose a spot in the East Bay because I had seen a terrapin there while on a walk the year before. It has three separate survey points along a large tidal river.

Per RIDEM monitoring protocol, we

See Citizen Scientists, page 19

conducted our surveys between 6:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. which took about 20 minutes at each point, including walking time. The surveys could be done any day of the week, but had to be once a week from June through July and separated by at least 72 hours. They were also not to be conducted an hour before or after peak high tide. The majority of terrapins we saw were on an incoming tide, about midway between high and low tide.

At each survey point we waited three minutes before beginning, allowing any terrapins that were startled by us to resurface. Next, we opened the Survey123 app (provided by RIDEM) on my Smartphone and entered our names, date, time, visit number and

survey point, as well as the current site conditions, which included air temperature, cloud cover and water condition (calm, etc.). We then conducted three five-minute surveys, separated by a one-minute break.

We scanned as much of the water as we could with our naked eye and also with binoculars, which turned out to be handy because most of the turtles we saw were 100 feet or more offshore. We counted the total number of emerged heads we spotted during each survey period and recorded it in the survey app. Turtles sometimes submerged and re-emerged, but we were instructed to count each emerged head as a distinct record. In one 5-minute period we counted seven heads! Once finished,

we sent the data off to RIDEM.

The survey was very rewarding and in a beautiful spot. The only downside was that we were constantly harassed by a pair of agitated willets, who flew around us the entire time chattering angrily. There must have been a nest nearby.

Only a few coastline areas in the state are known to contain populations of diamondback terrapins, but an increasing number of observations in recent years suggest that they could be more widespread than previously thought. This important study will aid in the conservation and management of this rare and beautiful reptile.

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A Smithfield Lad's Letters from the Front ...

By Peg Brown

For every generation, the words – “The War” – mark a turning point. For my generation, that war was either Korea or Vietnam; for my father’s – World War II; for my grandparents– World War I. And for my great-great grandfather, perhaps the Civil War. During a recent Civil War reenactment at Smith Appleby house, a participant referenced a collection of 31 letters, dated between April 1864 and December 1865, largely unknown, that had been written by Second Class Private Lewis Anthony Waterman, the 14th child and 15-year-old son of George Waterman, owner of a cotton mill in Manville.

Originally published by a fellow Army Signal Corps officer after his Lewis’ untimely death at age 19 of Scarlet Fever, these letters paint a picture of war and the battlefield that cannot be captured by simply walking the long-abandoned sites and viewing the graves of those who fought these battles. Only through survivor accounts can we capture the concerns and drudgery of life of those who actually served.

While space prohibits including most of Lewis’ text, the few selected do offer a glimpse of the war time experience of a very young enlistee.

An early letter to his brother sets the stage for his service: “Camp was overwhelming for me being only fourteen but I began to acclimate to a soldier’s life of early rising, drill, poor food etc. I had a hard time staying away from the vices of the army. Money was the worse vice for men as they would borrow from each other and have none to send home.”

Travel to the West:

“... an incidence of importance was the firing on the boat by bushwhackers near Jefferson City ...” Fire was not returned as Lewis reported, “we were not trained

on the weapons we were issued ...”

Food and Entertainment:

“I turned fifteen today and sorry I did not have some good bourbon whiskey to celebrate with but then I remembered the last day I left Providence and prayed with Rev. Pratt about the vices I should encounter.”

“As for entertainment, I read newspapers, play dominos and checkers.”

“The Army rations are the best we have had in a long time. Had myself Fried Beef Steak, potatoes, gravy, Bread, Coffe (sic) and Tea ... also beans, hominy ... some boiled ham ... and vegetables and rice.”

By September, 1864, rations were getting poorer, with no vegetables of any kind and little salted bacon and bread. Many solders were taking their meals in private homes for 5 cents a meal. The soldiers also heard the rumor that some recruits were being paid up to \$1,600 to enlist.

Battle:

“Some bushwackers raided some places near the fort ... some 700 chased after them causing them to lose about 150 men. We lost two men who could not control their horses.”

Camp Life:

Exciting news today, I got myself a wooden frame bunk off the ground.”

“I have new boots (but have been) told if I am not careful, they will be stolen by unodorax (sic) solders, so I will be sending them home until fall when Mother can send them to me.”

“Books here are expensive 15 to 25 dollars each, so hold on to mine and send me some in the fall ...”

By May of 1865, Lewis was set to be discharged. Although he had initially said would never return to Providence, he changed his mind. Perhaps most poignant of all were his thoughts on the next stage of his life.

“My education is not such as I wish it was and as it might have been if I had not acted as I did while I had the chance. I am only 16 yet and there is chance for improvement. A year’s hard study will be the best thing for me yet.”

Author’s notes:

Lewis returned to Providence in December, 1868. When he knew he was dying of Scarlet Fever, he contacted his best friend, Sidney Greene, and entrusted him to finish the memoir he intended to write. Mr. Greene forward those notes and \$250 for expenses to J. Willard Brown, who published his book in 1869. Portions of the profits were donated to the YMCA of Providence to help further young men’s education.

2nd Class Private Lewis Anthony Waterman is buried in the family plot in Swan Point Cemetery, age 19 years, 7 months and 17 days.

29 of the unpublished letters reside in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas; the Rhode Island Historical Society holds two. The letters have been copied, transcribed and published by Civil War reenactor Ted Urbanski, Stones River Publishing Inc, Willington, CT, May, 2021, and are available for those interested in learning more.

(All apparent misspellings and punctuation marks reflect those made in the actual letters.)

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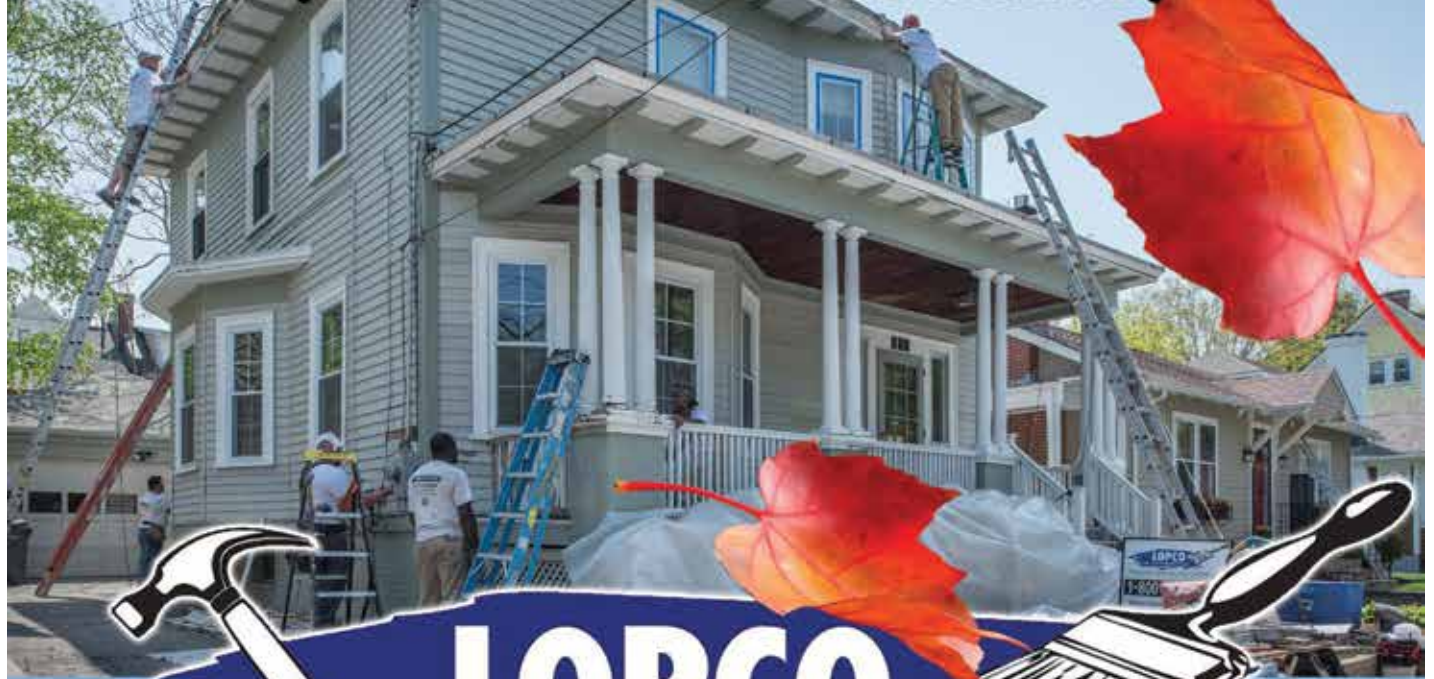
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50 years Ago – August, 1971

by Jim Ignasher

Navy Petty Officer First Class Albert R. Almon was serving aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Wasp.

Major Russell W. Turner of Greenville graduated from Command and General Staff school and was stationed in Augusta, Georgia.

Boy Scout Troops 3 and 64, both of Greenville, spent a week camping at Camp Yawgoog.

On August 1st, the crew of the Apollo 15 moon mission left a plaque on the surface of the moon honoring the 14 American astronauts and Russian cosmonauts who had lost their lives in the service of their country while working to further space exploration.

Apollo 15 returned to Earth on the 7th.

The Circus Wagon Theatre Company arrived at Whipple Field to give a performance of a play called “Shirley, Shirley”, the story of a spoiled brat who leaves the circus and experiences a series of life altering adventures before returning with a new attitude. The play was performed in pantomime from the rear deck of a red, white, and blue, flatbed truck equipped with a trampoline, a small swimming pool, a slide, and a jungle gym. The actors were all theatre majors from the University of Rhode Island. The next scheduled performance was at Burgess Field in Greenville. The troupe was slated to perform at 120 playgrounds throughout the state during the summer.

John B. Tessaglia A. I. A. of North Providence, was chosen as the architect to design Smithfield’s new police station on Pleasant View Avenue. The land for the new station was donated by Smithfield residents Burton and Mary Mowry.

On August 12, the newly constructed Bryant College (now university) campus was nearing completion and getting ready to receive students for the fall semester. A bar which once existed on the campus known as “The Rathskeller” was granted a liquor license by the town.

Meanwhile the college petitioned the town to abandon that portion of John Mowry Road which crossed the campus. Local residents were split on the issue, as were the police and fire departments, but history has shown the request was granted.

A muscular dystrophy fund raising carnival was held at 34 Second Street in Esmond, by Meridee Goodwin and Rene Buteau, which raised \$56.64 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

On August 21, the Balfour – Cole American Legion Post on Pleasant View Avenue held a mortgage burning ceremony. The public was invited and refreshments were served.

Hit songs heard on the radio in August of ’71 included “You’ve Got A Friend” by James Taylor, “How Can You Mend A Broken Heart?” by the Bee Gees, and “I Feel The Earth Move” by Carole King.

On August 25th the Apple Valley Cinema expanded by opening a fourth movie theatre making it the second cinema complex in Rhode Island to contain four theatres. If one went to the movies they might have seen “Plaza Suite”, a comedy by playwright Neil Simon that takes place in New York City’s Plaza Hotel, or “Summer of ’42”, a coming of age film set in Nantucket during WWII, or “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”, the story of a boy who finds a golden ticket in a chocolate bar and visits Wonka’s candy factory, or “Who Is Harry Kellerman And Why Is He Saying Those Terrible Things About Me?”, which was about a music composer trying to track down Kellerman.

Also on August 25th the Greenville Senior Sunshiners took a one-day trip to New Hampshire.

On August 28th an “old fashioned” square dance, sponsored by the Citizens for the Preservation of Waterman Lake, was held at the Waterman’s Lake Beach Club.

It was also on August 28th that a severe thunderstorm blew through the Greenville area knocking down trees and causing power outages.



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The Smithfield Senior Center held its "Welcome Back" Party on June 23.



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The Ugly Motivation Behind Fan Behavior Towards Athletes

Dan Pieroni

By Dan Pieroni

It is unfortunate for me to have to admit this, but we are living in a very dark reality regarding the relationship between fans and athletes.

Within the last month we have seen an unprecedented run of stupidity by fans at live sporting events that can be classified as ignorant, classless, and racist. Take for instance all that transpired during the NBA Playoffs during the week of May 24. Atlanta Hawks star Trae Young was spat on by a New York Knicks fan for simply being good at basketball. Likewise, a Philadelphia 76ers fans felt the urge to buy a big bucket of popcorn and throw most of it at the Washington Wizards Russell Westbrook for the same reason.

Locally, a young URI student objected to current Brooklyn Net and former Celtic Kyrie Irving mocking his former team's tradition by dancing on the team's famous leprechaun logo, whereupon the fan chose to throw his water bottle at Irving in anger. His prize? A lifetime ban from any Celtic home game for the rest of his life and an arrest for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

What these examples underscore is that some of the hard-working, leather lunged, passionate fans of American sports are no longer satisfied with booing and playfully insulting professional athletes for a cheap thrill. Now they must prove how much they detest these athletes by crossing the line and getting personal with athletes by doing everything from shouting racist remarks to physically assaulting them. This sort of behavior begs one highly important question, why?

I am no social scientist, but I feel it is my

job as a sports columnist to try to make sense of this troubling phenomenon. I feel this paradigm shift in fan behavior from somewhat playful and innocent to cruel and deplorable can be explained in one word. Jealousy. Jealousy is the chief motivator in driving some fans to make morons of themselves.

Cole Buckley, the young URI student who made the unwise choice to fling his container of liquid refreshment towards a star basketball player probably did not intend to do it when he went to the game that afternoon.

Yes, it is well documented Kyrie Irving was miserable as a Boston Celtic and has gone on record as saying so. Irving choosing to dance all over the Celtics logo was a petulant assertion of the perceived power he wields over Celtics fans and a poor attempt to rob the Celtics of the dignity and tradition they have amassed throughout their storied history. In other words, Kyrie Irving is reveling in the fact that he is despised by Celtics fans.

Cole Buckley among others has allowed Kyrie Irving to live rent free in his head. It is understood that Irving was miserable in Boston and fled to sanctuary of Brooklyn, where he has found himself placed on a better team, with better teammates, and a bigger paycheck to boot. Sadly, Irving is not content with leaving his past behind, and has taken almost every opportunity to speak out against the perceived shabby treatment he got in Boston.

It is clearly not enough for him to use his frustration to dominate the Celtics on the court. Thus, he felt the need to assert his perceived self-importance and

greatness over the Celtics and their fans by performing a silly dance on their famed logo.

Most fans would probably ignore Irving's buffoonery and see it for what it is, a ridiculously sophomoric and childish display of hubris from a spoiled, entitled athlete.

Cole Buckley probably saw it as an attack on the Celtics honor and chose to deal with the situation by unwisely assaulting Irving. In essence, Buckley action's allowed Irving to assume a role that he doesn't deserve based on his behavior, victim.

Irving crossed the line and may be punished for his actions with a fine, but if that's all, how impactful can it really be towards atonement of his ways. Irving still has a boatload of cash, a level of talent we can only dream of, and access to the spoils of fame most of us will never see in our lifetimes.

Buckley's poor decision making could cost him a prison sentence and jeopardize his future.

Is it unfair? You bet, but then, again who helped give Kyrie Irving the right to speak his mind with antagonistic rhetoric, and behave the way he does with seemingly no repercussions?

You did, and because you did, you must cope with jealousy you feel by taking the high road and not letting these player's talent attitudes, or beliefs get to you. It is too risky a proposition to let anger get the best of you at a sporting event.

Next time, stay home.

Recipe Swap!

Tomato Caprese Salad *Best in August!*

Ingredients:

Farm fresh native tomatoes
Fresh basil
Fresh mozzarella (thinly sliced)
Salt
Pepper
Olive Oil
Balsamic glaze

Be sure you get ripened tomatoes from your local farm or garden. Wash and slice tomatoes and arrange on a serving platter.

Take the fresh mozzarella and wrap and hold it a paper towel to make it easier to slice. Arrange a slice on each slice of tomato.

Wash and dry fresh basil. Using kitchen shears, cut small pieces of basil to top each tomato.

Add salt and pepper, drizzle with Olive Oil and Balsamic glaze (Optional).

Serve immediately with sliced Italian bread.

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The Mysterious Cairns of Coventry and Gloucester.

By Thomas D'Agostino
www.tomdagostino.com

Cairns, though mysterious in nature, are not uncommon to New England. Cairns are stone mounds found around the region. The mystery behind them lean more towards where they may have come from. Some claim they are Viking burial mounds, some Indian, and others state that the farmers while clearing the land and building stone walls piled up the useless boulders that were not “wall-worthy.” The farmers also placed piles of stones known as “manure” stones in places where they wanted to enrich the soil. They would then move the piles to different areas of the farm where living organisms would thrive underneath and fertilize the ground.

Scientists, however, think they may date as far back as 800 B.C. when



the Iberian-Celtic people and the Phoenicians were sailing to present day America. Whoever built them stayed for a while because they are scattered throughout New England. Perhaps all of those assumptions are true to a point. A perfect example of cairns exists in Coventry, Rhode Island in the Parker Woodland. These strange monuments lay here and there within the preserve. Their seemingly random placements take on a more calculated mapping when one imagines the land barren of growth. At that point it becomes clear that they may actually have been burial markers for whoever settled the land long ago.

The land was purchased from the

See Mysterious Cairns, page 31



Narragansett Indians in 1642. The Waterman family obtained the land in 1672. The land stayed in the family until Caleb Vaughn acquired the property in 1760. It eventually came into the possession of George Parker through a will. Parker later gave the land to the Audubon Society. After his death in 1946, more property, including the Isaac Bowen house from the early 18th century was deeded to the society for public use.

The Isaac Bowen house is not the only house in the woodland. The remains of another farm can be found off of Biscuit Hill Road. History rolled through the woodland during the Revolutionary War when a wagon headed for General Rochambeau's camp overturned spilling biscuits over the hillside, thus giving the road its strange moniker.

The foundation of the old farmhouse and adjacent fields are a magnificent example of the remains of early American life. The area of the old farm is reported to be haunted by its former owners. Witnesses who have traversed that far into the woods claim to hear voices from nowhere echoing through the trees.

As for the mysterious cairns that lace a section of the Woodland trail, archaeologists have no explanation for the origin of these strategically placed stone mounds. It is reported that strange noises and energy fields emanate from the area. People also get the feeling that they are being watched as they pass through the sparse woods where the many cairns lay.

Another interesting site where cairns may be seen is near Dark Swamp in Glocester, Rhode Island. Following the trail from Willy Woodhead Road, one will soon come upon many long piles of boulders scattered about the woods. These are alleged to be burial cairns from a battle during King Philip's War. It was custom for the tribes to bury their warriors exactly how they fell in battle by not burying them, but instead covering them with mounds of rocks. Although the Glocester cairns may be fairly easy to explain, the Parker Woodland ones are still an enigma. Until archaeological digs come up with more conclusive answers, we have to believe that these mounds of boulders are a magical mystery that still hold the wonder and imagination that makes New England so special.



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Health Awareness

by Diane L. Marolla, LICSW

Does your employer care about your physical and mental health?

“Now would also be a good time to finally dump the 9-5, five-day workweek. For plenty of job categories, that cadence no longer makes sense.” Joanne Lipman

For this month’s topic I have purposely chosen the question about your employer caring about your health and work/life balance. Should they? I pose this question as we now see employees getting the “upper hand” with employers. People are refusing to go back to work. Others are just plain quitting their jobs. Joanne Lipman writes about this topic in *Time Magazine’s* June/July edition.

I call myself a “hybrid”. My undergraduate is from Bryant University. I went to Bryant in the 80’s during the time when Gordon Gekko made the famous line “greed is good, greed is right” in the movie *Wall Street*. My first job in healthcare was temporary in 1987. My annual salary was \$12,000. I ended up being hired as a full-time employee and they gave me health benefits, a 401k, sick time, and vacation time. In 2000, I earned my Master’s in Social Work at RIC. At RIC, I learned all about making a private trouble into a public matter. It is no secret that social workers are labeled liberal, and far left. I can tell you; I don’t fit in the liberal or conservative bucket. I believe in fiscal responsibility, but I also believe that healthcare is a right and not a privilege. I also believe that employers should provide a livable wage, a safe work environment, and healthcare. For those employers who feel they don’t have this responsibility, that is wrong. The way an employer makes a profit, employees deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

I’ve been working since the age of 16. There was no sweet 16 party. When I turned 16 my mother said to me “time to

go to work”. I continued to make honor roll, was active in school, and worked at the same time. Sometimes, I’ve worked 2 jobs. I worked throughout college and while I was getting my master’s degree. Currently, I do four separate jobs versus one. I made that decision to do what I love because corporate America was impacting my mental health. I wrote about my anxiety (November 2020 *Smithfield Times* article), and me having to go on two leaves of absences due to panic attacks and severe anxiety. Was my employer treating me horribly? No, but the hours I was working were killing me mentally. There were never enough hours in the day to get anything done. I felt like a hamster on a hamster wheel just going around in circles. I ended up losing vacation time every year because it was never a good time to take it. I always felt like I had to prove myself.

I have to say since age 16, I have had all amazing jobs. I have always loved working and being a part of an organization. I’ve always been paid a livable wage with benefits. There were, however, a couple of instances, where I had two nasty bosses. One boss point blank told me that she was going to “make my life a living hell.” Another boss would constantly criticize me (and everyone in the organization for that matter). She would even go far as to make fun of my clothing and my shoes. These two bosses quite frankly were bullies. These two women were in Vice President positions, so it was near to impossible for me to challenge them. Thankfully, except for the two stink bomb managers, most of my managers were

smart, kind, and appreciative of my work. When I managed employees, I always offered them flexibility in their schedule. I never micromanaged them.

With all that said, I think all employers need to understand that when you take care of your employees, they will take care of you. As an employer, you should provide a safe environment to work in. You should ensure that your employees don’t come to work sick. You should ensure that your employees have time off. You should pay your employees a livable wage so that we don’t need legislation to mandate you do so. You should want your employees to spend time with their families. You should want your employees to take care of themselves physically and mentally so that your health insurance premiums stay affordable. So, should an employer care about the physical and mental health of their employees? The answer is yes. Simply said, for those employers who don’t care about the health of your employees, they will not give back to you in loyalty and productivity. Additionally, you will spend unnecessary dollars on sick time, leave of absences, and healthcare costs. You will always have a high turnover in staff. You will burn out your good employees.

We are now in a time whereby employees have the up hand. Businesses are finally realizing they need people to work. It is sad that it took a pandemic for employers to realize that their employees are what make them successful. Without employees, a business will fail.

The Smithfield Times

Is happy to announce we have five winners in the 2020 Rhode Island Press Association (RIPA) Editorial Contest, based on 2020 articles.

The winners are as follows:

Sports Columnist - **Daniel Pieroni**
Education Story - **Marilyn Busch**

Arts/Niche Columnists -
Peg Brown
The late **Paul V. Palange**
Ron Scopelliti

The first, second and third place winners will be announced at the Banquet, which is usually held in September.

Congratulations to all!

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Payne's Picks

By Sarah Payne

August 2021



Movie Release

Reminiscence – August 20

This month I'm looking forward to Lisa Joy's directorial debut – *Reminiscence*. In case you haven't heard her name before (I hadn't): Joy is co-creator, writer, director, and executive producer of *Westworld*, and she's married to screenwriter Jonathan Nolan, Christopher Nolan's younger brother. As for *Reminiscence*, it features Hugh Jackman playing Nick Bannister, a man who offers clients a chance to relive their memories. He falls in love with a mysterious woman named Mae (played by Rebecca Ferguson), and must delve into the past to find out the truth about her. On a panel discussing the film, Joy said, "Myself as director was very high maintenance in that I only wanted to do the film if Hugh Jackman be the lead. So it was pretty high stakes for me."

Movie Review

The Tomorrow War

My husband and I had a blast watching Chris Pratt's latest film, *The Tomorrow War*, when it premiered on Amazon Video last month. The film was picked up by Amazon for \$200M, and there's already talk of a sequel. Here's a caveat:

I'm a sucker for any film involving time travel or aliens. I love *Terminator*. I can't get enough of *Alien*. I'm also a Chris Pratt fan. He's a likeable guy and I've enjoyed watching his career evolution from *Parks and Recreation* to headlining blockbusters, like *Jurassic Park* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*. That said, *The Tomorrow War* doesn't hold a candle to any of the classic alien or time travel movies. The premise is interesting enough: Humans are drafted into a future war with an alien species invading the planet. But there's almost zero time spent on building suspense or tension. The aliens have basically no distinguishing qualities that would make it plausible that they nearly destroy our species. I'm left with more questions than answers. Why does Chris Pratt's character not understand how time travel works? Why do veterans of the war not immediately reveal the aliens' one weakness? Why does everyone in the movie insist on shooting the aliens with guns when they know that's not how the aliens are destroyed? There are some genuinely funny moments – mostly with J.K. Simmons, who plays the conspiracy theorist father, or Sam Richardson, who plays a geeky scientist. But in general, the writing is terrible and the acting is

cringeworthy. Sorry Chris Pratt.

TV Review

Workin' Moms – Season 5

I discovered this Canadian television show at the perfect moment in my life. It premiered on Netflix in early 2019, right as I was trying to find a groove as a working mom of a toddler. I've since binged each season as it's released, including season five (which was released on Netflix last month). Unfortunately, *Workin' Moms* may have past its prime. As I watched this season, I couldn't help but wonder what it was like in the writers' room. The storylines feel forced, like the writers tried to stuff every hot button issue from this past year into the show. Right vs. left? Check. Diversity and equity? Check. Pride? Check. The show has always taken a stance on certain political issues, but this season it feels like the writers are hitting viewers over the head. We get it. This year was a lot. Maybe *Workin' Moms* is the one place we don't need to delve into the division and politics. Maybe all we really need is a silly escape from the madness that is being a working mom – and to have a laugh. But maybe that's just me?

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Tim Jones – Cartoonist



IMHO | by Ron Scopelliti

Distracted Writing

I'd like to apologize in advance if I seem a bit distracted, but it's hard to avoid. I could blame social media or cell phones, but I'm starting to think that the fault lies not in our technology, but in ourselves, and that it's just human nature to get distracted. Maybe that's not a bad thing, but it's kind of a double-edged sword, and this column an example of that. When I sat down at my computer, I had a clear idea what I was planning to write about, but then I got distracted by something I felt under my foot. It wasn't anything painful like a pushpin, or disgusting like a freshly vomited ball of cat hair, but it was enough to get my attention.

It turned out to be a valve cap from a tire. You know, the little plastic cap that goes on the end of your valve stem. The one that you always forget to put back after you've added air, so you have to go to Wal-Mart and buy a pack of four. And, inevitably, when you go to put the remaining three caps in your glove compartment for future use, you realize you already have three leftover caps from the last time it happened.

I immediately started wondering why the valve cap from a tire would be on my office floor. Was there a valve cap missing from my car or one of my bicycles? My immediate urge was to go check on my vehicles, but then I started thinking about how many years I've been interacting with these little caps, and how seldom I think about them. There are very few times that I've said anything about valve stem caps. It's not that I've got anything against them. In fact, I've got nothing but respect for the way they faithfully perform their function. It just seems like there's

never any reason to look at them with fondness.

Apart from the longstanding problem with losing them, my current car has a specific valve cap issue. There's space in my wheel cover that's perfectly placed to drop a valve cap into if you fumble the cap while you're screwing it back on. And since my wheel cover is held on by the lug nuts, removing the wheel cover to retrieve the cap involves jacking up the car. Because I haven't gotten around to replacing my worn-out garage jack, I need to crank the car off the ground with the emergency scissor jack that I ordered online since Kia doesn't believe that a spare tire kit should be standard equipment. When (not if) it happens again, I should probably just leave the cap in there and use one of the six spare caps in the glove compartment. Or has the collection grown to nine?

I'd gotten about this far in typing in my random thoughts about valve stem caps when I realized I'd completely forgotten what I originally planned to write about. The distraction had completely taken over. It got me thinking about a Jorge Luis Borges short story called "The Zahir" that I'd read years ago. In the story, the Zahir is an object that occurs throughout history, always in a different form. The person who finds the Zahir gradually becomes so obsessed by the object that eventually he or she can think of nothing else. What starts as a distraction becomes an obsession. According to the story, the Zahir has appeared over the centuries in the form of various objects, including an astrolabe, a tiger, and a twenty-centavo coin. What if the valve cap was my version of the Zahir?



Luckily, thinking about the Borges story distracted me from the valve cap long enough to break for lunch, where I then became distracted by the fact that the loaf of bread I'd bought only had one end-slice. I'd much rather deal with an ever-changing stream of distractions than a singular obsession. I mean, if the valve cap had become my Zahir it would have been seriously detrimental to my livelihood. I can't see myself getting many writing assignments if every time I was asked to write an article about the recreation department or the latest bond issue, I instead turned in an article about a valve stem cap. If distraction can save me from obsession, than I suppose I can put up with it. I just hope that there's not some poor soul somewhere in the world becoming hopelessly obsessed by the unexpected third end-slice in their loaf of bread.



Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

The Sentimental Accessory

Check your dresser drawers, that shoe box in the bottom of your closet, or your jewelry box. I am betting that somewhere in an old sock or cloth bag you'll find one. A CHARM bracelet. Apparently, DIY versions are cropping up all over TikTok – largely featuring candy-colored beads – as the youngest generation adapts an old classic. This newest trend in jewelry did lead me to dig out my own version from the 1960s. More about that later.

When I said “classic” it turns out that I should have used the word “ancient.” Once again, we have nothing on our pre-history ancestors when it comes to fads. In archeological sites around the world elaborate charms have been discovered that scientists speculate were worn for much the same reasons as successive generations – to ward off evil spirits, bring good fortune in this life and the next, and commemorate important events. Early discoveries in Africa and Egypt suggest that the wearing of shells, carved animal bones or clay, often worn as a necklace, were present in cultures as many as 75,000 years ago.

Those credited with making the precursors of today's charm bracelets include the Babylonians who began to add semiprecious stones strung on leather cords for the wrist. During the Roman Empire, Christians often wore replicas of tiny fish beneath their tunics, while Jewish rabbis would place passages of law in tiny charms around their necks.

Even during the Dark Ages, charms were often used to identify members of families, certain religions, or political beliefs. And while we all associate the Renaissance with great wealth, beautiful arts, and gold florins, charms were largely distained as they suggested superstition – an idea that during the age of enlightenment and science was not acceptable. However, the wealthy of this period, including the de Medicis, often adorned their clothes with birthstones, especially pearls, as pearls were more valued than gold for their scarcity.

The QUEEN of the charm bracelet as it evolved was indeed a queen – Queen Victoria. Often pictured wearing multiple charm bracelets, Victoria set the modern trend that even today is emerging on social media as a “must have.” The trend was accelerated by Tiffany & Co. who took Victoria's lead and made their signature silver link bracelet in 1889, still a very desired accessory.

During the 20th century, the collecting and wearing of charms continued. The types collected and materials used changed with financial, social, political and entertainment trends. Although the



wealthy could afford gold during the '20s and '30s, even those most affected by the Great Depression used bits of broken jewelry or found objects to create their own unique document of their life's journey.

The Golden Age of movie celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor kept the trend alive. With the growth of comics and animation, charms of Mickey Mouse and Betty Boop made from celluloid were included in cereal boxes. Returning soldiers from WWII often brought their mothers and sweethearts charms as keepsakes that had been made by local craftsmen in regions where they served.

For Bobby Soxers and Baby Boomers assembling charm bracelets largely

See Inside The Brown Bag, page 37

reflected our activities, achievements, dreams, hobbies and milestones. And here's where I share some of the charms from my first bracelet.

- The tiny piano which I never learned to play despite years of lessons.
- The ballerina on point when I was convinced, I would be a Rockette. (That was before I realized you had to be 5'7" and weigh 110 lbs.).
- The maple leaf because we lived on the Canadian border.
- A National Honor Society square dated 5/10/62.
- A round charm featuring the masks of comedy and tragedy, marking my role as Queen Gloriana in my senior play (they needed someone who looked matronly).
- A ball of yarn punctured with two knitting needles.
- The clock at Marshall Field brought to me by a friend who actually traveled.
- A small disc engraved Billboard Editor (my college's newspaper).
- A Gemini image for my birthday from Mom and Dad dated 1972.
- A charm marking my role as a bride's maid from someone I haven't heard from in over five decades.
- And my favorite – a stethoscope, because I was positive I would be a medical doctor – that is until I hit Miss Allen in Biology I in college.

The dreams, hopes and life markers of a teenager and young adult. And the only one I could wear today – the knitting needles – is based on my recent failure to master knitting socks.

So, dig out that bracelet. Revisit those dreams and occasions. Share them with others – that just might ensure that your stories will live and the charms won't appear in some yard sale. Because that bracelet is a lot more than a piece of jewelry.

Author's note:

The number one charm sold during the pandemic by Ian Charm was called "Resilience."

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The Nature of Things

by James Gass

Reconnaissance at Stump Pond



The North End of Stump Pond

It was a sweltering August afternoon with a cloudless sky and no breeze. Having no air conditioning at home and the day to myself, I did what most sensible people did that day – I headed for water. I decided to go for a paddle on Stump Pond, a three minute ride from my house.

Stump Pond is what the locals call it, but officially it's the Woonasquatucket Reservoir, formed when the Woonasquatucket River was dammed in 1918. The river flows into the north end of the pond from its headwaters in North Smithfield, then flows out over a small dam on the pond's east side, continuing through several communities until spilling out into Narragansett Bay.

The lower river was a dumping ground for various industries for over a century, but Stump Pond is relatively clean and is one of the best freshwater fishing spots in the state, boasting bass, sunfish, pickerel, pike, crappies and perch. Since a friend and I were going to do some fishing there soon, I figured today might be a good day to do some reconnaissance to see where the big ones might be hiding. I loaded the canoe on the truck and grabbed my fishing gear, just in case.

I put in at the state fishing area near the large dam off Farnum Pike. Sliding my canoe into the warm water there, my feet were immediately surrounded by dozens of small sunfish and bass, each about 3 to 4 inches long. If there were so many fish here, I thought, imagine what the rest of this 304-acre pond might hold. I put my fishing gear in the bow, hopped in and pushed off from shore.

I decided to hug the less developed eastern edge of the pond, heading north. As I paddled along on glassy water, several dragonflies became my constant companions. For the rest of the afternoon, widow skimmers, eastern pondhawks and eastern amberwings flitted about me, often darting within a few inches of my head to grab a mosquito. Sometimes they came so close it sounded like a bird was landing on my shoulder. Orange jewelweed shone brightly from the shore, purple Joe Pye weed and white boneset blooms towering above them. Annual cicadas droned lazily from the treetops.

Peering into the tea-stained water, I spotted a colony of bryozoans on a broken stalk of vegetation. It looked like a

See The Nature of Things, page 39

smooth, opaque blob of coral about 12 inches long. These colonial “moss animals” are similar to coral, but are not related (they are in separate phylums). Bryozoans are also more advanced evolutionarily speaking than corals. It was good to see them there, because their presence generally indicates good water quality.

About halfway up the shore I came to a small, shaded cove. Fanwort and coontail formed thick underwater mats in the shallows. A stealthy shadowy figure just beneath the water’s surface reminded me of my original mission. A 15-inch chain pickerel was lying there motionless, waiting for me to pass. A huge largemouth bass swam past the canoe just a few feet away. I thought of throwing a line in there, but decided against it, and paddled on.

The pond seemed to grow wilder as I paddled further north. Buttonbush, a shrub whose flowers resemble small white sea urchins, lined the shore and crowded the shallows, while honeybees and tiger swallowtail butterflies fed busily on their blooms. As I paddled through a vast carpet of white water lilies, a female wood duck exploded into flight crying “oo-eek, oo-eek!” Further on, yellow bladderwort blooms

appeared as a field of miniature snapdragons emerging just above the water’s surface. Closer to shore, water buttercup was sending up its delicate white flowers. As I paused to take it all in, a Halloween pennant, with its orange and black wings, lighted on the nearby tip of a soft-stem bulrush. Halloween pennants (a type of skimmer) are my favorite species of dragonfly.

Paddling to the northernmost end of the pond, I noticed the water was silty, so I suspected I was near the confluence of the Woonasquatucket River. I found it near a huge boulder; a bubbling brook shaded by towering white pines, with vast stands of pickerelweed at the inlet. It reminded me of Maine somehow (the area is now part of Mowry Commons, managed by Revive the Roots). I wanted to pull up and stay a while, but it was time to head back.

As I paddled back to the dam, fish were leaping from the water trying to catch dragonflies. It occurred to me that if I threw out a few casts I might catch a nice fish. But for today, just being in my favorite canoe in a beautiful place, was pleasure enough.

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A leaking toilet is the number one culprit for higher than normal water bills. Leak detection tablets are available free of charge at the Greenville Water District. When you suspect a leaking toilet, this simple test could save you from a \$1000 surprise on your water bill.

1/8 inch leak can waste 1,183,992 gallons of water @60psi

Planting a new lawn?

Want to save big bucks on your future water bill? Layer at least 5” of organic material as a base for your new lawn. This will decrease your future water bills substantially. The price you pay for the organic material will pay for itself in savings in less than two water bills.

How does this help the water utility?

It helps the water utility manage peak demand more efficiently. When everyone is using water at the same time, system resources such as pumping and storage can be strained, resulting in increased cost of delivery. Doing your part ensures even distribution of water in summer months when usage is at its highest.

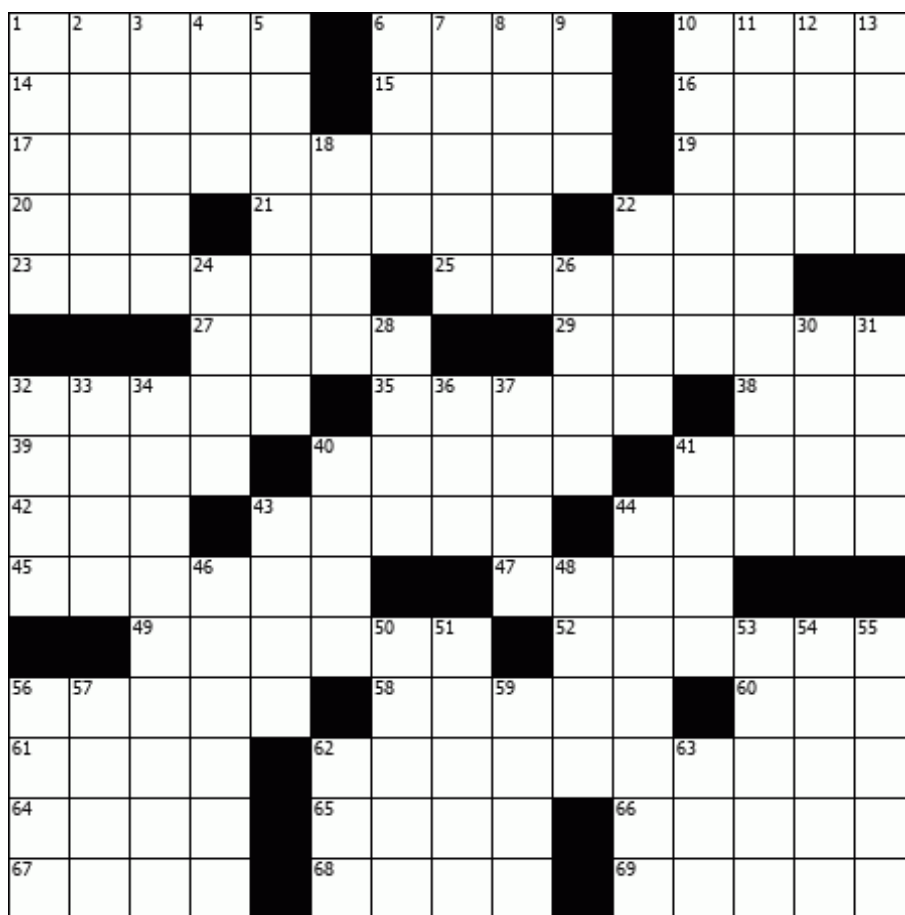
How can my toilet be leaking, I see no water?

Leaking toilets are usually transparent to the homeowner. The leak takes place in the back portion or closet of the toilet, some leaks can be heard and some cannot be heard. Routine annual inspections of the closet are recommended. Usually a small adjustment or \$10 repair kit is all that is necessary to repair the toilet.

Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Intelligent
6. Strike-breaker
10. Repeat
14. Tardier
15. Handbag
16. Gradual
17. Unsuitable for surgery
19. Coastal bird
20. Poorly lit
21. Heavenly scales
22. Broadway lights
23. Painters' stands
25. In dreamland
27. Similar to
29. Fleet
32. Track shapes
35. ____ acid
38. Weight measure
39. Skin opening
40. School division
41. Small bird
42. Had breakfast
43. Type of bean
44. Chicago's airport
45. President, e.g.
47. Canter
49. Basement
52. Narrate again
56. Airborne
58. Aired again
60. Struggle
61. Faction
62. Slow down
64. Drifting
65. Burden
66. Winona ____ of "Little Women"
67. Bygone
68. Small pastry
69. Clairvoyants



Down

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Glide | 22. Fiddling emperor | 44. Can ____ (kitchen devices) |
| 2. Excessive excitement | 24. She, in Bordeaux | 46. Conquer |
| 3. Small particles | 26. Path | 48. Aloud |
| 4. GOP member | 28. Deserve | 50. Hockey venue |
| 5. Vine support | 30. Go-getter | 51. Happen again |
| 6. Wild attempt | 31. Novelist ____ Rice | 53. Escape |
| 7. Venomous snake | 32. Semiprecious stone | 54. Liquid measure |
| 8. Book of maps | 33. Ballot | 55. Ogles |
| 9. Honey producer | 34. Phone number prefixes (2 wds.) | 56. PDQ's kin |
| 10. Self-____ | 36. Wrestler's pad | 57. ____ Kudrow of "Friends" |
| 11. Ancient Egyptian queen | 37. False god | 59. Breather |
| 12. Car beeper | 40. Female | 62. Speck |
| 13. Has | 41. Sharpen | 63. Bread choice |
| 18. Dare | 43. Hide | |

Answers to puzzle on page 42



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Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 40.

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