

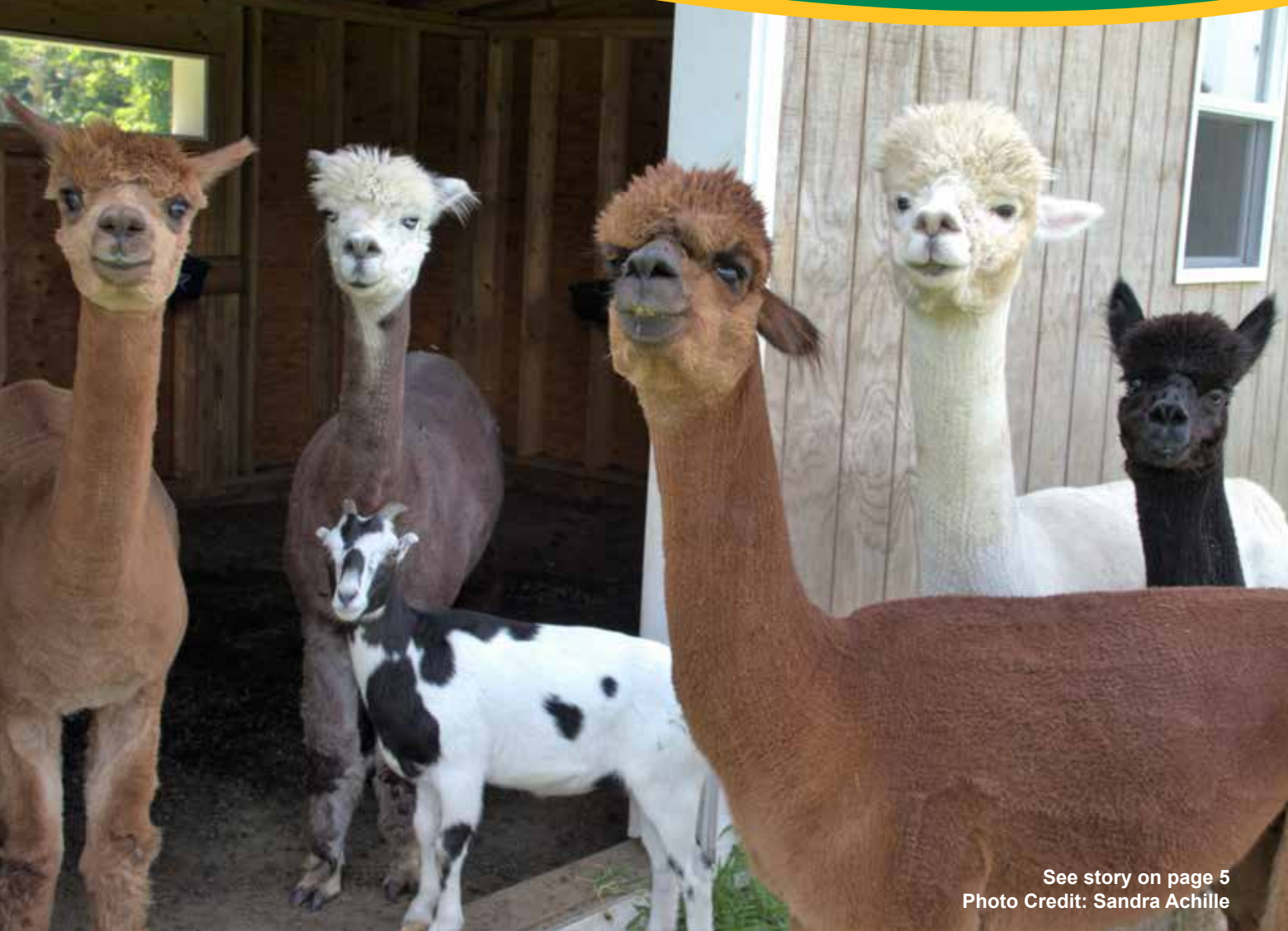
COMPLIMENTARY

SEPTEMBER 2021

# The Smithfield *Times*



smithfieldtimesri.net



See story on page 5  
Photo Credit: Sandra Achille



**Take a look inside to see our 2021 Photo Contest winners!**

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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

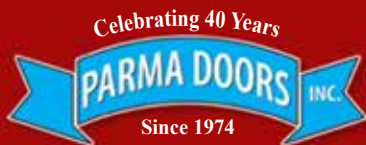
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## *And the Winners Are:*

The First Place Winner for our **2021 Photography Contest** is John Fuzek, of Smithfield. "This was taken in my backyard in 2020, mother and baby raccoons ... they were daily/nightly visitors for most of the year."

Second Place Winner is another Smithfield resident, Fred DeGregorio, with his beautiful photo taken at Bowdish Lake, Gloucester, RI, September 25, 2020.

Third Place Winner is Rita Shiff, also from Smithfield. Her photo was taken at Stump Pond in the fall of 2020.

Congratulations to the winners! It was a difficult decision with the 46 outstanding entries we received. We will be printing some of the other entries throughout the year.



**First Place Winner John Fuzek**



**First Place Photo**



**Second Place Photo**



**Third Place Photo**



# A Visit with Alcor Scientifics' Carlo Ruggeri and his Alpacas

By James Gass

Have you ever driven along Route 7 or Ridge Road in Smithfield and noticed some unusual critters in a pasture there? They're clearly not cows, horses, or sheep. They aren't llamas or camels either, although they're similar in appearance and are related. They're alpacas, a type of domestic camelid from South America. They are owned by Carlo Ruggeri, the founder of Smithfield-based Alcor Scientific Inc., an international company that designs and manufactures medical equipment.



Carlo Ruggeri

We stopped by one day last month to chat with Mr. Ruggeri about his alpacas. Ruggeri is a gracious man with an easy smile and lots of interesting stories. Originally from L'Aquila, Italy,

Ruggeri moved to Rhode Island in the 1970's. He served in senior management positions in several U.S and European healthcare companies, and developed and operated several start-up companies. He served as CEO of Vega Biomedical, a company he started and expanded, which was later acquired by Elan Corporation in 1990. He then served as President of Elan Pharma Inc. until 1997. In 2001, Ruggeri and his wife Angela founded Alcor Scientific. He is now retired, although he visits the Alcor office every so often "to bother them," he laughs. "They tell me to leave."

Although he owns the property, Ruggeri does not live on "the farm," as he calls it. He resides in Lincoln. "The farm" is actually a sprawling private family compound where his daughter and other family members live. "I thought I was a businessman, but it turns out I am a farmer," he jokes. Along with the five alpacas, he also has chickens and turkeys, "but I'm going to get rid of the turkeys," he says. "They smell bad. I guess if I grew up with them I wouldn't mind it. In the town in Italy where I grew up, everyone had sheep. You could get milk and meat from them. The smell of sheep is like Giorgio Armani to me. It reminds me of home. But the turkeys, they smell." Ruggeri also has a clubhouse on the property that houses a full-size Olympic style bocce court. "It's the best one in the country," he boasts. "I have people coming all the way from Europe just to play here."

Ruggeri bought the alpacas as pets to entertain his children and grandchildren. He bought the first three from Hidden Nook Farm in North Smithfield in September, 2020. They are named Naomi, Hagar and Patty Cake. The other two, Violet and Grace, were acquired from Hidden Nook several months ago. Naomi is the boss; the other alpacas follow her lead. When we visited the alpacas, none of them would come out from behind her. A pygmy goat named Bunny, rescued from a small pen in a Providence auto repair shop, was also recently added. Ruggeri enjoys the alpacas and wants to get more, although they are expensive and not particularly easy to keep. They don't eat grass and require a special pellet diet. "They are delicate," he tells us.

Alpacas are herd animals originating from the Andes Mountains of Peru, Western Bolivia, Ecuador and Northern

Chile. They were domesticated thousands of years ago from two wild camelid species, the vicuña and guanaco. Alpacas are often confused with llamas, but they're much smaller. However, the two are closely related and can interbreed. There are two species of alpaca, the Suri and the Huacaya. They are not working animals but are bred specifically for their fiber (fur), which can be knitted or woven into blankets, sweaters, scarves, gloves, socks or hats. The fiber comes in 52 natural colors. Ruggeri does not commercially sell the fiber from his alpacas. They are shorn once a year and he allows the person who shears them to keep it. "They're pets," he says.

Alpacas use body language to communicate with one another. They will spit if they are in distress, frightened, or want to show dominance. Male alpacas are more aggressive than females. We didn't witness any of that kind of behavior from Ruggeri's alpacas, though. "They are very gentle. They come right up to my grandson. He hugs them and they don't bite him."

As we are leaving, Ruggeri tells us to go pick some fresh lavender from his garden. "Take as much as you want." He then shakes my hand and says, "Come back sometime and play bocce." Even though I don't know how to play bocce, I just might.

*See more photos on page 20.*



Photo credits: Sandra Achille

# Back-to-School

By Dr. Judith Paolucci, Smithfield Superintendent of Schools

While planning for COVID mitigation and major school construction projects which took up much of the attention of Smithfield's educational leaders this summer, the school district is also following through on strategic planning efforts to provide town residents with a continually improving school system. These include implementing a new English Language Arts (ELA) program, ReadyGen, for students in grades K-5 and utilizing funds from a Comprehensive State Literacy Development grant to review new ELA materials for grades 6-12. Moving into the 2021-2022 school year, we hope to build upon those accomplishments to support a professional culture that places a high value on reading proficiency and has the professional knowledge and skills to ensure student success. To this end, we will ensure that all educators and instructional leaders have taken the required Right to Read training and will translate that training to improved instructional practices. Other instructional improvements are focusing on the utilization of enVision math (grades 6-12) and the implementation of our first in-action course, *Civics in Action*.

Distance learning associated with the pandemic pushed the use of technology to an entirely new level. This school year, we will continue to support new technology tools to enable learning both inside and outside the classroom. The technology department has also begun to promote streaming media video production for school events so that we can share more of what is happening in our schools with the community.

Through ongoing work with the Anti-Defamation League and with

Responsive Classroom, we will ramp up the district's equity work and enable all children to feel safe and respected. This effort will be expanded to the entire community as we work together with other members of the town on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force.

Improvements have been made to all five of the district's libraries, with the replacement of most of the high school's library furniture and all furniture in the GMS library in addition to new paint and carpet. Elementary students will have completely new, inspiring library classrooms. Other improvements at all three elementary schools include new or renovated gymnasiums and dedicated music and art rooms. Maker spaces and learning labs will provide flexible space for teachers to use for innovative lessons that may require a different set up.

Work on all three elementary schools may continue past the first day of school though crews are working hard to ensure a smooth start to the school year with minimal disruption for punch list items. Throughout the summer and often on weekends, finishing work to school additions, asbestos abatement, and renovations to existing space moved forward with only a few surprises, addressed through the careful management of the construction budget.

While the town focuses its financial support on the elementary renovation project, grants are sought to do smaller projects at GMS and SHS. The Farm to School grant, secured last year, will provide for colorful graphics in



Benches waiting to be installed in the Pleasant View Elementary School courtyard



Pleasant View Elementary School gymnasium



LaPerche PreK classroom

the cafeterias to encourage healthy eating. Two competitive grants were written this summer – one to replace the sound and lights in the high school auditorium and the other to replace the fencing around the Boyle Athletic Complex and to build an entrance plaza to enable a more secure entryway for athletic events. We have yet to hear if these grants are approved. A COVID

See Back to School, page 9



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mitigation grant supported the renovation of two restrooms at SHS. An additional ESSER grant, to be released this fall, will enable upgrades to the HVAC systems at GMS and SHS, which are long overdue.

In any other year, the opening of three renovated schools would take center stage, however, the growing numbers of COVID cases and the debate about mask mandates have turned our collective attention to plans and protocols for safely returning to school. The district has submitted a Return to School plan to RIDE and has publicly posted this plan on the district website ([www.smithfield-ps.org](http://www.smithfield-ps.org)). The plan provides guidance for physical distancing, a response protocol, and the mask policy. We have reviewed protocols for cleaning, transporting students, food services, and organizing classroom environments. We also are establishing policies for extracurriculars and athletics based on CDC guidance and will collaborate with our bus company and food services company to ensure that these services meet all guidance expectations.

Our district is committed to enacting a plan that best meets the needs of our community. The foundation of this work is built upon a vision and guiding principles that puts safety first, is data-driven and transparent, ensures equity, involves stakeholders, is agile, and maximizes student growth. We will move deliberately and make tough choices while also adapting to changing conditions and changing student and community needs. We will need to be flexible and nimble, and we will adapt quickly as variables on the ground change. The hashtag we have established for this work, #safeandsuccessful, communicates our ultimate goal. Anything less will not be Smithfield-worthy.

Are you ready for the start of school? We are!



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# Bryant Campus Turns 50

By Jim Ignasher



It was fifty years ago, September, 1971, when Bryant College (Now University) officially opened its new Smithfield campus to students, an event that began a new chapter in the history of the institution as well as for Smithfield.

Bryant University can trace its origin to 1863 when Henry Bryant and Henry Stratton established the Bryant and Stratton National Business College on Westminster Street in Providence. In 1935 the name of the college changed to Bryant College of Business Administration, and the campus relocated to Providence's east side.

The land which the university presently occupies has been in use since the 18th century. In 1730 Captain Joseph Mowry built a house which once stood where the dome of the "Unistructure" is located today. Another house was constructed next to it in 1820, and the two were later joined together.

In 1894 the property was purchased by Jonathan and Eugenia Emin. One of their sons, John Arthur Emin, later took on the property and established the Smithfield Heights Farm, and raised dairy cows. The business eventually grew to be the second largest dairy farm in Rhode Island. He also grew 78 different varieties of apples, and a few apple trees can still be found growing on the campus today.

The property later passed to John Arthur's son, John F. Emin, who continued farming the land, and is credited with establishing Smithfield's first airport. In 1931 he purchased a Curtiss Pusher airplane which he kept at What Cheer Airport in Pawtucket. The following year he found an aircraft hangar for sale, and had it dismantled, brought to his farm, and reassembled. After clearing a cornfield for take-offs and landings, the Smithfield Airport was open for business.

Although not in the history books, it could be said that the airport played a role in WWII history. In December of 1932, barely a month after the airport opened, William Benn, a young Pennsylvania Air National Guard lieutenant encountered a blinding snowstorm while piloting an open cockpit bi-plane from Boston to Philadelphia. As ice formed on the wings the aircraft began losing altitude and Benn was certain he was going to crash, but then he looked down,



**Bryant Archway**

saw the Smithfield Airport below, and made an emergency landing. Years later during the height of WWII, (Then) Major Benn invented and developed a technique known as "skip bombing" designed to sink enemy shipping with bomber aircraft. It turned the tide of the war in favor of the allies in the Pacific Theatre. Had it not been for John Emin's airport, Benn might never have lived to fulfill his destiny.

Eventually the land came into the possession of Earl S. Tupper, president of Tupperware Co. He later donated the property, which at that time consisted of 220 acres, to Bryant College. Thus the Smithfield campus became known as the "Tupper Campus".

*See Bryant Campus, page 11*



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*Bryant Campus, from page 10*

Ground breaking ceremonies took place in 1970. The focal point would be the “Unistructure”, a large dome-topped building designed to include classrooms, a dining hall, administrative offices, a radio station, swimming pool, barber shop, and bookstore, all under one roof, which was very innovative for the time. Prior to its construction, the Mowry house and the 1820 house were relocated elsewhere on the campus, and both have survived to this day.

Perhaps Bryant’s most recognized symbol is a wrought-iron gate known as “The Archway”, which has stood on a walkway leading to the Unistructure since being brought to the campus in 1971. It had originally stood at the entrance to South Hall on the Providence campus, and one legend associated with it says that a college professor and a handful of students surreptitiously removed it under cover of darkness and secretly brought it to Smithfield – a legend that’s fun to contemplate, but likely a myth. A superstitious tradition states that it’s bad luck to walk through the arch before graduation day, and if one dares to do so they won’t

graduate. While some ignore the warning, others pass to either side – just in case.

Most are probably unaware that John Mowry Road once ran from Washington Highway to Brayton Road, but that changed with development of the campus. Residents complained about traffic, so it was decided by the town to abandon the portion of road that crossed the campus, and create cul-de-sacs at either end. This left only one entrance to the campus, which allowed for better campus security.

In the 1970s, there were those who envisioned Bryant eventually becoming a university, and that happened in 2004.

When the campus first opened portions of it had yet to be completed, and in the ensuing years construction continued off and on, ultimately doubling the size of the campus and creating the educational institution we know today.

Good luck Bryant. Here’s to the next 50 years!

# Ask an Expert

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

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



## How to Caulk Large Gaps

Have you ever been in a position where you had an extraordinarily large gap to fill and you were really not sure how to do it? This may have been the case with wood, concrete, on the interior, or on the exterior, but the challenge was still the same! A gap large enough to seemingly be able to fit three tubes of caulk, but incorporating that particular solution just did not seem correct. I used to wonder about the exact same thing while in this position.

So what is one to do when confronted with this daunting quandary? Enter backer rod. Backer rod is a foam-type, cylindrical "string" that comes in various diameters. It could be 1/2", 3/4", 1", etc.

How backer rod is used, is by taking the most appropriate thickness of backer rod and with the help of a putty knife or a 5-in-1, stuffing it into the crack that you are attempting to fill, leaving a very small portion of the gap unfilled. Once the backer rod is set in place, you can then caulk the gap as you normally would. Once the caulk is dry, you can paint or finish over it as you may have already planned to do.

Keep in mind this is meant in situations where caulk would normally be used, it is not meant to be a solution for gaps that were ultra-wide and would require finishing with a material other than some type of caulk.

I have seen backer rod used for a number of different scenarios ranging from gaps in trim, to cement, to window and door applications and on and on. If for some reason, backer rod is not an option, you may indeed have to go the multiple layer of caulk route.

Though certainly not what I would

prefer, one could also fill the gap with layers of caulk, letting the caulk dry or set each time before covering it again with another layer of caulk. This would be a painstakingly slow approach but, in theory, could get you to where you need to be.

When using backer rod, it is important to be sure to use a backer rod whose width is a tad wider than the crack you are using it to fill. Backer rod can easily be cut with a utility knife or a razor to trim it to the length that is needed. It is important to not fall into a trap of thinking that backer rod is ok to solely stuff and leave in a gap without filling around it.

By using the caulk, you will not only be able to form a proper seal around the backer rod, but you will also set yourself up for being able to leave a smooth finish over the gap itself.

Seeing what at first appears as a monstrous gap can be a little bit of a head scratcher as to how to correctly fill it, having backer rod at your disposal, however, will make this initial discouraging nature of the task quickly go away as fast as the gap that you are filling in the process.

### 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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# Meet St. Philip School's New Principal

By Joe Siegel

Keith Kline is enjoying his role as Principal of St. Philip School in Greenville.

Kline, 44, attended Quinnipiac University, where he majored in Occupational Therapy. He was previously employed at the Coventry Public Schools in the Special Education department.

Kline has been a parishioner at St. Philip for the last 10 years. Kline and his wife Lisa served as Pastoral Ministers. "We did Children and Family ministry, helped out in the high school ministry and the middle school ministry as well," Kline explained.

In 2019, Kline became the Campus Minister and a religion teacher at St. Philips. He taught Grades 5 through 8. "I love children of all ages," Kline said. "I love to take something complex and make it simple and easy for them to understand. I especially love teaching the faith to children. Children of all ages and ranges and abilities have been able to come to me, whether they had special needs or whether they are typically developing are all able to come in and find love and comfort by meeting with me."

"Everything I do, I try to pray, ask God for his guidance, I lead with faith," Kline noted. "We already have a dynamic team at St. Philip so allowing them to do what they do best and just being here to support them, so it's collaborative, it's supportive."

St. Philip currently has 213 students enrolled, with several more waiting for admission in the next few weeks. Kline said the school welcomed 32 new families for the upcoming school year.



Keith Kline

"My first goal would be that everyone here in our school would worship and pray to God better," Kline said. "Going to mass, participating in the life of the church."

Kline also wants to grow enrollment to 250 students in the next three to five years. St. Philips provides education for Kindergarten through Grade 8. There is also a pre-Kindergarten program available.

Saint Philip School opened its doors in 1960 when Rev. Joseph P. McNamara, pastor of the parish, invited the Sisters of Mercy to staff his new school. Blessed and dedicated on January 15th of that year by the Most Rev. Thomas F. Maloney, Bishop of Providence, Saint Philip School initially served 189 students in grades 1-4. First staffed by four Sisters of Mercy, additional grades were added each year until all eight grades were filled.

Being at St. Philip has been rewarding for Kline, who appreciates the ability to be open about his religious feelings.

"With the cancel culture that's going on in the public schools and the different ideologies that people are putting forth, different curriculums, I knew I couldn't stay there any longer in public school," he added. "I wanted to teach the faith. Coming here, I absolutely love it. I get to teach the faith (to children), and help them to grow to love Jesus more, to know more about him and the church. I have the best job in the world."

For more information, visit St. Philip website at <https://stphilipschool.com/our-church>.







# Payne's Picks | By Sarah Payne

September 2021



## Movie Releases

### Venom: Let There Be Carnage

Although I mostly steer clear of superhero movies (except the occasional Batman film), I'm intrigued by Tom Hardy's sequel to *Venom*, which he co-wrote with Kelly Marcel (who, incidentally, also wrote *Fifty Shades of Grey*). In speaking with *Esquire* about his new film, Hardy said: "There were other objectives with *Venom*, but they were minor compared to the main objective: can I land Eddie Brock and *Venom* as an established Marvel superhero? *Venom* and Eddie Brock are part of a universal canon among those who know about superheroes, so I don't want to scratch the record. I'd like to be part of that legacy and not bugger it up completely." He mentioned he's in the process of writing the third film, and that he'd be open to a potential film that would bring *Venom* and *Spiderman* together (as they are in the comics).

pandemic, theaters seemed to be hitting their stride again in the spring and early summer. But that stride has turned into a slow crawl these past few months – a serious bummer for a movie lover like me who used to go to the movies every Friday night. Now I'm inevitably drawn into the Netflix abyss, where new B and C movies populate the feed on the daily. This month I gave *The Ice Road* a shot, since it stars one of my favorite later-to-the-scene action stars, Liam Neeson. His mere presence is enough to make a C movie entertaining, which is certainly the case with *The Ice Road*, about a rescue mission over a frozen ocean to save miners trapped in a remote diamond mine. By now, audiences expect Neeson to play characters that have a special set of skills – and here that skill is driving a semi on ice. Yes, the writing is terrible – and the acting (by all those except Neeson) even worse. But it's fun to watch Neeson make his way out of perilous situations, and by the same token, watch others fail.

*Love Letter From Your Lover*, starring Felicity Jones and Shailene Woodley. It follows a modern day reporter (Jones) who finds love letters from a couple who had an affair in 1960s London. Much like the way *The Notebook* tells parallel stories about a couple in their younger years and in their old age, this film shifts back and forth in time as the full story is revealed. First off, the idea of a disillusioned reporter reading a letter and becoming so enamored with this couple's story that she has to find out the truth – it fits just a little too nicely. Second, I'm not sure why so many books and films rely on this narrative style. It seems to me like it's a crutch. When there's not enough substance or chemistry between the main couple, why not throw in another B love story just in case? Also, all the characters fit into convenient stereotypes in this film. Woodley plays the trapped and lonely housewife to the controlling and unkind husband (played by Taylor Swift's real-life love Joe Alwyn). There's no nuance or shade of gray here, which I think is important for the audience to actually relate to the story. That said, if you're really just looking for some escapist, romantic fluff, *The Last Love Letter From Your Lover* just might do the trick.

## Movie Review

### The Ice Road (Netflix)

After a serious dry spell during the

### The Last Love Letter From Your Lover (Netflix)

Are you a fan of *The Notebook*? If yes, you'll probably love *The Last*



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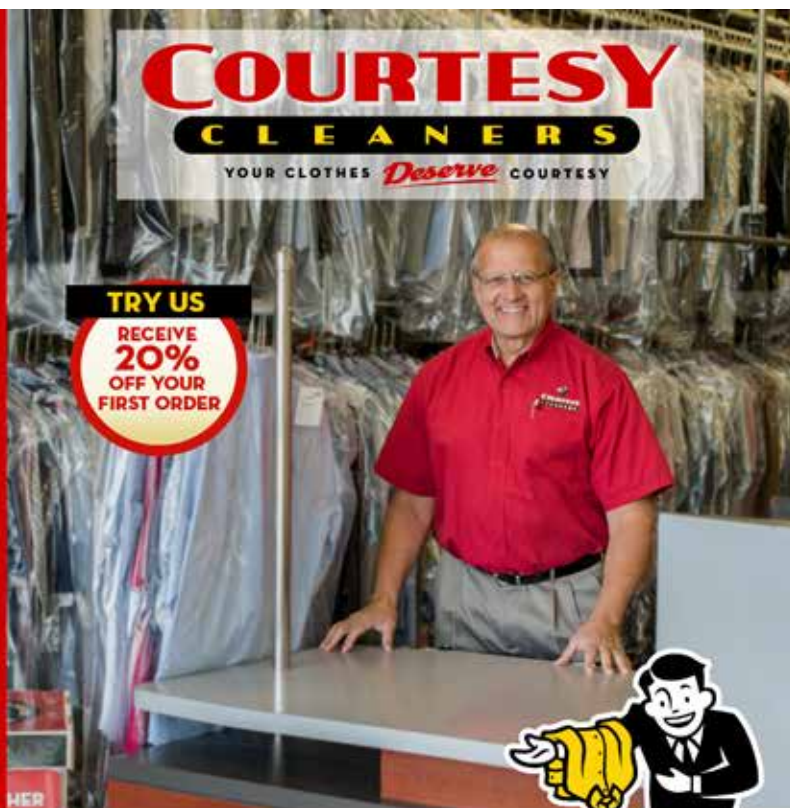
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## IMHO | by Ron Scopelliti

### Just one thing

I don't know where my compass is. When I say that, I'm not being metaphorical. I'm not referring to a moral compass or a need to find a path in life, though I suppose I could use one of those. What I'm saying is, I literally don't know where my magnetic compass is, because I never use it anymore. Last week I was in the woods at the Cumberland Monastery trying to figure the best path to the parking lot, which isn't that hard because the trails are all marked. But I'd lost track of which trail we were on, and couldn't find the sun for a direction, so I turned to what's become everyone's most frequently-used navigational aid. Instead of finding a tree to see which side had moss, I just took out my cell phone.

Though my phone has never failed to point me in the right direction, every time I use it this way I feel like I'm doing something wrong - like I'm cheating. Like I'm abandoning a centuries-old tradition of bearings and headings and declination, and finding a cheap way out of the woods by asking Siri. Is there a merit badge for that?

And what bothers me the most is the extreme reliance I have on this one device. What was once just a mobile means of voice communication just keeps expanding into every aspect of my life. For instance, I haven't even worn a watch in years, because I've got this ugly rectangular pocket watch that can also be used as a phone. I used to carry a box of maps in my car, along with one of those yellow-and-black Rhode Island Street Atlases that we all seemed to have. Those things are probably still floating around in my house somewhere, but you'd probably

have to go back three cars ago to find the last time they went out on the road.

I shouldn't let the all-inclusive nature of my cell-phone bother me so much. I've written in the past about my fondness for other multi-purpose tools like my Swiss Army Knife and the device that I think of as the king of eating utensils: the spork. I actually prefer multi-purpose tools to the multitude of single-purpose devices that marketers of kitchen appliances seem to think I need. There are bacon cookers, rice cookers, egg cookers, salad spinners, apple peelers, popcorn poppers ... The only way I can think of fitting all these items in my kitchen would be to move the stove into the living room, which isn't an entirely unattractive prospect. The one single-purpose device I'd probably buy if it actually existed is the Cornballer from "Arrested Development." I've never tasted a deep-fried cornball, but just from the look of them on the show I can easily see myself going "loco por los cornballs."

I think the reason I regard my phone differently than a Swiss Army Knife or a belt buckle/bottle opener is because it's pushy. It's always trying to add to its multi-purpose nature by suggesting new apps that will make me more dependent on it. It's as if being a simple communications device was never enough for it. And it mirrors the trend of the narcissistic

technocrats like Bezos and Musk who've ridden the technology wave to the top of the one percent. They don't want to be just one thing - they want to be everything. It's no longer enough to be a billionaire; you have to be a billionaire who's also an astronaut. And if you can host Saturday Night Live, all the better. Steve Jobs may have been an abusive boss and a control freak, but at least he never tried to leave the planet. Unless he's been cryogenically preserved, and is waiting to re-emerge like Ricardo Montalban from the SS Botany Bay.

But as much as I complain about the trend toward do-it-all devices, I'm bound to give in. I'll put my feet up on my ottoman that doubles as a storage box, flip on my game console that doubles as a streaming device, and tune into an entertainment network that used to just be an online bookstore.

In fact, I might even order a new declination-adjustable compass from the same company. And I'll fire up my overbearing phone to order some KFC from Grubhub or Uber Eats, with a reminder for the driver to check the bag and make sure they gave me a spork.

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# Smithfield High School News

## Back to Busy

by Ellorie Corcoran



With the school year fast approaching, much is up in the air. A new dress code is being drafted, and everyone is keeping a watchful eye on what is happening with Covid-19 protocols. As we navigate another year of uncertainty on our way to normal, I am here to connect you with the news, events, and students at Smithfield High School. My name is Ellorie Corcoran and as a junior at Smithfield High, I've had an opportunity to be involved with the Yearbook Club, and the Future Business Leaders of America Smithfield chapter. I also love to write and was accepted into the School of New York Times Summer program in 2020. I am very excited to serve as the *Smithfield Times* student writer!

Despite the uncertainty of starting another school year influenced by Covid, my fellow classmates and I look forward to regaining some normalcy thanks to a larger group of vaccinated students. When asked how they're feeling about school this year, one student gave her honest thoughts, "Going back to school has pros and cons just like everything else. On the one hand I'm excited to see my friends and go to classes. But then on the other is stress, anxiety, and everything else that comes with being a high school student. This summer has been a nice break, but like always it's over too soon." Another student said, "I am super excited to get back to a normal routine and to see my friends again!"

It seems the general consensus is that, with going back to school in-person, full time, students are excited to return to normal. Many students reported that the hybrid and/or virtual model was stressful and hopefully in-person classes will relieve some of that stress. Also, we are eager to learn how the school will go about handling popular student events like Homecoming and Winter Ball, both of which did not happen last year. Hopefully, this year is looking very promising for a more traditional and normal year of high school. Whatever happens, I'll be here every month to share the latest news!



More photos from Alpaca story on page 5.  
Photo credits: Sandra Achille.



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# An Angel and Two Cheeseburgers

By Harry Anderson



The three-hour wait at the dealership for my car to be inspected had tired us. This was to be expected, I thought, as I recalled events of the morning: our steam iron went bonkers, overheated, and burnt through the ironing board cover; Pauline's frantic search for her lost Visa card; and worst of all, the grievous phone call from a friend down in Florida who announced the sudden death of his wife. Unable to solve the paper's daily Sudoku and crossword puzzles only added to the gloom.

Heading home to re-heat leftovers for supper, we waited for traffic to move through the intersection of routes 104 and 146A in Park Square, Woonsocket. The signal turned green and I steered onto Greenville Road (route 104) and suddenly steered again onto the crumbling parking lot of the Beef Barn,

a long-standing eatery just over the line in North Smithfield. Something had compelled me to do this.

"I remember when Larry and Cindy took us here some years ago. Are you thinking of going in?"

"Yup. I'm not up for left-overs." Every stool at the counter was taken as were all but one booth to the left and in the back. Pauline was quick to spot it and prodded me toward it. Immediately a waitress – young and pretty, wearing a tattered baseball cap, cut-off jeans, and tennis shoes – swished away crumbs from the table and asked for our order.

"A couple of coffees, black with sugar, and you have a menu?" "On the board, up there over the grill." "When you bring us the coffees we'll order. OK?"

Without glasses, I couldn't read the board, but Pauline, by squinting, could see it, hardly. "Skimpy," she said. "Only sandwiches and salads." "So be it. How about cheeseburgers then? Haven't had one of them in a long time."

I was lost in thought as the waitress plunked the coffees in paper cups on the table and Pauline gave her our order. The first drops of rain splattered on the window, deepening the melancholy that had darkened my mood since the morning's phone call. My friend's tearful voice resonated in my head: "Maggie passed away last evening."

*Oh, dear Lord, why is all this happening? Tommy's gone and so are Carol and Jennifer and Ed, and now*

*See An Angel & Two Cheeseburgers, page 23*

A photograph of the Tucker~Quinn Funeral Home building. It is a large, single-story brick building with a prominent portico supported by white columns. There are several arched windows and a small cupola on the roof. The building is surrounded by greenery and a paved parking lot.



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Maggie. Nothing but bad news all around. What a terrible year.

Pauline's hand atop mine brought me back to the moment. I turned from the window that now the rain was pelting, hard, and glanced about the room. At a nearby table six teenaged boys and girls, hunched over a cell phone, babbled and laughed. Across the way, mostly men queued up awaiting their take-out orders, several in uniforms of their trade: construction workers wearing yellow hard hats and vests, a UPS guy in brown shorts and shirt, a cop. Two booths away a thirty-something woman was on her feet scolding her two kids for some infraction as their tattooed father, presumably, slathered ketchup on his fries.

"Eat up," she said, "before your cheeseburger gets cold." The first bite into it sparked a memory of sultry summer nights long, long ago when the big bands like Guy Lombardo and Les Brown played at Rhodes and I was courting Pauline, and when the dancing ended we went to Burns' diner on Broad Street for burgers. Everything was coming up roses then.

Since her spinal surgery, she stopped putting coloring in her hair. That puzzled me. A lot of things puzzled me. But right then and there I felt out of place watching a white-haired woman – my wife – sipping coffee in the Beef Barn. There was no way of hiding the fact that we were by far the eldest customers.

"How about dessert?" the pretty waitress asked. "Our grape nut pudding goes over big." "Not for me, thanks," Pauline said. "Just give us the bill," I said.

Flashing a huge conspiratorial smile, she bent toward Pauline and half-whispered something that I missed but that elicited Pauline to ask, "Now, who would do that?"

Confused, I put the question to her, "Who would do what?" "She just told me that someone has paid the bill." It took me a minute to process the news. Then came my questions: "Who's this 'someone'? Do you know why he or she did this? Where is this person sitting?"

The pretty girl in the cut-off jeans and baseball cap merely shrugged and answered, "It was a woman with a kid. She's left." And she walked away.

On the drive home through the rain I was in a different mood, and I recalled reading on a plaque somewhere in my travels this truism: "How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it."

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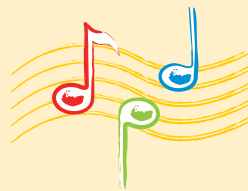


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Emily Larievere and Shannon Flanagan with potatoes from the Baked Potato truck.



Steve Smith and the Naked with their crowd pleasing tunes.



Doreen Ogora, Linda Martino and Jacauele Carmaggio enjoying the music.



Jenna decided on a burger from the Trapbox food truck.



Photo credits: John Salois



The Santana family.





# Health Awareness

by Diane L. Marolla, LICSW

## Will the Lifespan Merger be Good for Rhode Island?

*“If you can’t take care of your employees, how will you be able to take care of the healthcare needs of Rhode Islanders?”*

**My quote in an email to Dr. Timothy Babineau CEO – Lifespan.**

I have been writing to Dr. Babineau on a weekly basis, as their Human Resources department’s leave of absence protocol is discriminatory towards individuals with mental health conditions. Post my emails to Dr. Babineau re: their flawed leave of absence protocol, I received an email from one of their top Vice Presidents trying to intimidate me into not sending Dr. Babineau emails.

I am “small potatoes”. I grew up in the Conimicut section of Warwick. My father was a WWII veteran and was an aircraft mechanic for the Navy post the war. My mother was a stay-at-home mother. I was educated in the Warwick Public School System. Both of my college degrees are from RI colleges (Bryant and RIC). I am not a high-profile person, but I do use my voice when I need to. When I was in the Master of Social Work program at RIC, I learned the power of advocacy.

I have always been against the Lifespan/CNE merger. When I was an employee at Women & Infants (1989-

1999) and Butler Hospital (1999-2002), there were discussions with Rhode Island Hospital at that time about a merger. Back then, I thought the idea was a bad one. I thought it was bad for two reasons: it would eliminate jobs, and it would impact the quality and affordability of healthcare. I remember speaking to an elected official about it at that time. His comment to me was “Diane, nobody cares about the merger.”

This merger is still a bad idea. Why? For the same reasons I had many years ago. Rhode Islanders will be left with little to no choice in healthcare. In RI, we already have limited choices. Should this merger go through, Lifespan will pretty much be the only option for Rhode Islanders for inpatient, outpatient care and ancillary care.

I am certainly not alone in my concerns. In reading *The Care New England and Lifespan Proposed Merger: Policy Considerations related to the State of Rhode Island Office of*

*the Health Insurance Commissioner’s Statutory Purpose, a report written by the Health Commissioner’s Office,* they also have concerns such as:

- “The proposed merger between CNE and Lifespan, the state’s two largest systems, will reshape the local health care landscape and significantly alter the market conditions faced by consumers, health insurers, and competing health care providers.”
- “The combined inpatient market share of the merged entity will approach 80%.”
- “Care New England and Lifespan hospitals have among the highest prices for inpatient and outpatient services in the state. This may be concerning for at least two reasons. First, any increase in market power that may accrue to the merged entity could be exercised to increase prices, whether that be prices for hospital, professional, or ancillary services. Second, the

*See Health Awareness, page 27*

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diversion of patients from lower price competitors to higher price system hospitals could increase health care costs, all else being equal.”

The report from the RI Health Commissioner’s Office also references studies that indicate mergers increase costs for health insurers and consumers. Additionally, the report references studies that indicate the 30-day readmission rates post mergers did not improve. A high readmission rate simply stated means that a hospital did not do effective discharge planning, and the patient returned to the hospital within 30 days. Readmissions cost the healthcare system unnecessary dollars.

Specific to jobs, they will be lost. Anyone who thinks there will not be is being naïve. Whenever there is a merger, the larger organization always takes control over the smaller one. You will not need “two of everything.” That will mean that Care New England employees are at risk for losing their jobs. I can say as a former Women & Infant’s and Butler employee, they were both great places to work. The leadership, at that time, respected their employees, paid their employees well, and offered a great benefit package. The culture of both Women and Infant’s and the other Care New England hospitals will change, therefore, caring, and experienced employees will leave.

We have all realized during COVID, how important and fragile our healthcare system is. Our healthcare workers were and remain heroes every day. I am sad to see that this merger will go through. For me, should I need inpatient care, I will be getting my care in Boston. Specific to my clients who struggle most days in getting medical care, I always discuss with them and will discuss with them to explore the healthcare providers and facilities in Boston as well.

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# The Chief's Corner

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

## Back to School: Keeping Children Safe

This year, back to school looks a bit different than the start of school last year, as students will be attending school in-person. This year you will see children on or near a road, and keeping them safe should always be top-of-mind.

### School Bus Safety



#### STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES

Many students rely on school buses to get them to and from school safely.

**Did You Know:** School buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road; they're designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in preventing crashes and injuries; and in every state, stop-arm laws exist to protect children from other motorists.

**If you are driving, remember these simple rules:**

- ▶ Yellow flashing lights on a school bus mean slow down – don't speed up – because the bus is preparing to stop. There are likely students waiting to get on the bus or parents waiting nearby to pick up children.
- ▶ Red flashing lights mean stop – and wait at least 20 feet behind the bus – because children are getting on or off the school bus. Stay stopped until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving.
- ▶ Even when lights aren't flashing, watch for children, particularly in the morning or mid-afternoon, around school arrival and dismissal times. Be

alert as you back out of a driveway, or drive through a neighborhood, school zone or bus stop.

**Parents - talk bus safety with your children:**

Your child should arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Teach them to play it SAFE:

- ▶ Stay five steps away from the curb.
- ▶ Always wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver signals for you to board.
- ▶ Face forward after finding a seat on the bus.
- ▶ Exit the bus after it stops and look left-right-left for cars before crossing a street.

### Bicycle Safety



#### STAYING SAFE ON TWO WHEELS

As the public health emergency continues, many people have turned to bicycle riding as fun way to get out and exercise, or have taken the opportunity to teach their children to ride a bike. Bicycles can also be an easy and quick way to travel to school. Be sure to do these simple things to keep your bike ride safe:

- ▶ Always wear a correctly fitted helmet, and securely fasten the chin strap.
- ▶ Ride in the same direction as traffic, and follow traffic signs and signals.
- ▶ Stay in the bike lane whenever possible.

- ▶ Never use electronics while riding – they are distracting.

### Pedestrian Safety



#### WATCH THE ROAD

Many students walk to and from school each day. Remind your child to:

- ▶ Use the sidewalk whenever possible, and if there isn't a sidewalk, walk on the edge of the street facing traffic.
- ▶ Whenever they are available, use marked crosswalks to cross the street, and look left-right-left for vehicles or bikes before crossing.
- ▶ Make sure you never play, push or shove others when you walk around traffic.
- ▶ Everyone should watch the road, not their phones.

If you are driving, especially in a neighborhood, look out for pedestrians at all times, everywhere.

With a new school year, let's work hard to keep it safe for everyone. Whether you are a driver, pedestrian, bicyclist, or bus rider – stay alert and drive safely.

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# Recipe Swap!

## Zucchini Parmesan Crisps

### Ingredients:

- Cooking spray
- 2 medium zucchini (about 1 pound total)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan (3/4-ounce)
- 1/4 cup plain dry bread crumbs
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground black pepper



### Directions:

- 1 Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray.
- 2 Slice the zucchini into 1/4-inch thick rounds. In a medium bowl, toss the zucchini with the oil. In a small bowl, combine the Parmesan, bread crumbs, salt, and a few turns of pepper. Dip each round into the Parmesan mixture, coating it evenly on both sides, pressing the coating on to stick, and place in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet.
- 3 Bake the zucchini rounds until browned and crisp, 25 to 30 minutes. Remove with spatula. Serve immediately.

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# The Nature of Things

## Shadows of Ghosts

by James Gass

There are many places in Rhode Island I like to go woods walking, as my friend Ken Weber used to call it, but there is one spot tucked away in a “thickly settled” part of the state that’s one of my favorites. It’s Snake Den State Park in Johnston.

There are several trails at Snake Den, but I like to walk the lower part of the orange trail that starts at the northernmost parking area located off Brown Ave. The best time to go is in late fall or winter, when the leaves are off the trees and you can get a better view of things. The parking lot there is small, but it has an informational kiosk with a map at the trailhead. The trails are freshly blazed.

As you step onto the orange trail, aside from a large vernal pool off to your left, it looks like any other wooded area in the state. But as you make your way along the winding, rocky path, you eventually find yourself on top of a steep ridge lined with huge rock outcroppings, gnarled white pines and chestnut oaks. The trail seems very old, like it’s been there for centuries. And it probably has. As you walk along the ridgeline above the tops of trees reaching up from the bottom of the ravine, you eventually come to an overlook with a vast, sweeping view of the valley. The ruggedness of the trail, the way the sunlight filters through the pines, just the timelessness of it all, transports me to another time and place.

When I walk this trail, my thoughts sometimes turn to the Native Americans that might have passed through here. Was this same trail tramped by moccasin-clad feet hundreds of years ago? Did Metacomet and Weetamoo use this trail in their flight from the colonists during King Philip’s War in 1675? Local legend has it that this might in fact be so; as they fled pursuing local militia, they

passed through this area on their way to Nipmuc allies up north. There are several natural shelters in the rock outcroppings along the way that they could have used. Perhaps I’m walking in their footsteps, shadows of ghosts long since past.

Native trails in Rhode Island often became colonial thoroughfares, then the paved roads and highways of today. The well-travelled path that ran between what is now Connecticut and Providence eventually became Route 44. Route 146 was originally a trail that gave interior tribes access to upper Narragansett Bay. Farnum Pike in Smithfield was also once a native trail.

Many present-day locales once connected by these well-trodden paths still bear their Algonquin place names, though some have been anglicized. Chepachet means “place where the stream divides.” Louisquisset is “at the meeting place.” Pascoag is “the dividing place” or “land at the branch” of the river. Woonsocket is “the place of steep descent.” There are so many of these ancient place-names in Rhode Island, we hardly give it a second thought.

Sometimes when I’m on this trail I think of the wildlife that once flourished in the region. Incredibly, eastern timber wolves were once a common sight in and around the settlements of southern New England during the early colonial period. But they developed a taste for livestock, and in 1631, Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colony authorities offered bounties for each wolf killed. Rhode Island followed suit in 1659, and the result was the complete elimination of wolves from the region by the late 1700’s. The idea that timber wolves might have once patrolled the path I’m walking on is an intriguing, though somewhat unsettling, notion. Sickly American chestnut saplings



Orange Trail, Snake Den State Park

emanating from old rootstock along the trail are a sad reminder that the woods here were once dominated by these magnificent trees. They were much taller and more plentiful than oaks. A fungal blight introduced from Asia in 1904 killed most of them, and now few, if any, reach maturity. When I see these feeble saplings, I try to imagine what this place must have looked like filled with thousands of towering, healthy chestnut trees. I can’t.

I marvel at the energy that must have been expended by both man and beast to create the weathered stone walls that wind through these woods. And their toil was not in vain. Most still stand, many of them in the exact same spot where they were laid by hand hundreds of years ago. But the laboriously cleared fields and pastures that these walls once delineated have been reclaimed by forest, and the farms and generations of people who worked them are long gone. Only the stone walls remain.

Rhode Island has a storied history, both native and immigrant, both natural and industrial. And the shadows of these ghosts are still here. You just need to know where to look.





# Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

## The Day We Touched the Heavens ...

“Oh, I have slipped the scary bonds of Earth, put out my hand, and touched the face of God.”

Not quite as often quoted as “One small step for man ...” and, at least according to early reports, not a quotation used by any of our current entrepreneurs who are launching themselves 50 miles above the earth. No, an epitaph uttered by one John Gillespie Magee, Jr. as he stepped off the first Ferris wheel opened to the public in 1893. According to the Know-It-All-Calendar (2021) – a tongue in cheek gift from my daughter – June 21 marks the day that George Washington Ferris, Jr. introduced the wheel to the public at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Built in part to rival the Eiffel Tower that had opened two years earlier, Ferris employed the principles used in the construction of a bicycle wheel, where at any given time, the bottom half supported the whole structure. Created at the expense of \$300,000, the wheel stood 264 feet, carried 36 gondolas and offered ten-minute rides for 50 cents.

There is strong evidence that similarly designed circular wheels were used as early as 200 BCE to lift water. And a survey of early European history reveals that this type of mechanism had been used for several centuries for various purposes, including entertainment, but were wooden and powered by brute strength.

As technology evolved, by 1906 portable Ferris wheels that could travel from small town to small town, largely in rural America, were becoming a common feature, bringing a heightened

sense of excitement to carnivals that often featured less seemingly dangerous rides.

The carnival made it’s annual August visit to my small town on the St. Lawrence River. For one week a dusty empty lot on the edge of town was transformed overnight into a noisy and gaudy magnet for the entire town, beckoning us not only by calliope music and mysterious side shows and game hawkers, but by the scent of popping corn and cotton candy.

Carnivals, like the Ferris wheel, have a long history dating to early Christian and medieval times. But it was the Columbian Exposition that was the catalyst for the carnivals we knew in our youth. At the edge of the Exposition had been an avenue called Midway Plaisance which featured rides, food vendors, market stalls, sideshows and games of chance.

Admittedly carnivals were often associated with “shady” practices, an image driven in the early 20th century by movies and some novels. In fact, the term “easy mark” originated with carnivals, as those suspected as being vulnerable were tapped on the back with a hand that was covered in chalk, alerting others hawking their games of an easy target. There were also tales of young people running away with the carnival to escape their stuffy hometown.

Mostly carnivals provided a chance to



let loose – yell, scream, eat your fill of junk food and show off to your class mates or girl friends how strong you were or how accurate you could be with a basketball. Most of the games were rigged of course – hoops mounted at an angle that made it impossible to score a basket, for example. Multiple tries occasionally resulted in a small prize, usually a stuffed animal, and an invitation to play again to win the bigger and cuter bear.

The sea change in “carnivals” came as stationary amusement parks emerged. Led by the opening of Disney Land in 1955, amusement parks gained a better reputation as clean, family friendly fun sites.

**Full disclosure:** I am an amusement park ride wimp. I didn’t visit a Disney Park until I was in my mid-forties, and then I was adventurous and rode on “It’s a Small World.”

*See Inside The Brown Bag, page 33*

**Author's notes:**

- Rocky Point had the first prototype of the Ferris wheel in Rhode Island. Installed by Captain William Winslow in 1858 on the 89 acres he had purchased for \$2,400, he added to his other attractions the wooden wheel dubbed the "Spanish Fandango." For 25 cents you could take a boat from Providence and spend the day enjoying a picnic, buy chowder and clam cakes made by Winslow's mother and ride the wheel, the chariots or the flying horses.
- In 1868 Frederick Savage, an agricultural engineer, devised a method to drive rides using steam. He became the preeminent maker of carousels in the 19th century. Westerly, RI's Flying Horses is said to be the only surviving and continuously running carousel of its kind in the US. Legend suggests it was brought to RI in 1883 by a traveling carnival and for some reason abandoned.
- Based on a March 18, 2021 report, over \$22 billion was generated by amusement and theme parks in 2019. Probably because I bought so many fried twinkies!

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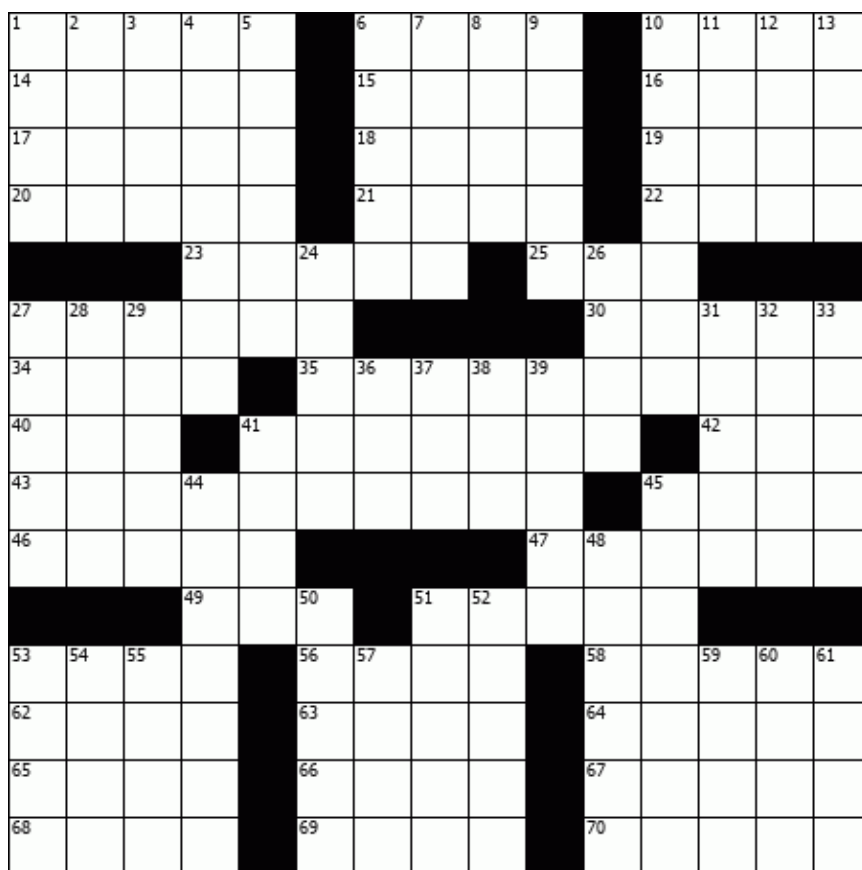
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# Crossword Puzzle

## Across

1. Picked
6. Perches
10. Potent particle
14. Sultan's wives
15. Profess
16. Bay
17. San Antonio shrine
18. Folk knowledge
19. Paper measure
20. Kindled again
21. Locale
22. Norway's capital
23. Indigent
25. Stick up
27. Fleet of warships
30. Ziti, e.g.
34. Shakespearean monarch
35. "My \_\_\_\_" (The Who song)
40. Sixth sense (abbr.)
41. Hairspray type
42. Manchester's country (abbr.)
43. Engaged in festivities
45. Always
46. Hard metal
47. Diner
49. Ump's kin
51. Likely
53. Teamster's rig
56. Vietnam's continent
58. Vocation
62. Correct
63. Lacking fat
64. Not outer
65. Feels unwell
66. Posted
67. Provide food
68. Red root
69. God of love
70. Winter toys



## Down

1. Scorch
2. Healthy
3. Aloud
4. Educational meeting
5. Overacted
6. Lettuce dish
7. Off-white
8. Pulled apart
9. Take an oath
10. Gymnast's kin
11. Foot digits
12. Egg-shaped
13. Office message
24. Enthusiastic
26. Milky gem
27. Guinness and Baldwin
28. Put back to zero
29. Syrup tree
31. Colander
32. Copier's need
33. Furious
36. Period in history
37. \_\_\_\_ guilty
38. Wind direction (abbr.)
39. Cowboys' contest
41. Ready, willing, and \_\_\_\_
44. Weirdest
45. Unending
48. Pranks
50. Untrue
51. Liberace's instrument
52. Talks wildly
53. Guess
54. Pennsylvania city
55. Army mascot
57. Fortuneteller
59. Poker fee
60. Feat
61. Is mistaken

Answers to puzzle on page 39





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# A View From the Cheap Seats

## Danger in the Game When the Stakes are High

Dan Pieroni

Just when you thought NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell couldn't be more fixated on the protection and preservation of the NFL shield, he drops a bombshell that no one saw coming.

If you know Goodell's track record you cannot honestly say you are surprised. After all, The NFL shield and personal integrity are as important to him as Hobbes the stuffed tiger is to Calvin, in that they are practically inseparable from one another.

The NFL is Goodell's league, and anyone who dares to question his almost total authority will suffer the consequences. In his time as Commissioner, Goodell has taken on such taboo subjects as cheating, bounties on people's heads, domestic violence, and deflated footballs all in the name of protecting the shield. Now, Goodell has answered the challenge to take on his most formidable opponent yet, personal beliefs.

On July 22, Goodell sent a memo to all NFL teams informing them that any team that suffers a covid outbreak amongst its unvaccinated vaccinated players will automatically forfeit its scheduled game that week. In other words, if you're on a team that has unvaccinated players that catch the covid virus on game day, you lose. No games will be rescheduled, no time for preparation will be given back, and if the forfeited game impacts your playoff standing, well, that's not Goodell's problem.

Is this fair? Hardly.

What exactly Goodell trying to gain

by taking a hardline stance against the unvaccinated? Is this nothing more than a personnel vendetta against the players? Is Goodell protecting the interests of his owners and broadcast partners so they don't lose money in ticket and advertising revenue respectfully? Is he forcing his employees to get vaccinated against their will in a total disregard for other people's values and beliefs? Whatever the reason, this reeks of nothing more than power play and a gross misuse of power. Where is the players association in all of this?

It is hard for me to believe that NFL Players Association Executive director DeMaurice Smith would go along with this, how could he? His players will under fire when many of them will be guilty by associating with an unvaccinated player. In fact, while you are reading this, I'd be willing to bet that some team has filed a court injunction to prevent this from happening.

Personally, I want the players to be vaccinated. Covid dominated the headlines last year, and it was no fun watching football being played in empty stadiums with undermanned rosters. However, I cannot in good conscience judge a player's beliefs if they honestly are reluctant to take a vaccine. While I personally believe that a vaccination lessens the chance of one contracting covid, it does not guarantee total immunity.

NFL Network host Rich Eisen recently contracted covid while being fully vaccinated. Eisen used his platform as a pro-vaccination advocate by tweeting

out to his fans to get vaccinated and sharing his belief that his situation could have been worse if he wasn't vaccinated.

Given Eisen's situation, I can understand why some players would be hesitant to be vaccinated as there are no guarantees of immunity. Data drives impulsive decision making. Yes, the Delta variant of covid has caused cases to rise in some states, and the Olympics went off without any spectators.

The issue with Goodell is not his concern over the player and their health, its forced compliance. The data has shown him that the vaccine is effective enough to keep covid at bay. However, proof is not definite proof, hence the reluctance of some to take the vaccine.

Goodell forcing the players to get vaccinated or risk a forfeit probably means he will not get too many Christmas cards from them December. More importantly it has sent a message to them that he cares more about the interests of fans, owners, and broadcasters over the health of the players. If Goodell is serious in enacting this mandate, there will be no winners. Owners will lose revenue. We the fans will be treated to inferior games. Goodell will lose any support he still has with the players association.

I look forward to the angry email Goodell will be sent by fans who lost their fantasy leagues because their star player's team had to forfeit a game because their backup long snapper has covid and was not vaccinated.

Don't say I didn't warn you Roger.

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# The Cloaked Minister

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

York Village in Old York, Maine is a quaint little hamlet with buildings, sites and legends dating back to the very roots of European settlement. In fact, the oldest known public building in America, the Old Gaol sits along Main Street overlooking all who pass by.

There is also strange side to York Village. A side labored with personal ghosts and guilt. Take the case of Reverend Joseph Moody, or as he is forever known, Handkerchief Moody.

Moody, born in 1700 was the son of famous Minister, Samuel Moody. Joseph graduated from Harvard University in 1718. He then took positions as a schoolmaster, county clerk and judge in the village before becoming minister to the Second Church of York, Maine in 1732. Moody was an esteemed man of the cloth, presiding over weddings, funerals and other various social events. His sermons were powerful and daunting. Then, something changed. Reverend Moody became melancholy to the point where he hid his face from the public by wearing a black veil. One explanation submitted by historians was that he suffered a severe mental and physical breakdown after his beloved wife and infant daughter died during childbirth.

Either way, Moody began to preach his sermons under the cloak of a black silk veil. Yet, he was always witty, logical and brilliant in his sermons, so the townsfolk surmised that some sort of physical health generated infliction might have created the need for the strange cloak. Whenever there was a public occasion, the reverend would be present covered by the macabre veil, sitting with his face toward a wall.

Because of his appearance, the parishioners soon sought other clergy for festive occasions, although his eccentric facial attire still made him popular with funerals. It was not long before Reverend Moody became a complete recluse save for his Sunday sermons and nightly strolls through the graveyard or shoreline. More and more, he

sought seclusion, even from his own brothers until he gave up preaching altogether.

In 1753 Mr. Moody died. It was not until several years later that the truth came out about the reason for the great preacher's black cloak. Before he died he had called a fellow clergyman to his side for final confession. The Reverend revealed that many years before he became a priest, he accidentally killed his best friend while hunting. Fearing the wrath of the law and more so the possible hatred of his friend's parents who he revered so, he covered up the deed to look like an Indian attack. The villagers were convinced by his story, but his soul never healed. After that day the spirit of his best friend always stood before him demanding the truth be told.

In desperation and remorse for his sins, the reverend later decided himself unfit to look his fellow parsonage in the face and thus the cloak was donned so that no good man should ever have to look upon the face of sin and guilt. Reverend Moody was buried with the handkerchief over his face as requested even though he had lifted the veil that had so long covered his soul by final confession. His stone reads:



Joseph Moody's Headstone



The Ministers Black Veil

Here lies interred the body of the Reverend Joseph Moody pastor of the Second Church in York, an excelling instance of knowledge, ingenuity, learning, piety, virtue and usefulness, was very serviceable as a schoolmaster, clerk, register, magistrate and

*See The Cloaked Minister, page 39*

*The Cloaked Minister; from page 38*

afterwards as a minister was uncommonly qualified and spirited to do good, and accordingly was highly esteemed and greatly lamented.

*Although this stone may moulder into dust,  
Yet Joseph Moody's name continue must*

The reverend is buried in a small lot known as the Second Parish Burying Ground on Route 91 across from the Arthur Bragdon House, where he resided for a period during his life.

One final note: Nathaniel Hawthorne would later go on to write a story based on the account of Joseph Moody called, "The Minister's Black Veil."

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### Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 34.

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



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- Stone Dust
- Pea & Chip Stone
- 3/4", 1 1/4" & 2" Stone
- 1 1/4" Processed Gravel
- 3" Minus Base Stone
- 3"- 8" Gabion Stone
- Filter Stone
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# 50 years Ago – September, 1971

by Jim Ignasher

Airman Carl Ackroyd of Esmond completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base.

Harry Latham was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. His father, retired air force Major Irving Latham was present.

Navy lieutenant Wesley E. Foutch was serving at the naval air station in Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Army Captain Edmond B. Lynch, Jr. of Greenville was awarded the bronze Star while serving with the 23rd Infantry Division in Vietnam.

Patricia Darby of Spragueville was promoted to the rank of corporal in the United States Marine Corp.

On September 4th the Concorde, a supersonic commercial passenger aircraft, made its first transatlantic flight from France to the Cape Verde Islands traveling at an average speed of 1,222 miles per hour.

Animal Control Officer George Kelly was dispatched to a home on Farnum Pike for a report of a man up a tree. Upon arrival he encountered a vicious dog that would not allow the man to climb down from his perch. When Kelly attempted to capture the dog, it attacked him and bit him on the arm. The dog was eventually restrained, and when Smithfield police located the owner, they were informed that the dog was used in security work.

The Smithfield Historical Society elected new officers. William R. Gustafson was elected president; John F. Emin, Jr., vice president; Mrs. Joseph Mollo, recording secretary; Mrs. Ralph Harris, corresponding secretary; and John Hines, treasurer.

The Apple Blossom Garden Club held a meeting in the Esmond Recreational Hall. The guest speaker was Mrs. Evelyn Umphrey who lectured about aromatic herbs.

On September 8th the Smithfield Golden Agers elected new officers. Margaret Sanderson was elected president; William Tiebault, vice president; Mary Keough, treasurer; Stella Hill, secretary; and Elizabeth Holt and Agnes Barby to “publicity”.

On September 9th, the Smithfield Neighborhood Association for Progress, (SNAP), held a meeting at the Greenville Manor. On September 10, “Art Group 70”, an association formed in 1970 to promote fine arts and crafts in Northern Rhode Island held its first general meeting at the Greenville Public Library.

On September 11th, Luna 18, an unmanned Soviet moon probe crashed on the moon’s surface.

On September 15th, the United States Forest Service, building on its success with the Smokey the Bear anti-forest fire campaign, introduced “Woodsy Owl”, with the slogan, “Give a hoot, don’t pollute.” as part of its Keep America Beautiful campaign.

The Greenville Grange held its 65th installation of officers at the Greenville Grange Hall once located on Austin Avenue. Joseph Connetti was elected Master; Mildred Paterson, Assistant Steward; Mildred Stone, Flora; Mary Sheffield, Pomona; Ruth Smith, Lecturer; Louise MacDonald, Chaplain; Howard Horton, Secretary; Earle Huse, Overseer; Gerald Fielder, Overseer; Jo Ann Atkinson, Steward; and Ernest Smith, Executive Committee. The first installation was held in 1907.

The Town of Smithfield received \$39,195 in federal funds to combat the town unemployment rate of 12%.

The Smithfield Raiders football team won the homecoming game against South County 18 to 0.

“Billy Burr’s Fun-O-Rama” carnival was held at the Apple Valley Mall. Advertisements promised “new rides, new games, and new thrills – fun and excitement for everyone”. A major draw was to be “The Great DeFoce” an aerial acrobat who would perform “suicidal stunts” 100 feet in the air.

The once popular LOOK magazine announced that due to rising costs and declining revenues its October 19, 1971 issue would be its last.







# Greenville Public Library

573 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI 02828

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

greenvilleasstdirector@gmail.com • greenvillelibraryri.org

## Adult Events

### Virtual Book Chat

Thursdays, September 2 & 16 p.m.

We meet virtually via Zoom. Please register online on our event calendar at [greenvillelibraryri.org](http://greenvillelibraryri.org) or by calling 401-949-3630.

### Home Sweet Home Book Club

Monday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m.

### NEW!

### Papercraft Club | September | Scrapbooking

Thursday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Please register online on our event calendar at [greenvillelibraryri.org](http://greenvillelibraryri.org) or by calling 401-949-3630.

### Lotus Flower Lantern Workshop

Wednesday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Register on our event calendar at [greenvillelibraryri.org](http://greenvillelibraryri.org) or by calling 401-949-3630.

### Cybercrime Protection with United Way 211

Wednesday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Register today on our event calendar at [greenvillelibraryri.org](http://greenvillelibraryri.org) or by calling 401-949-3630.

## Greenville Library Online Art Gallery

Submit at [bit.ly/GVLAart](http://bit.ly/GVLAart) or visit our website at [greenvillelibraryri.org](http://greenvillelibraryri.org) for the link!

Questions? Contact Ali at [greenvillepubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:greenvillepubliclibrary@gmail.com).

## Exhibits

Greenville Public Library is currently exhibiting oil paintings by artist Rob Franco. The exhibit is on display through September. For more on Franco, visit [robfranco.com](http://robfranco.com).



## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Tim Jones  
Cartoonist

# Obituaries



**Margaret Spaziano**  
7/10/21  
[robbinsfuneralhome.com](http://robbinsfuneralhome.com)



**Joseph Golouski**  
7/20/21  
[www.andersonwinfield.net](http://www.andersonwinfield.net)



**Richard E. Hall**  
7/25/21  
[www.thequinnfuneralhome.com](http://www.thequinnfuneralhome.com)



**Kenneth M. Martins**  
7/31/21  
[www.andersonwinfield.net](http://www.andersonwinfield.net)



**Eileen B. (Langshaw) McAuliffe**  
8/1/21  
[www.thequinnfuneralhome.com](http://www.thequinnfuneralhome.com)



**Raymond F. Golden**  
8/2/21  
[www.csori.com](http://www.csori.com)



# The Smithfield Times

Follow us on    

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Sarah Payne  
Dan Pieroni  
Ron Scopelliti  
Joe Siegel

Albert Tavakalov – Photographer  
Sandra Achille – Photo and Creative Contributor  
Tim Jones – Cartoonist

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