

COMPLIMENTARY

DECEMBER 2021

The Smithfield Times



smithfieldtimesri.net

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

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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



All tired and worn flags can be dropped off at this new location at the Smithfield Town Hall on 64 Farnum Pike so they may be properly retired.

Pictured here (L-R) are Skip Sweeney, Commander of American Legion Post #64; Randy Rossi, Smithfield Town Manager and Antonio S. Fonseca, District #1 Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, who all contributed to this cause.



Senator Reed met up with his old friend, Stephen Kemp

Stillwater Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Community held a Veteran's Day Celebration on November 11, 2021 at their facility in Greenville. Senator Jack Reed was invited to speak at the event, and brunch was provided to Veterans and their families.



Senator Reed presented flowers to a former colleague, Freida Fisher

A Blissful Take on Hard Times Sheds Light on Environmentally Conscious Shopping

By Brittni Henderson

Small business owner Bianca Ruzzano used difficult circumstances to ignite the spark she needed to develop her candle and soap brand, The Blissful B. Ruzzano prides herself on making clean-burning, non-toxic, and hand-poured candles, all of which can be customized to fit the needs of a personal buyer or wholesale buyer. Hand-poured in Rhode Island, these soy candles are high-quality, smell amazing, and exude the passion Ruzzano has for her business.

Instead of harping on the health struggles she faced after the birth of her daughter, Ruzzano decided to shift her focus to ways she could live a healthier lifestyle. This started with the food she ate, the cleaning supplies she used, and the beauty products she placed on her skin. Safe bath and body products seemed like one of the most important changes she made for herself, so she decided to develop products to share with others who might also be looking for a change. In the beginning days of her business, she realized that her best-selling products were candles and soaps. After a few modifications in branding and merchandising, The Blissful B was born.

“I didn't burn candles for so many years because they would make me nauseous. I never understood why, until I found out that mass-produced candles contain many harmful chemicals,” says Ruzzano. “They are made with lead and heavy metals and can have fumes as dangerous as diesel car fumes! I knew there had to be a better way to formulate a candle. I am beyond ecstatic that I can make non-toxic soy candles with no dyes or heavy metals.”

Business savvy Ruzzano always felt

the entrepreneurial bug, even as a teenager. After high school, she worked in sales, was a stay-at-home mom, and worked hard to obtain her bachelor's degree.

“Through a number of years, breaks, and health issues, I finally graduated with my bachelors from Southern New Hampshire University with a 4.0, summa cum laude honors, in business,” she shares. “A lot of hard work went into that degree, and I am very proud of myself and all the struggles I went through to earn it!”

Ruzzano is a self-taught candle and soap maker and prides herself on creating quality products every time. All her work is done from home which she loves, as she gets to spend time with her family in the process.

“Candle making is a science, and I never really realized how much goes into it until I started making them myself,” she says. “Soaps are a little easier to make and formulate. It's all hard work. Especially designing labels and packing orders. I love every minute of it, though!”

Candle making happens approximately four times per week. Ruzzano makes candles in small batches which allows her to perfect each one and to ensure that there are no imperfections. She makes sure every wick is centered, the wax cooled correctly, and that the labels are neat and clear.

A typical day for Ruzzano starts with checking Instagram and chatting with customers. Next, she checks on the candles she made the night before, cap and label them, and stock her shelves. She'll work on any current orders,



whether it be retail or wholesale, and ensure the product being delivered is to her high standards.

As a one woman show, she does everything herself. Sometimes her family helps pack orders, but everything else is her responsibility.

“I design and print labels, handle all social media, manage my websites, market, decide what I add to my line, decide on formulas, and so much more all myself,” she shares. “It’s a lot of decisions and work, but I truly love that’s it’s all mine!”

Wholesale orders are the biggest part of her business and since her products are fully customizable, she is open to working with absolutely anyone.

“I’ve made candles for photographers, event planners, and real estate agents so they can put their contact information or logo on the candle and use them for client gifts. I absolutely love this side of my business!”

To make a purchase or inquire about a partnership, check out theblissfulshop.etsy.com or @TheBlissfulB on Instagram.

50 years Ago – December, 1971

by Jim Ignasher

Richard M. Verity of Greenville enlisted in the Air Force and was due to leave for basic training.

Marine Corporal David A. Colsante of Greenville was serving with the First Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron in Japan.

Navy Seaman Apprentice Bertrand L. Demuers of Greenville completed basic training.

Airman First-Class Barry S. Black of Georgiaville was serving with the Strategic Air Command.

Signs stating “Welcome to Smithfield” were erected at the town boundaries on main roadways. The signs were sponsored by the Smithfield Jaycees, a local civic organization. The signs denoted Smithfield as “Appleland” and also advised motorists to “drive safely”.

The Smithfield Mental Health Association was holding a fundraiser by offering “scenes of Smithfield prints”, which were suitable for framing. The 11 by 14 inch prints depicted the Town Hall, the Greenville Baptist Church, a view of Stump Pond, and a view from Farnum Heights. The prints were created by artist Joyce Baker of Greenville, and were on sale at local retail stores for a dollar each.

A hearing was held on December 8 to discuss what to do about the dangerous traffic pattern at the intersection of Rt. 44 and Austin Avenue. In 1971, cars parked in front of local

businesses would have to back out into traffic.

Stephen J. Vallee, 14, of Greenville, was the first to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout in Greenville’s Boy Scout Troop 14. His award

ceremony was held in the former Greenville Masonic Temple.

Cub Scout Pack 43 of Greenville entertained residents at the Greenville Manor by singing Christmas carols, serving refreshments, and doling out hand-made gifts.

On December 14, a hearing was held pertaining to the former Lister Worsted Mill in Stillwater. The owner had petitioned the town to convert the century old mill into 80 apartment units

which would be FHA financed, and federally subsidized for low income families.

There were those who protested the plan for several reasons, including technicalities in town ordinances, worries of increased traffic, increased school population, and the possibility of well water contamination. In the end, the petition was withdrawn without prejudice, leaving the possibility open for a different plan to be submitted.

History has shown that the mill was never converted into apartments, and was later occupied by a plastics company. It burned down in May of 1984, and today condominiums occupy the land.



On December 16, the former Apple Valley Esso full-service gas station opened for business at the northwest corner of Rt. 44 and Rt. 5. As part of the promotion of the grand opening, customers were offered free gifts, S&H Green Stamps with every purchase, and a free 32 ounce bottle of Coca Cola with every \$3 purchase of gas.

Esso later became Exxon. Although a gas station still remains at the same location, the original building is gone.

Another business to open in December of 1971 was “The Flip Side Record Shop” on Greenville Avenue, which advertised “records and tapes” (raise your hand if you had vinyl records, cassette, or eight-track tapes.)

Members of the Smithfield Police Department completed a twelve-week training course at the newly established Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy. They were: Brian D. Burke, Mario Ciotola, Edgar L. Williams, Jr., Robert J. Kerwin,



See 50 Years Ago, page 7

50 Years Ago, from page 6

and Cyril E. Crawley, Jr. Each went on to have a long and distinguished career with the department.

In other police news, Sharon R. Chere, a real estate agent from Esmond, was appointed as the department's first woman constable.

On December 19, a tree lighting ceremony took place at the Town Hall, and an elaborate Crèche was displayed on the front lawn. Christmas carols were sung by the Apple Valley Choirs.

It was also on December 19, that CBS aired a made-for-TV-movie called "The Homecoming; A Christmas Story". It received such high ratings that it was later adapted into a television series known as "The Waltons".

The Pleasant View IGA in Esmond was selling New York sirloin stake for 98 cents a pound.

Long before cameras came with cell phones, the "Family Economy Store" at the Apple Valley Mall advertised "Blue Dot" flash bulbs – necessary if one wanted their Christmas morning photos to come out. A pack of three was normally \$1.49, on special for 69 cents.



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The Pleasant View Elementary School held its Annual Veterans Day Tribute on Tuesday, November 9. In addition to the school community, members of the Balfour Post #64 American Legion and Pleasant View Military Family Members attended as well. Mrs. Barrette's music classes sang some favorite patriotic songs.



Snowball Drop Raffle

Held on Saturday, Nov. 20th at Deerfield Park



Chief Robert Seltzer assists Rory Rossi in dumping the bucket of numbered golf balls from the Fire Truck for the raffle prize.



Councilman David Tikoian wins the "Grinch" prize from Tom Winfield for being the furthest away from the Target.

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Take Your Used Christmas Trees to Stonehenge

By Joe Siegel

Anyone who is looking for way to dispose of their used Christmas trees and help some animals in the process are welcome to visit Stonehenge Farm in Pascoag. For the past several years, the goats on the farm have been consuming leftover trees.

“It’s kind of the ultimate recycling,” explained owner Deb Yablonski. “It’s good for the goats and people enjoy it. It starts the day after Christmas and they just enjoy dropping off the trees, feeding the goats, watching the goats eat the trees, it’s a nice whole circle for them.”

Yablonski said people feel comforted knowing their trees are being used for something worthwhile instead of being left abandoned on the streets.

The trees which have been brought to Stonehenge vary in sizes. “We’ve gotten ones that people have had to cut in half to bring, to little tree-tops,” Yablonski said. “It’s a sweet thing.”

The trees are beneficial for the goats because pine is a natural de-wormer, Yablonski noted. It controls parasites and is loaded with trace minerals, Vitamin C,

and fiber. Eating the trees also gives the goats something to keep them occupied on a cold winter day and helps keep them warm.

Stonehenge Farm was established in 2006. It is 97 acres and is situated on a quiet country road. Previously, the land had been used as a dairy farm.

For a dozen years, the property sat vacant. “There was a fire and (the owners) couldn’t pay their grain bills,” Yablonski explained. “That was in the late 60s.”

When Yablonski and her family bought the property, the land was essentially unusable.

They eventually got an invasive clearing



grant in order to be able to farm the land and raise goats, chickens, meat rabbits, and turkeys. “It’s a beautiful place,” Yablonski said. “I’m so blessed to be here.” People from Massachusetts and Connecticut have brought their trees to Stonehenge.

The practice of farms using Christmas trees for their animals has become very popular, according to Yablonski: “It’s become huge and even Lowe’s and Home Depot participated one year. There was a glut of Christmas trees brought there. It’s very laid back, people can just come anytime they want, they can leave the tree during the day. I’ve met such really great people. It’s a feel good thing.”



➡ Stonehenge Farm is located at 63 Moroney Road, Pascoag, RI. More information can be found on the Facebook page: Stonehenge Farm RI.

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

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Tim Jones – Cartoonist



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Move Over Esther Williams ...*

By Peg Brown

The Smithfield YMCA water aerobics “family” has published a “pin-up” calendar, starring their class members who range in age from their 50’s to their 90’s. What started out as a simple question during their thrice weekly sessions. “Why should the firefighters have all the fun posing with kittens? Let’s do our own calendar!” immediately gained momentum. It took their enthusiastic instructor, Torie Follett, just 15 minutes to get volunteers to agree to pose for their favorite month.

Torie, described as “unbelievable, extremely well-liked, respected and tons of fun” by Shauna L. Lewis, CEO of the Smithfield Y, had started coming to the Y with her young daughter for day care services. Trained as a fitness instructor and a professional body builder, Torie had been working with individuals of all ages seeking to improve their overall physical health. Attracted by the Y’s commitment to the community, its family and welcoming approach to the many services offered, it wasn’t long before Torie took over as water aerobics instructor five years ago.

The class, meeting three days a week, and sometimes numbering as many as 30 has, in Torie’s words, “become a family.” Perhaps Torie says it best when she writes about this special group. “When people join a new facility, often they feel intimidated or unwelcome. At the Y, everyone is welcome and our programs are created around the foundation of building long-term and caring relationships. Throughout these ladies’ both joyous and challenging life experiences, they have supported each other in words and actions. They are all truly amazing, range in age over four decades, yet they are all friends. Age is just a number here.”

Torie admitted that occasionally she considers moving on to another position. “But then one of my team will tell me how their doctor has commented on their bone density increase, or someone will suggest a special event for the group ... what can I say? It’s family!”

Taking their cue from the movie *Calendar Girls*, a photographer was hired, costumes and poses were practiced and filmed. From over 300 snapshots, the group chose those that will highlight each month of the calendar published in November. The Grand Unveiling and screening of the film that was their inspiration took place November 4 at the Clubhouse at Waterman Lake.



Jeannine Shaw, Cheryl Contillo, Sheri Sochor



Mona Pearlman, Torie Follett, Jean Prior, Linda Goose, Cheryl Contillo
Floating Goddess: Louise Lawton



The grand unveiling of the calendar brought together over 40 friends who consider themselves family. All had a story to share about how the class and the Y had helped to heal a sorrow, fill a gap in their lives, and give them a “home.” Here are just three that reflect what the Y and this class has meant to them. Next year’s calendar is already in the planning stages. There is not doubt this is going to be an annual publication.

“I’ve been coming to the Y for water aerobics for almost three decades. When I told my doctor that I was going to go, he said “Don’t ever give that up!”
– *Barbara Thompson, 90, retired 27 years ago from Citizens Bank.*

“After my husband died 15 years ago my son told me I had better find something to do. I first tried the gut buster class at the Y almost 10 years ago, then I got hooked on water aerobics. My son-in-law owns an auto garage – and intends to pin the calendar up in his bathroom there.” – *Jeannine Shaw, retired nurse.*

The originator of the calendar idea: Louise Lawton, 89. “When my daughter died 20 years ago, I started coming to the class to work through my challenges. When my grandson took his own life, I realized just what a blessing this group is. They are my true friends.” I happened to notice that Louise had a tattoo on her left shoulder of an angel with a small child. When I asked her about it, she said she got the tattoo when she was 86 to remember her losses.

Looking for that special holiday gift? The Calendar Girls of the Smithfield Y is available for sale for \$10 at the front desk of the Y. Or call ahead, (401)-949-2480, to reserve your copy of this unique Christmas gift. All proceeds will benefit the Y and help support the over \$85,000 that the Y annually provides to assure that everyone and anyone can attend any of their programs.

* For those too young to remember, Esther Williams was a swimmer who won three National Championships in the 1930’s only to be prevented from competing in the 1940 Olympics because of WWII. She caught the attention of MGM and went on to star in many “aquamusicals” in the 1940s and 50s. No doubt her poster appeared in many of our GI’s rooms.



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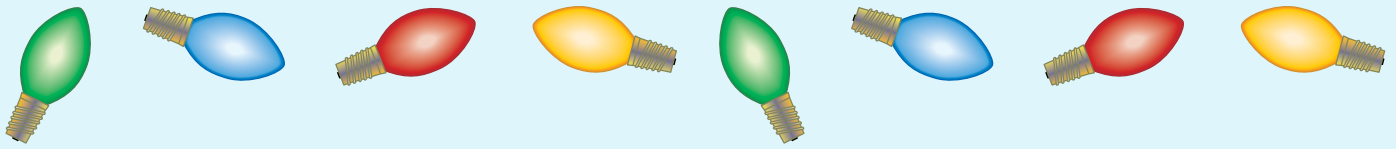
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Winter Holiday Fire Safety

By Chief Robert W. Seltzer

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

- Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up. Throw away light strands with frayed or pinched wires.
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.
- If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily.
- Water your Christmas tree every day. A dry tree is dangerous because it can catch on fire easily.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.
- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may

need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.

Christmas Fire Fact:

More than two of every five (42%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room. Five percent were chimney or flue fires. One-fifth (21%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. Sixteen percent started in the living room, family room or den.

On behalf of all the men and women of the Smithfield Fire Department, have a very Safe, very Merry, Christmas.



Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

Did you know?



More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.

As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.



Think about using **battery-operated** flameless candles.



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Memorial Bench Dedicated to Past Smithfield Land Trust Member

By Paul Lonardo

On Saturday, October 30, the Smithfield Land Trust honored one of its own with the dedication of a memorial bench on a section of Wolf Hill. Before his untimely passing in 2019, Tom Robitaille spent the last seven years of his life dedicated to the Smithfield Land Trust, but devoted much more of himself to the town and his family over the course of his lifetime.

In 1974, Tom and his wife Geri moved from Connecticut to Greenville, where they raised two sons and a daughter. Tom's job may have taken him out of state, but he always made time to give back to the community. One of the first things he did was join the Lions Club, which Tom's father was also a member.

"Because of his father, Tom had grown up with service being part of his makeup," Geri says. "When he retired, it became even more important to him."

Tom left the corporate world in 2001, where he worked in customer service, and with a lot more free time he naturally devoted himself to full time public service. He was appointed to the Smithfield Planning Board and was also on the committee for the building of the new fire station. As he became more involved in the community, Tom eventually discovered the Smithfield Land Trust, an organization established in 1999 by the Rhode Island Legislature and the Smithfield Town Council.



Front row: Scott Robitaille, Deborah Robitaille, Geri Robitaille, Jessica Robitaille Knobel, Emma Robitaille, Sarah Robitaille
Back row: Jeremy Knobel, Luke Robitaille, Dr. Jeff Robitaille
(missing: Grace, Camille and Blake Robitaille)

The Land Trust was provided with the authority to acquire, hold and manage land for the purpose of protecting wetlands, scenic views, historical or cultural places of interest and natural habitats. All properties acquired are held in the name of the Smithfield Land Trust, preserving the land in perpetuity. The organization also strives to educate and inform landowners and the general public about the benefits of land use preservation and land conservation.

"He stayed quite busy," Geri says. "He was known by everyone at town hall. He was there all the time, looking up one thing or another. He was the type of guy who would research everything. If he was going to voice an opinion about something, he wanted to know everything he could about it." Tom and his family were long-time members of St. Phillips Church, something that was very important to

him. "It was part of his makeup," Geri says. "He wanted to do all he could to make sure this town was a good place, not only for his family, but for everyone's family."

When Geri was first notified that the Land Trust wanted to dedicate a spot to him, she was surprised and flattered by the honor they wanted to bestow upon the memory of her husband, a man who never saw himself as different from anyone else.

The seven years that Tom spent working for the Smithfield Land Trust was a special time for him. He very much loved nature. Neighbors would often tell Geri that their yard was like Roger Williams Park.

"He loved planting things and flowers, and just seeing them grow," Geri says. "And he liked trekking in the woods. When he was on the land trust, he so much enjoyed being able to get out and walk around looking at the properties. He just really loved it."

In the summer, when he wasn't in the garden, he loved to spend time with his family at the beach, where every year he would rent a beach house where they could all be together.

See Memorial Bench, page 19

Geri has been active in the community as well, lending her time to the Booster Club, Parent Counsel, and PTO, something she did from the time their children were in grade school through high school.

"Tom really loved this town," Geri says. "We both do. It's where we chose to raise our family. We have three children,

seven grandchildren, all of whom live in town. We get together very often. We were very blessed. He was a very loving and generous man. And he would do absolutely anything for his family."

Tom Robitaille will be dearly missed, but he will never be forgotten. Tom's memorial bench and plaque is located on a section of Wolf Hill. It's at beautiful

spot beside a vernal pool. Stop at 171 Mountaintale Road and follow the blue trail toward Mercer Outlook. About a half mile in you will discover the bench alongside a granite pillar with a photo of Tom and an inscription that reads, *A Man Who Follows God is on the Right Path*, which is a quote that Tom read every morning, a personal credo he believed in and lived his life by.

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Ask an Expert

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

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



Why Re-hanging Things is Often More Involved Than it May Seem ...

Have you ever taken down a nail used to hang a picture, shutter, or like item and the nail that you initially used to hang it up with did not seem to quite do the trick when you went to re-hang the item? This can be a frustrating experience.

It may be likened to if you ever have seen wood clapboard siding on the exterior of the home have a nail pop out and when the nail is attempted to be banged back in, success is only temporary as the nail pops back out a short time later.

Why does this type of situation occur and how can it be avoided?

This phenomenon happens because the nail that is used to rehang whatever it is that is getting rehung, is essentially sliding back into a hole that has already been formed and it no longer is tightly held in the wall area around it. The nail, ever so slightly, had to be loosened out of its original hole (even if it did not feel as though one was loosening it significantly when it was being taken out of the hole) When this was done, the initial nail instantly becomes obsolete, there is no logical way for this nail to be reutilized in its same hole moving forward.

This same type of situation occurs on the outside of the home in the siding example where although nature did the loosening, the same nail cannot be reused and possibly be expected to correctly fasten down the siding.

In all these types of instances, the only

way to successfully rehang the picture or correctly tighten down the siding, etc., would be to use a nail that is either longer or wider than the nail that was used in the first place. By working in a nail that is either longer or wider, you are forcing your little hanging system to either go a bit deeper or expand around the shaft area to truly hold whatever it is that you are trying to hang/fasten.

Be careful of situations in newer homes, where the plaster is much tighter than the plaster of older homes (where horsehair plaster was frequently used). In these newer homes, if you try to reuse an existing nail, the plaster can often give the false initial impression that it has "grabbed" your nail and that whatever was hung can be safely rehung.

All is fine and dandy until BOOM!!
– your family portrait that you have

treasured as the centerpiece of your home for years comes crashing down!

Truly the safest way to avoid this type of disheartening scenario is to remember this rule of thumb – when rehang an item where a nail has been taken out or if you ever are trying to put a nail back in place (whether it is on the exterior or interior of the home) that has come out of its original hole for one reason or another, always use a nail that is either longer or wider than the original one (assuming you are putting it back in the same hole it came out of).

Approaching things in this manner will provide comfort that the nail will correctly hold its place and steer you clear from a situation where something potentially very valuable to you or family gets unintentionally smashed to smithereens!

About Tom Lopatosky

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



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Smithfield Commons Welcomes Courtesy Cleaners

By Paul Lonardo

Courtesy Cleaners opened up their first store in Warwick in 1995, and the business has been expanding ever since because of the quality of the work they do and the commitment they have to their customers. Late this past summer, the owners established their seventh facility, this one located in the Smithfield Commons at 400 Putnam Pike.

A locally owned family business, Courtesy Cleaners is committed to old-fashioned values of quality and value. The management team consists of Peter Baffoni, David Gianfrancesco and Ed Ricci.

David is in charge of quality control, all of the production and operation. He's one of the big reasons why Courtesy is as good as they are at what they do. He's very passionate about making sure that they are the best in the industry.

Because of the dedication of the team, it's no surprise that Courtesy Cleaners has been receiving acclaim across the board from industry organizations since they opened because of their attention to detail and their commitment to excellence. A national industry organization has recognized Courtesy Cleaners as one of America's Best Cleaners.

"We take the responsibility of handling people's garments very seriously," says Ed Ricci. "People spend a lot of money on their garments, and we want to ensure that they are handled correctly while they are in our care."

They operate six other facilities, in

Providence, East Greenwich, Wickford Village, Cranston, Warwick and Johnston, where their 11,000 square foot plant is located, featuring one of the most advanced facilities in the nation. The most essential aspect of maintaining the highest level of quality service, according to Ed, is knowing the industry, understanding the latest technology, and staying on top of all the advances, particularly when it comes to the chemistry.

"We are the first company in the industry to be 'green' in Rhode Island, and one of the first in all of New England," Ed says.

It's a sad fact that dry cleaners of yesteryear were notorious for being one of the biggest offenders in industrial pollution, so it is important to the owners of Courtesy Cleaners to remain focused on green initiatives.

Most dry cleaners do not go into the level of detail, or the frequency, that Courtesy does when it comes to the maintenance and cleaning of their dry cleaning and wet cleaning systems.

While they can clean almost anything that a customer needs to have cleaned, their specialty is taking care of your most prized possessions, from wedding gowns to bed sheets, and everything in between.

"Our goal is to make your valued items last as long as possible," Ed says.

Courtesy Cleaners strives to give their customers the feeling like their garment is new every time they put them on

after cleaning. The trust they receive from their customers to provide quality care is sacred to Courtesy Cleaners.

Right now, Courtesy Cleaners is running an introductory special for all new, first-time customers, offering 20% off any of their services, which include executive shirt service, stain removal, leather and suede cleaning, wedding gown preservation, tailoring and alterations, free garment service and more. Customer satisfaction is 100% guaranteed and free pickup and delivery is available.

"We guarantee satisfaction, and we will make it right, no matter what," Ed says.

Courtesy Cleaners is a company that is at the forefront of their industry and they have a highly qualified team. The stores are open 7:30-6:00 Mondays through Fridays, Saturday 9-3. You can also contact Courtesy Cleaners on-line at Courtesycleaners.com.

"It's a family business where all the employees are treated like family," Ed says.

They are always looking for good help at all of their locations, particularly in the new Smithfield location, so feel free to give them a call at 401-223-0380.

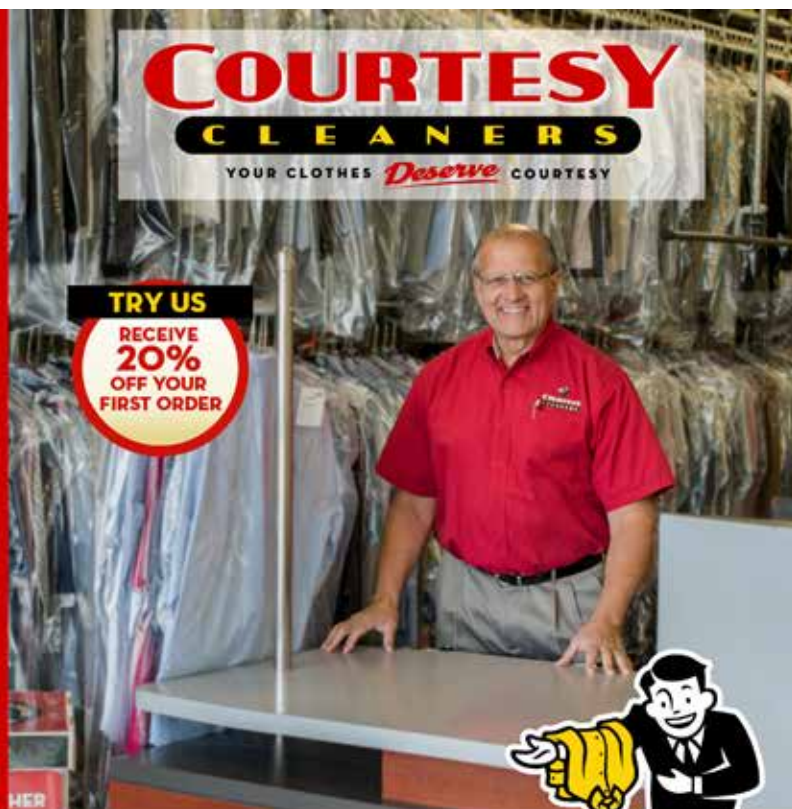


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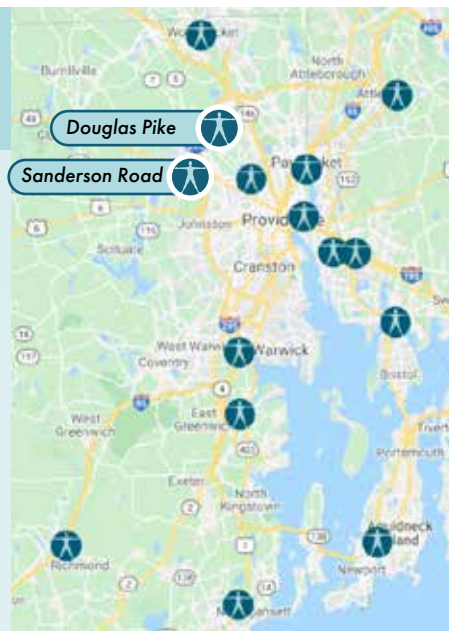
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IMHO | by Ron Scopelliti

Daylight Raving

So I was eating dinner the other night, and I couldn't stop thinking about the classic Dylan Thomas line "Rage, rage against the dying of the light." I wasn't obsessing over mortality, mind you. I was obsessing over the fact that it was 5:30 pm and it was already dark. I know that winter's approaching and that I can't rage against the fact that there's less light in winter. But I can rage against the bizarre societal agreement that forces us to set our clocks back, cutting our already skimpy afternoon sunshine back by another hour. Why do we do it?

In school I was taught all sorts of rubbish about our semi-annual time changes. I was told, for instance, that daylight saving time was invented by Ben Franklin to help farmers. I found this suspicious right from the start, because I've always been a great admirer of Ben Franklin, and wondered how someone so brilliant could come up with something so stupid. It turns out that he didn't.

According to the Franklin Institute, the misconception probably comes from a satirical essay he wrote during his time in Paris, when he chided Parisians for waking up so late by suggesting they change their clocks to suit their sleep habits. To put things in perspective, if people took all my nonsensical suggestions seriously, we'd be telling time in metric hours, drinking gravy as a beverage, and requiring fitness clubs to connect generators to their exercise bikes to decrease their carbon footprint. Now that I think about it, that last one's not a bad idea, but I digress. My whole point is: don't blame Ben!

As far as I can tell, daylight saving time didn't become a reality until World War I when Germany instituted it as an energy-

saving measure. England then followed suit, presumably to avoid those awkward social situations where you show up an hour early for the mustard gas attack. Then when America joined the war, we also became part of the daylight saving club. After the war, however, all the countries returned to sanity, stopped shooting at each other for a bit, and returned to following one time scheme for the whole year. When World War II came along, however, the time changes resumed, and this time they stuck.

It may seem like quibbling for me to rant against the time changes, but over the years there have been numerous scientific studies pointing out detrimental effects they have. The problem is, researchers can't seem to conclusively state which time change is worse. A study several years back pointed out a decrease in pedestrian fatalities during the spring switch, but a more recent study found an increase in overall traffic fatalities during that transition. One study pointed to increase in heart attacks during the spring changeover, but another pointed to an increase in depression immediately following the change in fall. I think it's clear that we should find one system and stick with it, but the question is, do we permanently adopt daylight saving or standard time?

I've seen a couple of specialists in circadian rhythms and sleep science say that standard time is clearly better because it gives us more darkness during the times when we should be winding down our days, and in an ideal world I'd defer to their expertise in this area. But the world is far from ideal, and we live in a society that doesn't give a rodent's posterior about our circadian rhythms. The powers that be assume we've evolved above the need to follow a

sleep-wake cycle named after an insect. After all, we're the superior species, ruling over all others. Until, that is, you have that one cricket outside your window who won't shut up at 3 am.

So most of us are forced to conform in some way to what are typically called "normal business hours," because if there's two things our society consistently values, they're normalcy and business. This means that under standard time, most people will say goodbye to any meaningful post-work sunshine as soon as we "fall back" in November. How can that not contribute to depression? With all due respect to circadian scientists, I say we should come down in favor of permanent daylight saving time, and rage against the dying of our afternoon light. If nothing else, it will save my friends from having to hear me complain every time I'm forced to "fall behind." Now, if I may, I'd like to share my thoughts about leap year ...

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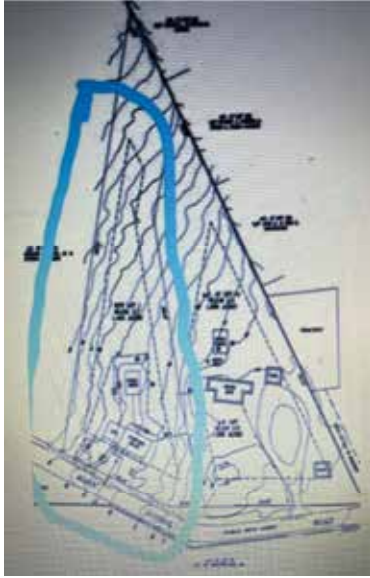
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Do You Know What Is in Your Medical Record?

By Diane L. Marolla, LICSW



When I started working in healthcare in the late 80s, we did not have electronic medical records. Medical records were on paper. While working at a psychiatric hospital in the late 90s and early 2000s, we were still using paper records.

When I began working in the health insurance industry in 2002, one role I served in was as a utilization management reviewer. In simple terms, the insurance company I worked for, would pay me to review current mental health records of patients who were in a psychiatric hospital. Why was I reviewing the record? To ensure that the individual met the insurance companies criteria to be in the hospital. If the patient didn't, according to what was in the record, the case would go to a peer review. The doctor at the insurance company would talk with the doctor at the hospital, to find out whether the patient, according to the insurance companies criteria, needed to be in the hospital. If it was deemed by the insurance company MD that the individual did not, payment for the hospitalization was denied.

Later in my tenure at the insurance company, I reviewed psychiatric records if a complaint was filed by a patient. These are called quality of care complaints. I would review the records, as well as policies and procedures, to see if there were issues of concern. My findings would go to a team of doctors and other clinicians at the insurance company so that they could determine what further action would be taken. At the time that I worked in the health

insurance industry, most providers were utilizing paper records. Today, most providers are using electronic health records. What this means is that your records are on a computer.

While electronic records have created more efficiencies than paper records, errors still occur. Most patients don't know what is in their medical record. Why? Because they never ask, and don't feel a need to know. This mentality is concerning, as errors in a medical record can cause a problems for a patient. If the error is bad enough, it can cause a life-or-death situation.

Currently, I must share some of my patients' medical records with state agencies such as the Department of Labor and Training so that a client can collect Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI), or with an attorney's office when a client is requesting long-term disability. These records are necessary as these agencies and entities utilize them to make decisions about payments to someone for temporary or long-term disability. I involve my clients in the process, so that they know and understand what the process is.

Recently, a client of mine was denied disability by their employer. Why? Because my records indicated that the client had a severe and persistent mental illness. Their PCP, however, dismissed the client's mental illness, and reported the client was non-compliant with any medical recommendations given. The PCP also reported in his record that the client had a problem with alcohol. Please

keep in mind, the PCP only saw the client once. I had been seeing the client for six months. Nevertheless, the employer felt that the MD's opinion was more valid than mine. The client was denied disability payments from her employer's insurance company due to what her MD wrote in their record.

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), a patient's medical record is private unless the patient gives permission for the record to be shared. Additionally, HIPAA gives every patient the right to know what is in their medical record and request amendments to the record if there are errors. Unfortunately, getting a medical record corrected is a difficult task. According to [healthit.gov](https://www.healthit.gov), "1 in 10 people who check their online health record ask to have a mistake corrected."

What exactly should you be looking for in your medical record?

- That your name is spelled correctly.
- That your date of birth is correct.
- That your address, your insurance, and your emergency contacts are correct.
- That your medical conditions are correct.
- That the dates of services you were seen and billed are correct.

What should you do if you find an error?

See Your Medical Record, page 31

- Contact your doctor or the hospital if you find that there is incorrect information in your record.
- Ask them what their protocol is to get the information fixed.
- Once you are advised of their protocol, put your request in writing.

According healthit.gov, “your healthcare provider has 60 days to respond to your request.” If your provider does not agree with you that there is an error, they must give you a valid reason as to why.

If after contacting your provider and/or hospital, the error in your record is not fixed, you have avenues to file a complaint. First, contact your health insurance company, as they can be a liaison between you and your doctor’s office and or hospital. Second, you also have the right to complain to the state Department of Health as they have oversight of all licensed providers and hospitals in Rhode Island. If you are a Medicare recipient, you can also contact Medicare and file a complaint.

If you are on state Medicaid, you can contact the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

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Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

The 2021 “New” Look for Christmas –



... will require you to drag those dusty boxes from the attic or cellar and untangle those large, energy-inefficient, multi-colored strings of lights used by your parents and grandparents. At least, that is what the “Christmas Fashion Decorating Gurus” are suggesting is or should be among your choices as you are considering decorating your home in this lingering COVID pandemic. They do admit that there will be some outliers who resort to glitz and glamour. But the word on the decorative market street is that most of us will be seeking to return to simpler, “traditional” and environmentally sensitive choices this year.

For me that means continuing to revisit the traditions of my childhood, never truly abandoned except the year I bought that flamingo pink feather tree for Florida! The biggest trend emerging this year is the rustic homemade look. COVID has apparently made us more “crafty,” and making your own garlands and wreaths from gathered greens, pinecones, errant shed feathers and other natural materials will set this year’s Christmas tone.

It may also be that unlike Christmas 2020, you might actually be sharing your Christmas feasts with other people, encouraging you to refocus your attention to table décor. Recycled Christmas cards may become place cards for your guests, or you might embroider your guests’ initials on a homemade napkin ring. If you want to avoid returning to the red and green theme, Good Housekeeping suggests that shades of raspberry, plum and grape, mixed with a bit of gold might add a touch of sophistication.

When you considering hanging this

year’s wreath, instead of visiting Home Depot and choosing a non-shedding polypropylene wreath, you might embrace intertwining greens, dried fruits, and pine cones. And, if you want to move away from the more “British” traditional, but support sustainability, you might consider tucking plants such as succulents into your wire form.

While you are revisiting the Christmases of your youth, you might also abandon the ecard, and shop for cards and wrapping paper that are made from recycled materials. Or, as has been the trend at several bridal showers I have attended, abandon wrapping paper entirely and select a reusable item such as a towel or tablecloth to wrap your gift.

Christmas 2021 might also be a time when we continue to support local craftsmen and small businesses when searching for an appropriate gift. One of the largest trends in gift-giving has been in providing experiences for friends and neighbors who have had enough of staying home. For those who prefer to still limit their interactions with others, digital experiences such as an on-line baking class can help people escape boredom.

I will admit that I won’t have a hard time adjusting, since I never “retired” those colored or “bubble” lights of my childhood, and still hang many of mother’s traditional ornaments from the 1940s on every limb. In my “getting older, cleaning out frenzy” the few things that remain in the cellar are the remnants of Christmases past – tinsel, hand painted ornaments and old Christmas cards cut and glued to fit on the top of a plastic coffee can cover. The one thing I did pass on to my sister

who has numerous grandchildren were those dreaded plastic cookie cutters for sugar dough that always resulted in misshapen reindeer and Santa faces. Interestingly enough, those cookie cutters were the first things my mother passed on to me when I got married. I continued that tradition for years – and was delighted to pass the torch!

Author’s notes of a few Christmas traditions:

- The Christmas tree did not become popular in North America until the mid-nineteenth century. Its last stop before America? In the homes of the wealthy and royal in Great Britain during the Victorian era. An 1832 entry in young Victoria’s diary states: “After dinner ... we then went into the drawing room. There were two round tables on which were placed two trees hung with lights and sugar ornaments.”
- The tree custom was not introduced into the Vatican until 1982 when Pope John Paul II, under heavy criticism, included the tree as part of the celebrations in St. Peter’s Cathedral symbolizing undying life.
- And if you’re seeking some of those more traditional ornaments for this year, The Vermont Country Store has a large selection of decorations that reflect the 1940s and 1950s, including a string of bubble lights for \$29.95

Let me end with my wake-up call of the month: You know you’re getting old when your 50-year-old daughter sends you collagen and a teeth-whitening kit as an early Christmas present. Useful and sustainable, but not so much a reminder of Christmas presents past.

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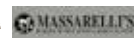


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The Nature of Things

What's Your Totem?

by James Gass

By James Gass

Back when I was younger and had more time on my hands, I did a lot of hiking. There were several excellent nature preserves near my suburban New York home and I spent many days immersed in their quiet beauty. Two of them, the Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River and the Mianus River Gorge Preserve in Bedford, were large enough that I could spend an entire day walking the trails and not see a single soul. And to me, when the conditions were just right, these places often had a mystical, almost spiritual quality about them.

Every so often while I was hiking at one of these preserves I would see something unusual, and I began to ask myself: is there a particular reason why I am seeing these things, or is it just dumb luck? For instance, did it have some sort of other-worldly significance if I saw an all-white red-tailed hawk one day?

Later, when I moved to Rhode Island, I came across two great books, *Animal Magick* by D.J. Conway and *Animal Speak* by Ted Andrews. The authors explore the notion that divine forces communicate to humans through nature, and can do it through an animal's appearance, actions or behavior. The idea is that once we know what to look for, we can use these messages to help us in our daily lives. Of course the concept is not new, Native Americans and mystics from other continents have explored this phenomenon for centuries, but it has been recently revisited in popular culture.

According to Conway and Andrews, if a particular animal appears to you often enough, it could be your nature totem, or a symbol of the spiritual world manifesting itself within your life (if this

is true, mine must be gray squirrel, whatever that means).

I used to take all this sort of hocus-pocus with a grain of salt, until one day a mouse scurried out of an old boot that I was putting in the garage. Strange place for a mouse I thought, I was wearing these boots just the other day. Just for fun I decided to look up house mouse in *Animal Speak*, and according to Andrews, the unusual appearance of a mouse in your life means you should be paying closer attention to details, that you may not be seeing the forest from the trees. This made me feel a little uneasy.

Still not taking the whole thing too seriously, I decided to error check several month's worth of data entry from a research project I was involved in at the University of Rhode Island, and what a mess. One small entry mistake on my part early on had caused the rest of data to be completely wrong. I had to re-do most of the spreadsheet. Coincidence, or a message from the gods?

But what about animals we see every day, the ones that are not unusual but are in fact common? Can they also convey some sort of message? European starlings and house sparrows, both introduced species that are now considered invasive in this country, deserve a closer look.

First of all, cities and towns that might not have any avian wildlife in them at all besides pigeons are brightened by the chatty and animated antics of starlings and house sparrows. In *Animal Speak*,



European starlings. Photo by Sandra Achille

Andrews states that starlings represent group behavior and etiquette, and that they teach us about community or group behavior, both good and bad.

Secondly, these two species can also serve as an allegory for a sad chapter in American history. As with starlings and house sparrows, the European settlers who came to New England over 300 years ago were also, in effect, an introduced species. In the same way that starlings and sparrows aggressively compete with native birds (especially bluebirds and tree swallows) for food and nest sites, displacing or even killing them, the Europeans also aggressively competed with the native people for the region's abundant natural resources, with the same disastrous results. Could it be that the ubiquitous house sparrow and European starling are nature totems for the "civilized world"?

The natural world has many things to teach us, and not just in "spiritual" terms. All you need to do when walking in the woods is look a little more closely, listen a little more intently, and think a little more deeply about what you see. Because even in today's world of too many people, overdevelopment and dwindling wildlife habitat, there are still things left to discover, often in unlikely places. And who knows? What turns out to be your nature totem may surprise you.

Christmas Cookie Recipe



(Recipe from food52.com)

Holiday Crinkle Cookies

Ingredients

1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
2 cups granulated sugar
1/2 cup vegetable oil
4 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup confectioner's sugar

Directions

- In a medium bowl, mix the cocoa, granulated sugar, and vegetable oil.
- Beat in eggs one at a time and stir in vanilla.
- In a separate large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, and salt; then stir into the cocoa mixture.
- Preheat oven to 350° F.
- Line baking sheet with parchment paper and roll dough into 1-inch balls.
- Coat each ball with confectioners sugar before placing on the baking sheet.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Makes 40 cookies.

Transfer cookies to wire rack to cool and enjoy!



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A View From the Cheap Seats

Requiem for a RemDog

Dan Pieroni

Every child has ambitions for their future careers. Some want to be doctors, others lawyers, and some even aspire for more eclectic vocations like forensic scientists.

Whatever your dream in life, I'd be willing to bet that everyone reading this column either dreamed of being a professional athlete themselves or knew someone who had such lofty goals. For most of us, circumstances got in the way of pursuing athletic greatness. It was usually because of some unfortunate injury, or the pull of another interest became too great to ignore. Most often it was because most of us simply lack the ability to perform at a high level.

That didn't apply to Jerry Remy.

Remy lived the ultimate childhood fantasy, for he only got to play for his hometown team, he also serviced them as a broadcaster for several years afterward. In short, he was the ultimate local boy done good, not only good enough to realize his dream, but to parlay it into something that made him a legendary figure in team lore.

Red Sox fans of a certain age will remember Remy as a speedy, sure-handed sparkplug of a second baseman on Red Sox teams of the late seventies and early eighties. Most of them will remember him as a gravelly-voiced soothsayer whose warm banter and penchant for humor endeared him to Red fans all over New England. But Remy was no happy to be their huckster for his hometown team.

At his best he was an informed, insightful, meticulously prepared analyst who drew upon his knowledge

of the game to give Red Sox fans unique and understood analysis. He was also quick with a wisecrack that was sure to draw a hearty laugh from his broadcast partners. This was especially true in the case of Don Orsillo.

When Remy and Orsillo saw things out of the ordinary out over the course of the game they were like two kids cracking each other up in the back of a church. They knew it wasn't proper to laugh over things like an errant pizza toss or a lost tooth in the booth, but they couldn't help themselves.

The legendary Boston Globe sports columnist Bob Ryan recently tweeted that Sean McDonough was the broadcast partner of Remy's who brought out the RemDog persona. While that may be true, Orsillo was the one who elevated it into a cultural touchstone.

When the Red Sox Nation concept was created, it seemed arbitrary and ridiculous as if it was nothing more than a publicity stunt generated to get fans to fork over more money to the team to pledge their unwavering support. When the team subsequently announced that they going to elect a President of Red Sox Nation, it looked ridiculous on the surface. After all, only an obsessive diehard would want that job.

Yet, when Remy announced his candidacy and ultimately won the position, it made sense. He was the one who put complicated baseball jargon into layman's terms for all to understand. He was the voice of our summers and our favorite crazy uncle whose warm manner and sense of

humor made him a beloved figure. Most of all he was someone who had grown up loving the Red Sox as a boy, lived out a childhood fantasy as a player, and became a faithful servant and steward of the Red Sox mission.

For his successes, there were many bumps in the road. There were the countless knee operations and the subsequent battles of depression. He also lived out every parent's worst nightmare by having to deal with a very public murder trial involving his son.

Through it all Remy remained resilient, even when the peskiness of his recurring lung cancer threatened to take him down. I thought that Remy was indestructible. I had never known anyone who could beat back cancer's evil grip and survive so many times. But as I have learned all too many times throughout my life, cancer is a cruel dose of fate that doesn't play favorites.

Remy succumbed to lung cancer at the too young age of 68 on October 30th.

Reflecting upon his death recently, I couldn't help but be reminded of the beautiful irony that was symbolic of his last act as a Red Sox employee. A frail Remy threw out the first pitch before the Red Sox Wild Card playoff against the Yankees on October 5th. With an unsteady gait and a breathing tube over his nose, Remy soaked in the cheers of the adoring Fenway faithful and threw a strike right down Broadway. After that, the Yankees had no chance, and the Red Sox won easily.

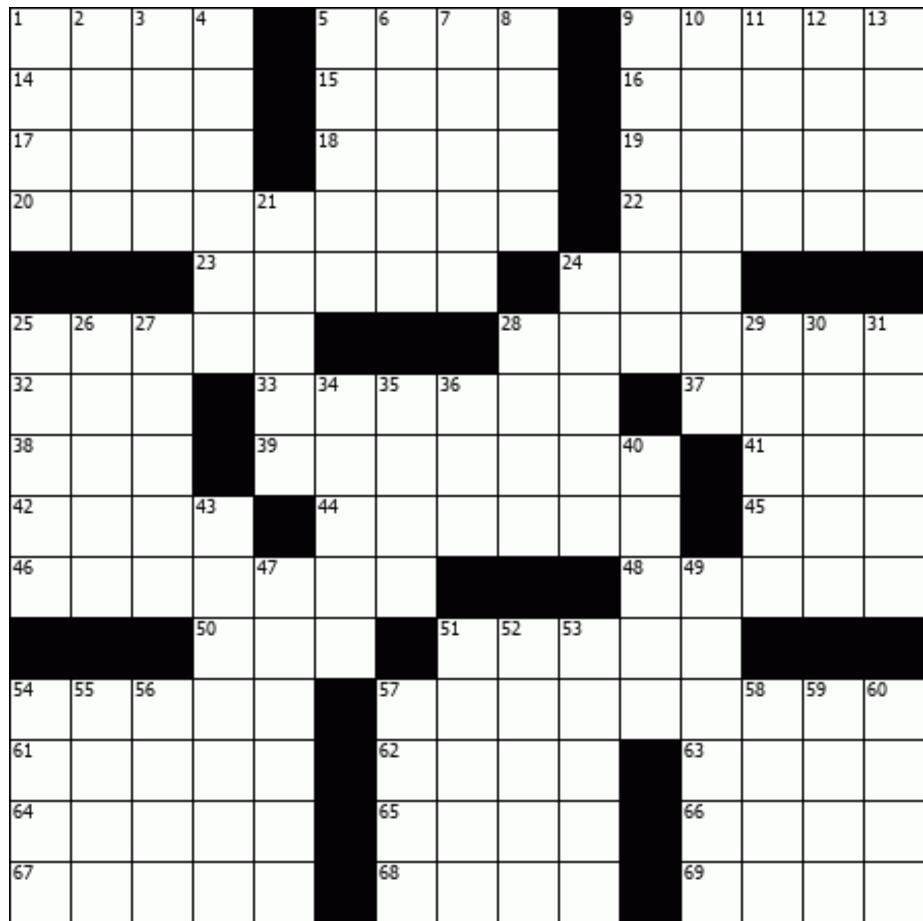
It was a fitting end to an amazing legacy. Jerry Remy, gritty inspiring, and faithful until the end.

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Pick up
5. Pretends
9. Roaming tribesman
14. At rest
15. Peel
16. All
17. Lament
18. Over again
19. Spooky
20. Large seabird
22. Great fear
23. Musical tones
24. Total amount
25. Sight
28. Respire
32. Telepathy (abbr.)
33. Shriek
37. Ring loudly
38. Compass point (abbr.)
39. Traitor's crime
41. Pro-gun org.
42. Undersized animal
44. Restaurant
45. NJ time zone
46. Tranquilized
48. Wood turner
50. Burst
51. Stately home
54. Fire residue
57. Proposed as a candidate
61. Fibbers
62. Smooth
63. Marathon, e.g.
64. See eye to eye
65. Chablis, e.g.
66. Land parcel
67. Tool buildings
68. Turner and Kennedy
69. Excursion



Down

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Peruvian capital | 21. Brownd bread | 43. Narrowed |
| 2. False god | 24. Knight's suit | 47. Hurls |
| 3. Loose flesh | 25. Swerves | 49. Biblical mount |
| 4. Renter | 26. Publish | 51. "Brokeback Mountain", e.g. |
| 5. Not together | 27. Pay out | 52. Change |
| 6. Narrow boat | 28. Army post | 53. Baseball teams |
| 7. Lock of hair | 29. Belief | 54. Woeful cry |
| 8. Stitches | 30. Severe | 55. Sorrowful sound |
| 9. Sewing item | 31. Overjoy | 56. Rabbitlike animal |
| 10. Partly cover | 34. Crawl | 57. Politician _____ |
| 11. Simple | 35. Peruse | Gingrich |
| 12. Opera highlight | 36. Break a fast | 58. Mexican treat |
| 13. Stained | 40. Hosiery material | 59. Beige |
| | | 60. Bambi, for one |



Answers to puzzle on page 42



On November 9, SHS closed the door on the first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year. This time last year we were in a hybrid model, attending in-person every other day, with a maximum of fifteen kids in a class. Now that we're fully back for in-person learning, I asked some students how they felt about the year so far, in comparison to last year.

One student said, "I never knew how bad last year was until this year. This year has been so much better in every aspect, I'm so much more motivated to do work and I feel so much better not looking at my Chromebook for six hours a day." This has been a very common feeling amongst students. Last year, most of our work in school and at home took place on the computer, making it difficult for students to turn off their electronics. This year, teachers are allowed to pass out papers and

worksheets and in some classes have almost completely eliminated the use of Chromebooks, as opposed to last year, where everything was online.

Another peer stated, "I feel like I'm learning so much more and actually understanding it." According to many teachers, overall this year's grades have improved across the board. Students have the opportunity to ask teachers more questions, and there are three days a week where we can go to teachers for extra help. These extra opportunities have really benefited students academically.

Additionally, another student answered, "My mental health is better because of actually being in school and seeing people." Last year, seats were spaced far apart in classes, and group work wasn't allowed; preventing most student interaction. This year,

group projects are back and desks are arranged in group formation, encouraging more student-to-student interaction.

And the final student I spoke with said, "Compared to last year, this year has definitely been better, which wouldn't have been possible without our strict mask requirements, getting tested for COVID-19 more frequently and getting vaccinated." The school offers weekly testing for athletes and any interested student to ensure that the people in high contact sports are the safest they can be. This has been helpful for quarantining positive cases and keeping overall numbers low. This first quarter has already been better than last year, and it's off to a great start. Planning for school events like our Senior Fashion Show are underway, clubs are meeting again, and Smithfield High's students have finally begun to experience the return of normalcy.



Community Events



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Payne's Picks

By Sarah Payne

December 2021

Movie Releases

The Lost Daughter – December 17

Maggie Gyllenhaal makes her directorial debut with this psychological drama based on a novel by Elena Ferrante. Starring Olivia Colman, Jessie Buckley, Dakota Johnson, and Peter Sarsgaard, the film tells the story of a woman on summer vacation who becomes obsessed with a young mother. In an interview with Deadline about the project, Gyllenhaal said when she finished Ferrante's novel she "felt that something secret and true had been said out loud. And I was both disturbed and comforted by that. I immediately thought how much more intense the experience would be in a movie theatre, with other people around ... I find that the script has attracted other people interested in exploring these secret truths about motherhood, sexuality, femininity, desire."

The Tragedy of MacBeth – December 25

This Christmas Joel Cohen makes his first directorial debut without his brother, Ethan Cohen, in this Shakespeare adaptation, starring Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand. In a review for Slash Film, Hoai-Tran Bui writes, "'The Tragedy of Macbeth' is one of the most beautiful films this year, breathtaking in Coen and Delbonnel's mastery of the black-and-white color scheme, which cast its heroes in light and its villains in shades of grey or shadow."



Movie Review

The Last Duel

In an age where it seems most of the content coming from the entertainment industry feels recycled and superficial, there's still room to be pleasantly surprised. That was certainly the case for me with Ridley Scott's *The Last Duel*. The medieval story of a woman who accuses her husband's friend of rape is told from three different perspectives – that of the husband, the accused, and the aggressor. Each of these chapters reveals fascinating truths about the role of marriage and of women in medieval society. It's also good fun to watch Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, and Adam Driver on screen. Affleck is almost unrecognizable with bleached blonde hair. You can almost see a glimmer in his eye as he had a bit of fun playing King Charles VI, a man who enjoys endless parties and feasts, much to the disgust of his pregnant wife.

Dune

If you're a fan of sci-fi – or at least have an open mind about the genre – I highly recommend you watch the much-hyped *Dune*, an adaption of the novel by Frank Herbert. Why? Like all the epics – *Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars*, and the like – *Dune* is about the hero's journey. But I would argue it's a lot more stylish and a lot more intriguing. There's a sense of mystery and the unexplainable about this world imagined in the year 10191. I was especially intrigued by the juxtaposition of advanced space exploration with the harsh desert climate on the planet Arrakis, where most of the film is set. Though the film clocks at most than two hours, the action is nearly nonstop. My only complaint is that just as the conflict seems to reach its peak, the movie abruptly ends. This obviously leaves room for a sequel, which is slated to release at the end of 2023.

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Gift Wrapping Sessions

Thursday, December 9 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 15 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Adult Events

Mystery Book Club

Tuesday, December 7 at 1:30 pm



Picnic Table Reads Book Club

Thursday, December 16 at 1:00 pm

Virtual Book Chat

Thursdays, December 2 & 16

Coffee & Books

Wednesday, December 8 at 10:30 pm

Home Sweet Home Book Club

Monday, December 27 at 6:30 pm

Exhibits

Artist Renée Finlay will exhibit her pastels at the Greenville Public Library during the month of December.

For more detailed information, please visit our event calendar at greenvillelibraryri.org or by calling 401-949-3630.



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Arts and Crafts Club

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Santa Gnomes for Adults and Teens

December 2nd @ 5:30 pm

The Older and Wiser Driver (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 14 @ 2:00 p.m.

Thursday Night Book Group (Zoom)

The Next Book Group will meet on

Thursday, December 9th at 6pm.

Please email bethanyemott@hotmail.com for any questions and for the zoom link.

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Obituaries



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Margaret R. Jillson
November 1, 2021
www.robbsfuneralhome.com



Robin M. Walsh
November 5, 2021
www.andersonwinfield.net



Vincent G. "Vinny" Picard
November 8, 2021
www.andersonwinfield.net



Joy and John Armstrong
November 10, 2021
www.andersonwinfield.net

Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 37.

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

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