

COMPLIMENTARY

MARCH 2022

The Smithfield *Times*



smithfieldtimesri.net



Sebastian Tillinghast holding
Betty Rose White, see more on page 5.
Photo Credit: Mark B. Carrier

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

Because of the ever increasing cost of long term nursing home

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

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

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

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

— George M. Prescott

Courtesy of:

George M. Prescott

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In Our Community

Seventeen-year-old Kyle Vargas of Smithfield is a member of the Boys Scout, Troup 1 of Greenville. For his Eagle Scout Project, Kyle created a "Blessing Box," and has installed it at Headstart located at 2204 Mineral Spring Avenue. It has been placed in the parking lot near the rear entrance to the building.

A Blessing Box is utilized to help members of the community who are in need of everyday household products. The idea is for individuals to take what they may need and to donate items they do not need. The box has been stocked with random items such as diapers, feminine products, coffee, hand sanitizer and more. Kyle is encouraging Community members to work together to keep this project running.



Kyle Vargas of Smithfield

Happy
ST. PATRICK'S
Day



Special thanks to Sebastian Tillinghast, a nine-year-old student at LaPerche School, who introduced us to the newest member of the goat family, Betty Rose White. Betty was born on January 17, and she has warmed right up to Sebastian and his brother Julian, as did the rest of the goats and alpacas. Sebastian showed us around and told us all about them.



Sebastian Tillinghast



Julian Tillinghast



Photo Credit: Mark B. Carrier

Smithfield Police Raise Money Through Charity Patch Sales

By Joe Siegel

The Smithfield Police Department has raised thousands of dollars for local charities by selling awareness patches. They are sold year-round for \$10 each through the Smithfield FOP Lodge #17 online store which has links on the department website and the Smithfield PD Facebook page, and all proceeds go to the charities. <http://smithfield-fraternal-order-of-police--lodge-no-17.square.site>



- Sales of the department's Autism Patches (Gold & Silver Versions) have raised more than \$1500 for the Autism Project in Johnston.
- Sales of the department's 9/11 Tribute Patch has raised \$1300 for the Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation.
- Sales of the Breast Cancer Awareness Patch has raised \$1000 for the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation in Pawtucket.
- Sales of the Veterans Appreciation Patch has raised \$1200 for Operation Stand Down Rhode Island in Johnston.

Sergeant Jason Corser designed all the patches with the approval of Police Chief Richard St. Sauveur. The members of the department have the option of wearing the patches on their uniform to help spread awareness.

Corser said other police departments

have also been raising funds by selling patches to benefit various organizations.

"They love the publicity," said Corser. "I met up with the guys from (Operation Stand Down), they were thrilled, they loved the patch design. They thought it was fantastic and they also appreciate the donations."

The department hopes to be able to sell a Special Olympics patch in May or June. "We're going to try to get one out for that," Corser added.

The department is also conducting a Community Concerns Survey in an effort to learn how safe residents feel and what problems they would like to see addressed. Deputy Chief Eric Dolan said 80 to 90 percent of residents' concerns are traffic-related.

"It comes down to traffic congestion or speeding motorists or anything to do with violations," Dolan noted. "And obviously your reckless drivers and

your intoxicated motorists are essential. Then you have larcenies and car thefts that are concerns."

The survey is conducted in the fall with the assistance of Salve Regina University every two years. The 2022 survey began last October and has only generated 32 responses so far.

"What we wanted to do was implement something that gave the citizens an opportunity to basically

(complete) the survey every day,"

Dolan explained. "We have a sergeant that's assigned to look at what comes in, at anything pressing. At the end of the quarter, they actually put together a memo to the Chief stating the concerns and if there's anything pressing, we take care of that immediately."

The survey also solicits feedback on how residents feel they were treated by an officer, supervisor, or dispatcher. Participants are able to rank and rate the level of service.

In the responses gathered, the majority of respondents (56 percent) ranked Smithfield as "very safe", while 25 percent said "safe" and 18.8 percent said "fairly safe."

Dolan feels that's proof the police department is doing an effective job: "That's good. I like that."

The survey can be accessed at the department website:
<https://smithfieldpd.com/>

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How a Local AAU Baseball Team Prepares For A Competitive Season

By Paul Lonardo

By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.

Benjamin Franklin's often-cited quote is an adage that applies to all of life's pursuits, but certainly to sports, and in this case, youth baseball.

Building a competitive team begins with the coaching and instruction that young players receive. For the 14U KR Express team, being sponsored and instructed at KR Baseball Academy in Lincoln, RI is an advantage the players and their families all fully appreciate. Ken Ryan is local product, having played eight years in MLB, pitching for the Boston Red Sox and the Philadelphia Phillies during the 1990s. He is fully involved with his AAU teams and offers his players professional insight, which is something that few other youth programs can boast.

But make no mistake, this is Coach Jason Harvey's team. He sets the example for the dedication and hard work that is required for a player to perform at a high level and for them to collectively succeed as a team.

Coach Harvey graduated from Northeastern University, where he studied Physical Therapy. While attending the school, he played in the Yawkey Baseball League in Boston. When his son, Nolan, started his own journey playing the game, he began coaching Ken Ryan's Express 9U team. Besides Nolan, there are several other players who have been with KR and Coach Harvey going on six years now. Other players have joined the KR family more recently. While Coach Harvey's way of preparing and playing the game may be more familiar to some, all the boys know what to expect and what is

expected of them.

"I believe that youth players should develop at several positions so they will learn the nuances of every position while developing a feel for the game," Coach Harvey says. "I try to develop depth of 3-4 at every position, with particular emphasis up the middle, as well as pitching and the catcher position."

Having a roster of versatile athletes who can play several positions at a high level offers their coach the ability to move players into positions to make the team successful. It also gives the 14U KR Express team great pitching depth, a luxury and a necessity for a team built to compete with the best in showcase and tournament play.

See Local AAU Baseball Team, page 9



The 14U KR Express team consists of: Anthony DeFusco, Allen Espinal, Harold Fernandez, Nolan Harvey, Colin Lahiff, Ryan Landry, Jake Lonardo, Jairo Martinez, Ethan Palmer, Sam Perry, Jaiden Rosario, and Isaiah Vasquez.

For the 14U KR Express baseball team, the 2022 season began last November, shortly after the 2021 fall season ended, with practices twice a week and two other days each week devoted to strength and agility training.

Along with a focus on developing fundamental baseball skills, ample time is spent working on mental aspects of the game. Players must learn how to deal with those things that they cannot control, so handling adversity and failure is an important topic of discussion, lessons that apply not only on the field, but in the classroom, at home, and in the community.

Come January, the team began throwing off a mound, refining pitching mechanics, and breaking down different pitches and how to locate them. Pitch velocity, spin rate, and spin direction are tracked to teach players how to control and improve spin, and increase or decrease the break

of their pitches. The throwing program accelerates in February, with the focus on increasing arm strength and resilience so that by March the KR Express pitchers can compete against the KR Express hitters.

“Because we believe our hitters are some of the best hitters at the 14U level, the hitters provide our pitchers some great competition and opportunities to develop,” Coach Harvey says. “On the flip side, because our pitchers are some of the best pitchers at the 14U level, with several throwing 80-plus mph with outstanding off-speed pitches, this gives our hitters the most difficult at bats they will face all season.”

The players on the KR Express 14U team all want to perform at their best, and you will find the boys who don’t participate in other winter sports doing additional hitting and other training on the “off” days. It may make for a long season, but

these boys wouldn’t have it any other way.

After coming up one run short in the 13U NEAAU Super Division championship game last summer, a few key roster pickups were made, and now the 14U KR Express team is primed and anxious for the 2022 season. This past October, playing all together for the first time, they went undefeated during the fall season en route to capturing the 14U NEAAU Fall League championship.

One aspect that may go unnoticed to those outside the KR Express system is that Coach Harvey’s 14U team is as much a family as it is a team. Not only do the players love the game, their parents, grandparents, and siblings all enjoy the competitive spirit the boys have and the camaraderie they share as a baseball family, which makes it a fun atmosphere for the players to develop their skills and helps them to gel as a unit.

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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!



Converting a "Normal" Closet to a "Laundry" Closet

Every once in a while, I see certain trends emerge through conversations I have with potential clients.

One of the more popular recent ideas that have been the basis of quite a number of discussions, have been desires to convert a "normal" closet to a "laundry" closet which would house a washer and dryer unit as well as perhaps some shelving, etc.

There could be a number of reasons for folks exploring the idea as to whether this makes sense to do or not. However, what it ultimately takes to execute the conversion is a bit more involved than many folks realize.

Most of the time, people look into a project like this to make things "easier" for them. It could be for an immediate concern or preparation for the future.

This type of undertaking may be for someone that is working to make things a bit more convenient as they age, due to a developing health challenge, or simply because they are just plain sick and tired of having to go "all the way" into the basement every time they want to do the laundry.

Whatever the reasoning, the act of pulling off the conversion typically requires several trades.

1. An electrician will be needed to run a dedicated circuit to enable the new closet to have the proper juice it needs to function appropriately and then the actual receptacles for the appliances need to be installed (as well as if the person would like any additional outlets added).
2. A plumber would obviously be necessary to perform the behind the scenes (rough) plumbing that is needed in order to make things happen as well as properly conduct the plumbing finish connections.
3. A carpenter would most likely be needed to modify the existing closet to accept the new use as a laundry area.
4. A roofer may be needed, if any venting were being incorporated, in order to properly integrate a vent hood on the roof to allow any venting to make its way outside (assuming this was needed).
5. Someone skilled in drywall and plaster/joint compound might be required to help make the space look as if it had always been set up the way it is being prepared for.
6. A painter could be needed to make sure all finishes are properly done through completion.
7. In some cases, a flooring specialist may have to be called in to work the flooring on the inside and

See Ask an Expert, page 11

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.

outside of the closet and ensure that the flooring areas are all finished the way they should be.

Finally, after all this, the space is ready to accept the washer and dryer appliances.

Every situation is definitely different.

Rarely, sometimes things really are as simple as running a few connections and the new space being good to go. This truly is the exception rather than the rule however, at least in my experience.

When converting a closet to a laundry area, the majority of the times the project is very involved with many of these layers intertwined within it.

Although an operation like this can become a bit intricate, when complete, it can absolutely make a huge difference in someone's life no matter if for luxury or necessity!



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The Haunted Ropes Mansion

By Thomas D'Agostino – www.tomdagostino.com

Perhaps you have seen it. Even if you have never been to Salem, Massachusetts, you may have seen the Ropes mansion on television or in the movies. It is the mansion used in the movie “Hocus Pocus” as the home where Allison lived. The exterior shots were used in the movie while interior shots were filmed at a set. (Of course, the newest in the Hocus Pocus franchise was filmed in Providence. Perhaps you or a friend was cast as an extra.)

The twenty room mansion at 318 Essex Street was built in 1727 for merchant Samuel Barnard. Salem was once the biggest maritime port in the colonies. By the time of the American Revolution, Salem’s trade by sea had become absorbed by Boston, thus dwindling its status as a major trade port. It is still famous for its maritime history although the infamous witch trials of 1692 have long overshadowed the former. The Witch City boasts a host of ghostly locations but it is the Ropes Mansion that is reported to harbor the most ghostly activity.

Judge Nathaniel Ropes and his wife Priscilla acquired the mansion in 1768. The mansion stayed in the family until 1907. Ropes was friends with the likes of John Adams, but when the struggle

for independence broke out, the judge announced that he was a Tory. Tories were colonists who sided with the King of England. When the folks on the side of liberty became aware of this, they stoned his home and later demanded he come out and face them. When they found out he was on his deathbed, they retracted their threat and dispersed.

Nathaniel Jr. took over the mansion after his mother died. He married and had a daughter named Abigail. Abigail, or Nabby, as she was known, was unmarried when a tragic event took place that would scar the walls of the mansion for eternity. One day Nabby was walking by a fireplace when her clothes caught fire. Her

screams went unheard and she suffered for three weeks before succumbing to her injuries. The Salem Gazette from April 26, 1839 wrote she died from, “a distressing illness of three weeks caused by her clothes accidentally taking fire.”

Her spirit returned to scene of her demise to forever haunt the home. The Blue Room is where Nabby met her fate, and it is that room where people passing by the mansion she her peering out the window. Some have witnessed a full-body apparition in a long skirt, hair tied up in a bun, wandering through the house. Former caretakers of the

See The Haunted Mansion, page 15



The Ropes Mansion

mansion, Rich and Georgette Stafford experienced various paranormal events that occurred on their watch.

Several times the burglar alarms went off but a thorough search of the home proved it was uninhabited by any other living beings, save themselves. Fire alarms were also prone to the same mysterious occurrence. Items would fly off shelves or fall from their secured place of rest.

One of the most disturbing occurrences is the blood curdling screams in the night as if Abigail was reliving her fateful moment once more. There is also a famous photo of what appears to be two hands and a transparent form sitting on the couch in the front hall where often times, Judge Ropes and John Adams would argue politics. This photo appears in Ghostly Haunts by Robert Ellis Cahill, former Sheriff of Salem.

The grounds are open for people to wander and relish in the beautiful gardens, but the mansion is not always open. Visit www.pem.org for hours of operation and perhaps you may see for yourself some of the spirits that still call the place home.

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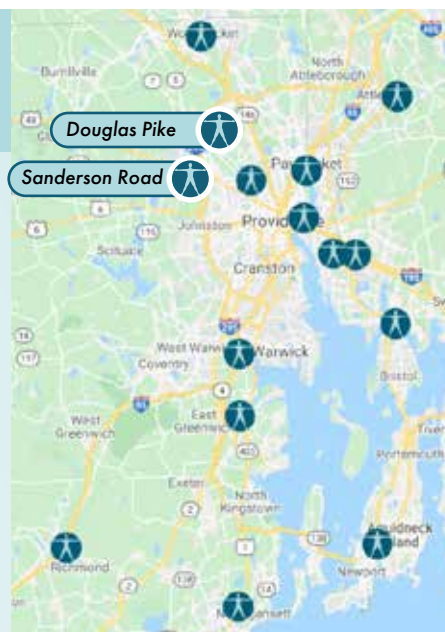
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It's Never Too Late

By Diane L. Marolla, LICSW



The Voice of Hope

"We are mad as hell, and we aren't going to take it anymore."

- John J. Tassoni, Jr.

I have had the honor and privilege to work for and with dedicated doctors, nurses, mental health providers, administrators, and staff over the years. One person, that I continue to collaborate with, that I admire, is former Senator John J. Tassoni Jr. John shares my passion in helping others get access to quality, affordable treatment.

Many of you know John well. He is also a local business owner and currently the VP of Operations, Community and Government Relations for the Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of RI. He owned *The Smithfield Times* at one time. He serves on the RICPG, the SPC Regional Coalition and the Smithfield Prevention Coalition Board. John is an advocate for people who suffer from mental health and substance abuse/use disorders. He is also an advocate for the homeless. He serves as a lobbyist for the Council for Substance Abuse and the Correctional Officers of



John J. Tassoni Jr.

RI. John has now added to his resume host of *Recovery TV*. Recently, I spoke with John to congratulate him on the success on his show and to talk about the state of the state re: mental health and substance use/abuse treatment in RI.

Diane: *What are you hearing from mental health and substance use/abuse providers? How are they managing during the pandemic?*

John: We are getting a lot of concerned feedback. It's overwhelming issues of people needing treatment. Our providers are seeing individuals without insurance or are under insured. A bill that we are looking to get into the state budget is for uncompensated care. Hospitals already receive this funding from the State of RI. Our providers are struggling with hiring and retaining help because many of our trained professionals have left community-based care to work for the hospitals. Hospitals can pay their staff more. It is a perfect storm. We need to get our community-based agencies staff and more funding.

Diane: *We both know that the mental health providers in RI have been underpaid for years. I recall you putting in legislation to address this issue which did not pass. Are you going to be submitting legislation again?*

John: Yes. Senator DiPalma and Representative Casimiro are sponsoring a bill to support oversight and review of provider rates. Currently, there is no process in place.

See The Voice of Hope, page 19

Diane: *I often hear that the state of RI has millions of dollars this budget year and a surplus. Is any of this money going to mental health and substance abuse treatment?*

John: We were hoping to get funding as the RI Foundation did a study to support this, but unfortunately, we are not seeing this funding coming to the providers. The Medicaid budget has also been cut. Funding for education through BHDDH has been cut. Unfortunately, I think we are going to see more overdoses and suicides because of not getting the money we need.

Diane: *The current administration seems to only focus on the hospitals. They seem to forget about the community based, outpatient providers. We have shortages of outpatient providers across the board. I am unable to get my clients a psychiatrist or a primary care physician. They don't seem to understand that it is the outpatient providers who keep people out of*

the most expensive level of care – emergency rooms and hospitals.

John: It's frustrating. Nobody seems to be listening. We want a system that is accessible and transparent. Lack of communication amongst the departments in state government that have oversight of healthcare is a problem. State departments are running in silos. Under the former administration there was a dedicated person in the Governor's Office who had knowledge of mental health and substance use/abuse disorders and the system of care. There seems to be no sense of urgency. People are making decisions about programs that they don't understand.

Diane: *What is frustrating to me is we already had a broken healthcare system in RI prior to the pandemic. The pandemic has further eroded the system. RI has the money to now invest in healthcare.*

John: It is a backburner issue. RI currently has a 247-million-dollar surplus.

Diane: *In a previous Smithfield Times article, I wrote about my concerns about the Lifespan merger. It is going to create a monopoly and more barriers to quality and affordable healthcare. The OHIC report states concerns as well. Mergers lead to higher cost and do not improve quality of care.*

John: I think the merger is going to ruin the community-based system. We will be protesting issues with our current system that are failing.

Diane: *I have a family member who needs surgery. I am taking him to Boston because I don't have faith in the RI hospital system. I'm grateful that we have access to Boston which has world renown facilities and healthcare providers. The Lifespan/Care New England merger will not give anyone choices. We have learned that monopolies are never good for the consumer.*

John: I'm not in favor of it. It will be a big conglomerate.

➡ Please be sure to watch John weekly on My RI TV Sunday morning's at 9:30 a.m. and CW Providence on Sunday morning's at 11:30 a.m. Due to the success of the show, *Recovery TV* will also be on Fox post Superbowl Sunday.

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SOUR GRAPES by Tim Jones



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Tim Jones – Cartoonist



Inside The Brown Bag

The Comeback Wrap – Paper

By Peg Brown

I doubt that my 8th grade educated Grandmother would have understood if the word “wise” was attributed to her. However, in the current environmental debate relating to single-use wraps for food stuffs, she might be labeled “heroic.” Lest you think this is a column that enters the conversation of climate change, recycling and other “hot” environmental buttons, let me assure you that it simply suggests the impact of the evolution of technology in our expectations of how food should be prepared, transported and stored.

When my grandmother set up housekeeping around 1913, there weren’t many choices in how she could best package Grandpa’s daily lunch, store left overs or cover the edges of pies so they wouldn’t brown. She, like her contemporaries, used waxed paper (invented in the late 1870s and first sold by Cut-Rite in 1927) and paper bags. Before waxed paper became the food wrapping of choice well into the 1940s, Grandmother would cover food with clean cloths or those little reusable “hats” that resembled shower caps. And, to protect those pie edges, she used strips of moistened rags.

Tin foil (replaced by aluminum foil in the early twentieth century), was also an option. It had first been used by a chocolate manufacturer in Switzerland to wrap their Toblerone candy bars, and by 1913 was being used in the US to wrap Life Savers, gum and candy bars. However, ever frugal, it was rarely used by Grandmother because it was a more costly option. When she did use it, it was always de-wrinkled, folded and used again.

Our household habits have always been driven by improvements in technology

and manufacturing advances, and when Sarah Wrap was introduced in 1949, it quickly replaced waxed paper as the wrap of choice. But my grandmother was the woman who never let us rip off gift wrap and insisted that we carefully remove each piece of tape so that she could iron the paper for reuse – honestly! Saran Wrap became so ubiquitous that a 1957 headline in a *Good Housekeeping* article was entitled, “How Did We Ever Get Along Without Saran?”

Another packaging improvement: soft metal tubes appeared in France in the 1840s, allowing paint to be transported, one of the keys that influenced the Impressionist movement in artists’ ability to abandon the studio and begin the paint “en plein air.” Metal tubes now dispense most of our toothpaste products.

Despite its discovery in 1835, poly styrene and vinyl chlorides did not really dominate the food packaging industry until well into the 1950s and 1960s. Although forms of these materials had been used in the early 20th century, mostly for military purposes, the products were not used commercially for packing until mid-century. Other refinements of these materials were not used widely until the late 1970s when they entered the market as containers for beverages.

Paper, as we know, was first created from mulberry leaves by the Chinese. However, its popular use in the late 19th century was advanced by machinery that produced paper bags with the gusset sides. Our family also used paper bags, cut to size, to wrap packages we were mailing (tied with yards of string salvaged from bakery purchases) and to cover our textbooks as required by the school.

Cardboard cartons were created purely by accident when a printer discovered he could cut and crease paperboard in one operation – a technique that was quickly adopted by Kellogg for the packaging of their cereals. In the last decades of the 20th century, with the perfection of other packing materials such as Styrofoam, the use of paper and paper related products in packaging began to fade.

However, back to Grandmother Cordwell’s unexpected designation as a visionary. The last forty years have witnessed increased changes based on growing environmental concerns. Eight states as of this writing have banned the use of anything that is made of single use plastic for food and beverage packaging. Major cities like Chicago and Boston have similar bans, and France has banned single use plastic wrap for many of its fruits and vegetable products. While we have become more conscious about recycling, most packaging designed as single use is still simply thrown away.

Author’s Notes:

- The US generates approximately 1,600 lbs. of waste per year per person, or around 50 million metric tons annually.
- The US does NOT rank in the top 15 countries for recycling. Germany ranks #1.
- 91 % of plastic waste ends up in landfills each year.
- World wide only 17% of trash is being properly collected, treated and recycled.
- Biodegradable timeline: banana peel, 2.5 weeks; milk cartons, 3 months; plastic single use bags, 50 years; soda cans, 80-100 years; plastic bottles, 450 years; Styrofoam, approximately 500 years.

Data provided by Arthur Zuckerman, May 2021, in 60 Recycling Data, Trends and Predictions.

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LaPerche Students Give Out Smiles to Elderly For Valentine's Day



By Paul Lonardo

Who doesn't love receiving a handwritten card? No one, that's who. Handwritten cards are a treat. They are a personal touch in a world of impersonal technology. They let you know someone was thinking about you and took time out of their day just for you. Such a thoughtful gesture is something that is valued more than ever these days. The pandemic lockdowns and social distance measures have been most difficult on our seniors, particularly those residing in senior living centers, which have had to limit the number of visitors that residents can receive. Last month, the students at Raymond C. LaPerche Elementary School created personalized Valentine's Day

cards for local seniors as a way to ease the sense of isolation that so many have experienced over the last two years.

The elementary school students had previously lent their time and artistic ability to Color-A-Smile, a coloring event in which the student drawings are dispersed through a non-profit organization to senior citizens, overseas troops, and anyone in need of a smile around the country. However, this Valentine's Day event was conceived with the sole intent to bring smiles to those living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Smithfield.

The LaPerche PTA sponsored the effort, which was conceived by PTA member Jennifer Shafer.

"We know it's been very difficult for nursing home residents all through this pandemic," Jennifer says, "and I really wanted the focus to be on our community members to make sure we put a smile on all their faces."

Upon hearing the suggestion, everyone was immediately on board with Jennifer's idea. With the kids even more excited about the project, it became just a matter of getting it done in time for the holiday.

See LaPerche Students, page 25



"I went online and I found about thirty coloring pages for Valentine's Day," Jennifer explains. "I photoshopped them to a certain size and had CREATED FOR YOU BY YOUR FRIENDS AT LAPERCHE printed along the bottom."

About four hundred were printed up on card stock, and the kids got to choose from among numerous design selections, coloring them and using all the stickers and glitter glue that their little hearts desired.

A portion of the supplies used to create the Valentine's Day cards were donated to the school, including colored pencils, markers, and other scrapbooking materials. It was an event that everyone in the school was involved, not just the little ones.

"Our students in pre-school all the way up to 5th grade participated,"

Jennifer said. "The kids loved it."

Many of the teachers and their own children helped out, as well. Having just over three hundred students at LaPerche, some created more than one card, and they were happy to do so. Jennifer delivered the cards to all the facilities on Friday, February 11. The activity directors were excited to have them and excited to hand them out to the residents the following Monday, Valentine's Day, surprising them with the cheery, colorful cards that had handwritten notes from the children on the back. The facilities that received cards from the LaPerche students included Smithfield Woods, Hebert Nursing Home, Heritage Hills, Village at Waterman Lake, Golden Crest Greenville Center, and Stillwater.



It would have been really sweet if the children were allowed to deliver the cards themselves, Jennifer acknowledged, but health precautions had to take precedence.

"It went so well, I think it is something we will be doing every year," Jennifer says. "All the facilities were so grateful and appreciative, and their residents were overwhelmed by this show of affection by the young ones."



Residents of the Village at Waterman Lake loved their Valentines from the students at LaPerche.

New Yoga Studio in Smithfield Offers Unique Classes, Warm Community, and Endless Hope

By Brittni Henderson

A phoenix is symbolic of rebirth, hope, renewal, and progress. As it rises from the ashes of its predecessor, the phoenix begins again with the intention of a fresh start and a new lease on life. **Phoenix Rising Yoga Studio** in Smithfield was built on a similar premise. During times of difficulty, Vincent Brown leaned on the support of his community and found that together they could create a space that brought movement and peace to the area.

As a practicing yogi of five years, Brown reaped the benefits of yoga in his own body, specifically after a snowboarding injury. He traveled all over the world and learned from several highly talented instructors including Laura Burkhart and Carmen Curtis. Through these trainings he earned his yoga teacher training certification. Originally, he had no intention of opening a studio, but life had other plans.

Simultaneously, he set forth his plan to create a sustainable and non-toxic yoga mat. As he began his personal yoga journey, he noticed that many yoga mats on the market contain toxic ingredients and are harmful to the community. He designed his very own mat and started his clothing and accessory line 2nd Wind.

“I had been living in Spain, very active, and just very in shape boxing and eating well. I moved to Germany after and found myself spending time in the Pubs and Clubs instead and eventually just was completely upset with the guy I saw in the mirror,” Brown shares. “I wanted to get back into shape, but I wanted to do it in a way that was approachable to all. The idea behind

2nd Wind was workout gear that you could use to mount a comeback – whether you were coming off an injury or off the couch.”

Brown created a pop-up shop in the Smithfield Crossings to promote 2nd Wind and raise money for a non-profit during the holidays. He had no intention of eventually opening a yoga studio, but as covid cases soared, he realized the need was there for people in the community.

“I skateboarded back and forth to Home Depot and Michael’s so I could build a makeshift yoga studio for donation-based classes. It became clear that there was a community of people that were looking for a home like ours,” Brown says. “Big shout out to Lisa R and Jess P (my first two members) who bought memberships when I didn’t even have a management system in place. Thanks for believing in me. I had built a pretty amazing place with the help of the talented Jody Barna a RI artist and I had been blessed to be supported by some amazing instructors.”

As the pop-up started to grow, Brown realized that the community was looking for a place like Phoenix Rising. He wanted the new location to be welcoming, warm, and full of life. He was inspired by his travels and incorporated live plants to create a “living studio” with a very tropical vibe.

“I remember I was up for about the 36th hour straight hammering in nails thinking I can’t let down this community and not open in time,” says Brown. “They just had so much love and had even stopped in and helped



me in parts to get the work done. I hadn’t planned on opening a studio, so I wasn’t able to afford the luxury of hiring people. I’m proud to say that I built that studio with my own hands. Stripping old carpet, painting, and all

See New Yoga Studio, page 27

New Yoga Studio, from page 26

the details with woodwork plants etc. But the studio also is what it is because of the members that came in gave advice, it's really a special place to be in."

Brown is eternally grateful to the people he's met along the way and those who believed in his ideas. Without them, his proverbial phoenix would still be ashes.

"I want to take a moment to publicly thank each of my students, each of my teachers, and everyone who believed in this studio," Brown shares. "You all are the sole reason the studio exists and even in my darkest hours, when you all didn't know the struggle it was all of you believing in me that kept me pushing forward. From the bottom of my heart thank you all. I can't wait to continue to share in this adventure with each of you. Lastly, a personal thanks to my friend and studio manager Valerie."

Phoenix Rising offers Power, Vinyasa, Healthy Aging Yoga, Restorative, Aerial, and R3Bar. It is the first studio to bring R3Bar to the east coast. It's an amazing complement to Yoga found mostly in the premier studios in Seattle and California. The studio is located at 445 Putnam Pike, Smithfield, RI. Visit www.phoenix.studio to browse the schedule and learn more!





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The Nature of Things

Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow?

by James Gass

One of my favorite things to do in the winter, when we have snow, is to track wildlife. We had good tracking snow this past season and I was able to identify many of the more common mammal species that are found in our area, including one that is not-so-common.

The Gloucester Land Trust has several excellent properties that are a quick ride from Smithfield, and one frigid day I decided to do some tracking at the Sprague Farm Town Forest located on Pine Orchard Road off Route 44. It's around 1,200 acres of mixed woodlands and wetlands with six miles of trails that feature old farm pastures, the Sprague family cemetery, and stone foundations of homesteads and barns that belonged to three generations of Sprague's.

The place did not disappoint. As I followed the purple trail through a farm field down to the blue trail that runs through tall, whispering pines, I immediately found tracks of coyotes, eastern cottontails and fishers. The blue trail joins the yellow trail which passes through a large white cedar swamp, and while there I saw a fisher running through the woods. But the most interesting tracks I found that day crossed the trail near a thicket of mountain laurel in the western portion of the property. I had seen prints like these many years ago at the George Washington Management Area. But the snow had partially melted and turned to ice along the trail, and the prints weren't very good. I reckoned it was either a fisher or a snowshoe hare, I just couldn't tell. I needed to return after a fresh coating of snow to be sure.



Snowshoe Hare Prints, Gloucester, RI

Though common in northern New England, snowshoe hares are rare in Rhode Island. According to Charles Brown, Principal Wildlife Biologist at RIDEM, "None have been confirmed here for many years. They (once) occurred in suitable habitat in western RI as well as Tiverton and Little Compton."

Shy and secretive, snowshoe hares are crepuscular to nocturnal and are active year round. They spend daylight hours in shallow depressions called "forms" which they create under clumps of ferns, brush thickets or piles of wood. They differ from eastern cottontails in

See The Nature of Things, page 29



The Nature of Things, from page 28

that they are larger and have enormous hind feet with fur on the bottom that keeps them aloft in deep snow. And unlike cottontails, snowshoe hares turn almost completely white in the winter. For that reason they are also known as varying hares.

Several days after my first visit to the Town Forest, northern Rhode Island got a dusting of snow and I decided to return to see if my hunch was correct. This time I used the William B. Klutz Woodland entrance off Joe Sweet Road. The woods there were almost completely covered by a thick understory of mountain laurel, excellent snowshoe hare habitat.

Walking along the red trail past the ruins of the J. Moffit homestead, I saw coyote, fisher, grey fox and many cottontail tracks, but no snowshoe hare

tracks. They must be here, I thought. But since they turn white in the winter, a hare could have been sitting in the snow a few yards away from me and I probably wouldn't have noticed it. The trail passed through a small ravine surrounded by a couple knolls covered in thick laurel. With the good snow I finally found a clear set of tracks leading out from under a brush pile crossing the trail and then heading up one of the knolls. There was no mistake this time, the hind feet were huge. It was clearly a snowshoe hare. I grabbed a couple pictures and kept walking. I didn't see many hare tracks after that, maybe because the animals were hunkered down in the mountain laurel off the trail. I only found the prints of one, maybe two individuals. I sent Brown the pictures of the prints for verification. "Very interesting about the tracks," he said. "No question that

they are from a snowshoe hare. It's possible that they are from a resident hare, but my guess is that the animal may have been stocked by someone training their dogs. I found tracks in several places up that way 15-20 years ago, as well as one location in Exeter. At one site in Durfee Hill, I found a wooden box from which hares had been released."

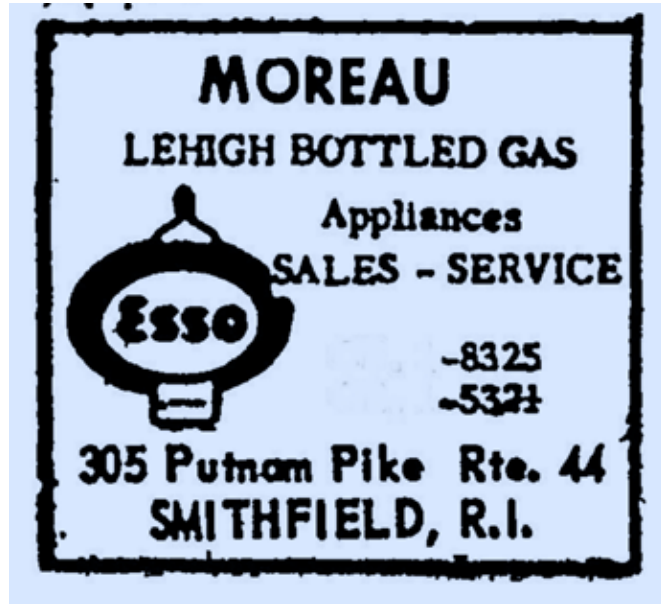
Why are there so few snowshoe hares left in RI? Thousands were stocked throughout the state during the 1950's and 1960's. It could be loss of preferred habitat. It could also be that since they turn white in the winter and there has been less snow over the years, they are now more visible to predators such as coyotes, fishers or bobcats. It's hard to say. Hopefully I found a local population that will endure.

50-years Ago – March 1972

by Jim Ignasher

U. S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Norman R. Leveille of Greenville was serving as a communications specialist in Turkey after completing a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Brian Douglas Straus of Esmond enlisted in the navy's "Three Year Airman Program", and was the first in Rhode Island to do so.



Air Force pilot 1st Lieutenant Bernard J. Ferro III of Esmond was serving with the 516th Tactical Aircraft Wing. He and his crew were recognized for their outstanding performance during operational training missions held from January to June of 1972.

Airman Richard L. LaChance of Greenville completed basic training, and was assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas for specialized training.

Army National Guard Master Sergeants Ralph Corbesero, Jr., and Nicholas P. Gerardi, along with Sergeant's First Class John L. Foline, and Frank A. Grace, and Staff Sergeant Brendon M. Byone, stationed at the guard depot on Washington Highway, received ten and twenty year service awards.

On March 2nd, NASA launched the Pioneer 10 space probe which had a plaque attached bearing a message to any alien civilization that might encounter it. In 1983 it became the first man-made object to leave our solar system. It continued transmitting data to Earth until January of 2003.

On March 3rd, 2.24 inches of rain drenched the area causing the Woonasquatucket River to overflow its banks and cause extensive flooding in Georgiaville and Esmond.

The Smithfield Boys Club held its annual dinner dance and presented Thomas Black, Albert Oteau, Alonzo Thurber, Senator F. Monroe Allen, and John Ford with exceptional service awards for their work with the organization.

Gulliver's Lounge on Farnum Pike advertised St. Patrick's Day specials which included green beer, Irish whiskey, corned beef sandwiches, and music by the "Smilin' Faces", said to be "Far-in folk with a lot of funk."

Greenville Cub Scouts Pack 3 held its annual Blue and Gold Dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pascoag, and Smithfield Pack 43 Cub Scouts held theirs at Wright's Farm. Doreen Marinaccio, age 15, of Georgiaville, won first place in the "Mid-Winter Skating Championships" held in Warwick. She'd competed in the "Freshman Freestyle Event".

The Smithfield Lions Club installed two new members; Kaj Andreasson, and Dr. Ronald Hall.

Bill's Appliance Inc., once located at 258 Putnam Pike, posted a unique advertisement that read in part, "Wanted, 50 old washers, dead or alive". Basically he was offering trade in value towards a new Maytag washing machine. The ad went on to state, "Oldest Maytag washer brought in receives bonus trade in rewards on any Maytag of your choice."

A local Chevrolet dealership was advertising new 1972 model cars. One could own a Monte Carlo for \$3,295, an Impala for \$3,195, a Camaro for \$2,850, and a Nova for \$2,395.



See 50-years Ago, page 31

50-years Ago, from page 30

If one were more economy minded a Volkswagon dealership was offering Beetles for \$2,057.

On March 21st the Greenville Senior Sunshiners held a meeting in the Fellowship Hall of the Greenville Baptist Church. The meeting was opened by the group's president Mrs. Elizabeth Spencer, and the chaplain, Mrs. Edith Knushke, led the group with a prayer.

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Payne's Picks

By Sarah Payne

March 2022



Movie Releases

The Batman – March 4

After skyrocketing to teenage heartthrob status in the *Twilight* series, Robert Pattinson starred in a slew of independent, offbeat films. He returns to the mainstream this month in *The Batman*, directed by Matt Reeves. I love this quote from his interview in GQ last month: “DC is the kind of emo comic ... There’s a nihilistic side to it. Even the artwork is really, really different. So, hopefully, there are a lot of sad people in the world.” His analysis is spot on, and precisely why I happily avoid Marvel films and find myself fascinated with Batman. He also said the opening scene to the film is “so jarring from any other Batman movie.” Reeves’ aim was to make a “’70s noir detective story,” with Zoë Kravitz as Selina Kyle (Cat Woman), Paul Dano as the Riddler, and Colin Farrell as Penguin.

Operation Fortune: Ruse De Guerre – March 18

There’s been very little press in advance of Guy Ritchie’s latest film starring Jason Statham, Aubrey Plaza, Josh Hartnett, and Hugh Grant. Statham plays a spy tasked with stopping a billionaire arms dealer (Grant) from selling a deadly new weapon. Statham and Hartnett are teaming up just one year their first Guy Ritchie film together, *Wrath of Man*. *Operation Fortune: Ruse De Guerre* looks every bit as fast-paced and pure escapist fun.

TV Review

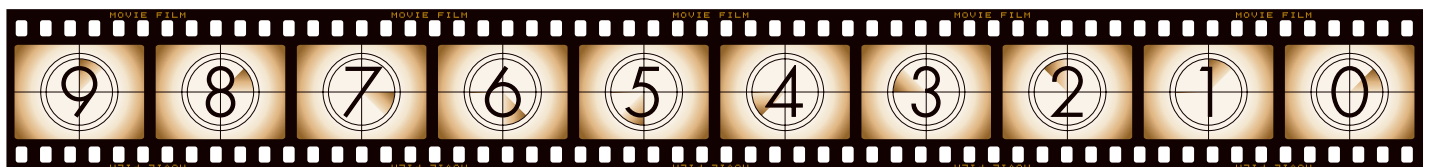
The Righteous Gemstones (HBO Max) – Season 2

Last month I wrote about how Danny McBride had just finished writing the second season of *The Righteous Gemstones* in early 2020. But when the pandemic hit and everyone was stuck at home, he took another pass at the script and shifted focus. He decided a pandemic would probably be lucrative for a Christian televangelist family

like the Gemstones, who could easily monetize remote worship services. This season does not disappoint. The depth of dysfunction in this family knows no bounds – and it’s a nearly constant source absurd comedy. There’s also no shortage of action and suspense this season, as McBride reveals more about Eli Gemstone’s (played by John Goodman) shady past. My favorite character is his daughter Judy Gemstone, played by Edi Patterson. She’s seemingly always on the verge of a breakdown or inappropriate outburst. There can never be enough Judy scenes in my opinion. Adam DeVine plays the youngest in the family and the youth pastor. Like his siblings, he’s constantly trying to prove his worth to his father. This season he leads the “God Squad,” a group of men who dedicate their lives to God, lifting, and following Kevin’s every word. They’re also almost always shirtless, which is hilarious and slightly creepy. I’m very excited to see where the season lands, and that the show was just renewed for season three on HBO Max.

The Book of Boba Fett (Disney+)

If you’ve been reading my column for a little while, you’ll notice I never write about Star Wars. Maybe it’s a generational thing. I’m just not into the franchise, even though some of my favorite films are set in outer space (*Interstellar*, *Alien*). Now that Disney+ owns the brand, the Star Wars universe continue to grow in breadth and popularity. Jon Favreau created 2019’s *The Mandalorian* and is a writer and producer for *The Book of Boba Fett*, about a crime lord and bounty hunter. I’ve been pleasantly surprised by the series. Though I could do without some of the campiness and 70s-style costumes, the story of how Boba Fett overcomes adversity and rises to power is entertaining enough for someone not familiar with Star Wars lore.



Winter Fun Days in Smithfield!



The outdoor skating rink opened at Deerfield Park on January 22 for public skating.



Adam L'Etoile, Ralphie Farrar, Gabe Martinez and the Garcia brothers took advantage of great sledding at Deerfield after the January 29 blizzard!

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greenvilleasstdirector@gmail.com • greenvillelibraryri.org

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Participate in our first ever community tiny art exhibit! Pick up a kit containing a tiny canvas and paint and create a mini masterpiece for our display. Please register today to participate by calling 401-949-3630 or visiting our event calendar online at greenvillelibraryri.org.

Adult Events

Mystery Book Club

Tuesday, March 1 at 1:30 pm

Picnic Table Reads Book Club

Thursday, March 17 at 1:00 pm

Virtual Book Chat

Thursdays, March 3 & 17 at 6:00 pm

Coffee & Books

Wednesday, March 9 at 10:30 am

Home Sweet Home Book Club

Monday, March 28 at 6:30 pm

To register for our programs, please visit our event calendar at greenvillelibraryri.org or call 401-949-3630.



East Smithfield Public Library

50 Esmond Street, Smithfield, RI 02917

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Children's Programing

Story Times

Our story times run for 6 week sessions.

Tiny-Tots Story Time

(children 1 to 2 ½ years old) on Tuesdays mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Preschool Story Time

(for children ages 2 ½ to 5 years old) Wednesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Kindergarten Countdown,

on Thursday, March 17th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Arts and Crafts Club

Monday, March 14th from 4p.m. to 5 p.m



Young Adult News:

We have a new Young Adult Librarian!

Introduction

Hello! My name is Madeleine Frost (I go by Maddie and I use she/they pronouns) and I am the new Young Adult (YA) Librarian at East Smithfield Public Library.

Take and Make Craft for Tweens and Teens

March 5, 2022

Anime Club

March 25 from 5-6PM

Adult Programs (Teens welcome too!):

Share the Love Card Club

Thursday, March 3rd at 5:30 p.m.

Welcome Spring

Monday, March 21st at 5:30 p.m.

Friends of the Library News:

Join us in the parking lot on Saturday, March 19th, from 10am to 12noon (or until we run out). In case of rain we will be on the ramp.

Book Sale Fundraiser

Join us on Saturday, March 26th, from 10am to 2pm

Coffee, Cake & Conversation Book Group

Continues to meet every Tuesday morning at 10:30am.

Reminder:

The "Little Free Library" on the ramp is available any time. Come grab a book out in the fresh air! The selection is constantly changing.

Please register on our website for all programs

Easy Green Pistachio Cake — Submitted by Rita Dragon of Smithfield

Ingredients

For the cake:

- 1 box vanilla cake mix, (or white/yellow cake mix)
- 1 (3.4 oz) box instant pistachio pudding
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 1 cup milk
- green food coloring optional

For the frosting:

- 1 (3.4 oz) box instant pistachio pudding
- ½ cup milk
- 1 (8 oz) tub frozen whipped topping (COOL WHIP), thawed



Instructions

To make the cake:

- Preheat oven to 350F degrees. Spray a 9"x 13" baking dish with nonstick spray.
- In a medium bowl, combine dry cake mix with dry instant pistachio pudding. Mix those together until combined.
- Then add in eggs, oil and milk. Stir just until combined.
- Stir in about 6 to 8 drops of green food coloring until fully incorporated.
- Pour into prepared baking dish.
- Bake for about 25-30 minutes. If you insert a toothpick into it, it should come out clean when done.
- Allow cake to cool completely before making frosting.

To make frosting:

- Pour instant pistachio pudding mix into a mixing bowl. Add in ½ cup cold milk. Stir until combined.
- Stir in the thawed whipped topping.
- Put in a few drops of green food coloring to really bring out that green color. About 5 drops or so.
- Spread frosting onto cooled cake.
- Slice and serve. If you like, sprinkle with some crushed pistachios.

Note:

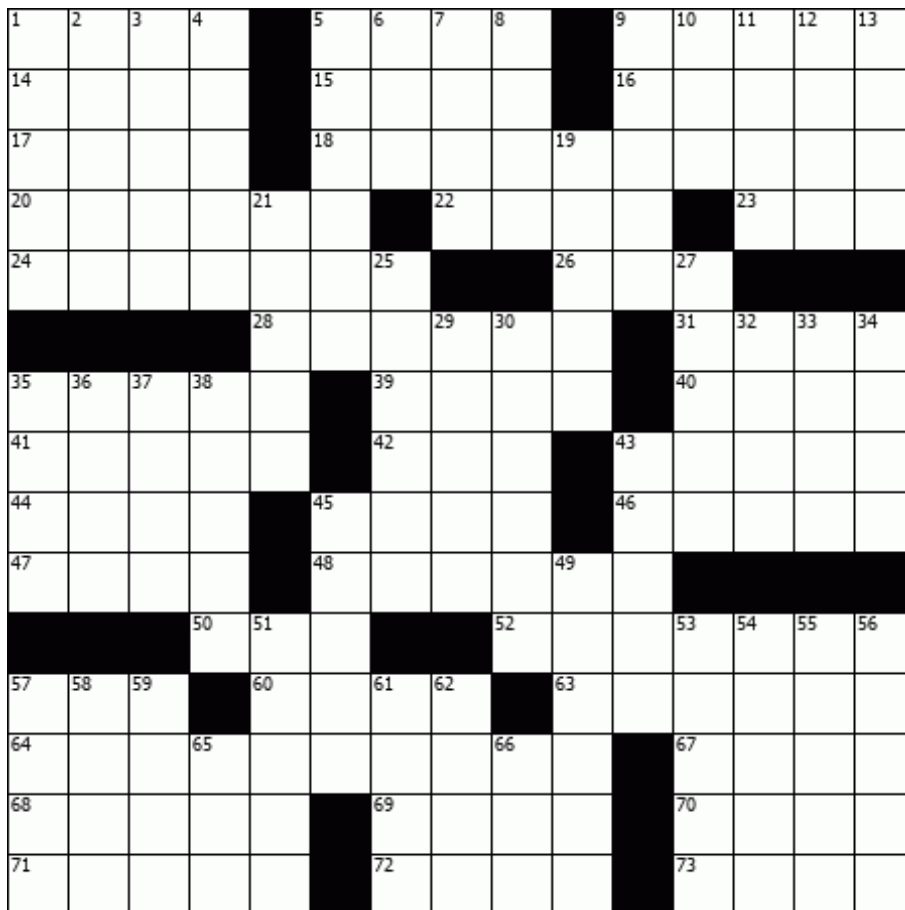
If you like, sprinkle with some crushed pistachios.

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Sunbathe
5. Pierce
9. Leading
14. Female singer
15. Tattle
16. Young insect
17. Celebrity
18. Perceived character
20. Mother ____
22. Fabric joint
23. Flock female
24. Irregular
26. Yankee ____ Gehrig
28. Kind of type
31. Neck area
35. Tiny
39. Male heirs
40. Money drawer
41. Danger
42. The I in TGIF
43. Fathers
44. Hymnal word
45. Initial bet
46. "Bonnie and ____"
47. Address word
48. Comfort
50. FBI employee (abbr.)
52. Member of Congress
57. ____ Thurman of "Paycheck"
60. Lampreys
63. Redecorated
64. Moderation
67. Is indebted
68. Zodiac sign
69. Cows' calls
70. Whip
71. Bushy fence
72. "Dear ____"
73. House additions



Down

1. Sew temporarily
2. Change
3. Beatle Ringo ____
4. Seoul's country
5. Narrow waterway
6. Golf peg
7. Swiss peaks
8. Melancholy
9. San Antonio shrine
10. Sombrero, e.g.
11. Historic canal
12. Assert
13. Great ____
19. Bath powders
21. Motionless
25. Gambling hall
27. Up to the time that
29. Gambling game
30. Map parts
32. Well-ventilated
33. Implored
34. Additional
35. Shadowbox
36. Note
37. District
38. Actress ____ Evans
43. Locale
45. Daisylike flower
49. Religious dissent
51. Barnyard fowl
53. Sun-dried brick
54. Drying cloth
55. Laker Shaquille ____
56. Relaxes
57. Mormon State
58. Simple
59. Between
61. Tibetan monk
62. Snooty person
65. Wooden pin
66. Corn core

Answers to puzzle on page 42



A View From the Cheap Seats

Dan Pieroni

Here's a Story About a Man Named Brady in 800 Words or Less.

This month my thesis was simple.

How can you celebrate the career and legacy of the most decorated local athlete of your lifetime, and explain his reasons for retiring at 43, an age that feels premature for him?

I began to brainstorm possible reasons why Brady chose it call it quits. Giselle told him to do it: likely, but he's too much of a competitor to give in that easily, and if that's the truth, he would have been gone a long time ago.

His age finally caught up with his body: maybe that is a likely scenario for us mere mortals, but then again, we probably don't go out of our way to fuel our bodies on electrolytes and avocado-flavored ice cream like Brady.

Bob Kraft and Bill Belichick knew something about Brady's past that they threatened to go public with unless he retired: now that would be jealous, petty, and uncalled for, wouldn't it?

Satiation, that made the most sense to me. What, you don't know what satiation is? Simply put, satiation is a psychological concept that more we have of something they more we want of it, until we are so used to it, it lacks the same appeal over time.

In his February 1st Instagram post that officially announced his retirement, Brady spoke of the sport of football as in "all-in proposition." He went on to say that if one does not have a 100% competitive commitment to football they will not succeed, and that success is what he loved most about the game.

The most telling statement of the retirement announcement was that Brady did not feel he could commit himself to the level of competitive commitment he demands of himself any longer and was calling it a career. With that said, how does the concept of satiation play into Tom Brady's decision to walk away from the game he loves?

Brady's strict adherence to the 100% level of commitment he expected of himself led to a level of success no quarterback had ever achieved. The numbers speak for themselves, seven Superbowl titles, 10 conference championships, and more wins, passing yards, and touchdown passes than any other quarterback.

Even the spoils of those successes motivated Brady to crave more. Through fame and football, he gained himself a supermodel wife, a number of endorsement deals, and even once hosted *Saturday Night Live*.

Of course, the spoils of consistent success did not come without significant detours, there was the heartbreaking loss against the Giants that squashed a perfect NFL season, the ankle injury that cost him an entire season, and the legal battles with the NFL over the Deflategate saga. Despite all that, it is safe to say that Brady was addicted to the level of commitment that resulted in the unparalleled level of success he enjoyed as an NFL quarterback.

Though upon further review, Brady grew mortal. Yes, he loves the commitment to excellence and the success it brings to him and his teammates, but to attain that level of success requires a commitment few if any can undertake at his age. Add to that the fact that Brady was keenly aware of his contemporaries vacating the spotlight in the last couple of years. There's no more Manning, Rivers, Brees, or Roethlisberger to speak of in revered tones.

Brady was now the old man in a game that is quickly becoming a young man's game full of new dynamics and innovative quarterback play.

Yes, Tom Brady loves commitment and loves success, but the road to get there is paved in an advanced age, family sacrifice, and constant media speculation how long he can keep it up. Brady may always want the success and demand the commitment to excellence he prides himself in having, but the road to that success has become too much of a good thing, and a tiring ordeal to go through one more time. Hence, this is why satiation is the most logical explanation for Tom Brady retiring, success loses its appeal, if you have to navigate grueling workouts and adapt to new schemes at an advanced age.

Brady can finally at peace with himself and rest on his laurels. As for us, when the next generation asks us about greatness, we can say without the slightest hint of hesitation or conviction back to them.

"Greatness was defined by Tom Brady, the greatness NFL player who ever lived!"

Early Fire Fighting In Georgiaville

By Jim Ignasher

A large two-story building known as Columbus Hall once stood at the corner of Stillwater Road and St. Michael's Way in Georgiaville. Besides being a place of music, dancing, and theatrical entertainment, it also housed a barber shop and drug store. Shortly after midnight on July 29, 1897, flames were discovered coming from the building, and shouts of "Fire!" echoed throughout the village rousing residents from their slumber. A bucket brigade was formed, but the flames had gained too much headway, and before long the Georgiaville train station next to the hall was also ablaze. Despite the brigade's efforts, it became obvious that both buildings would be lost, so efforts were focused on saving nearby structures.

Falling embers ignited the Georgiaville Schoolhouse and the home of Richard Tobin, but these structures were saved.

In 1897, organized fire protection in Georgiaville was non-existent, and it was fires such as this that prompted some to suggest that a village fire company should be established, but for reasons lost to history, establishing such a company wouldn't happen for another seventeen years.

As a point of fact, the only organized fire company in Smithfield at the time was in Greenville, but Greenville's horse-drawn fire apparatus was considered obsolete for the time, yet it was better than nothing.

It wasn't until April of 1915, when two ice houses along Georgiaville Pond burned to the ground that a fire company was finally organized at a special meeting held at Bernon Hall. The name of the organization was chartered as "The Smithfield Fire Company".

Money to purchase fire apparatus and equipment was raised through subscriptions, and it was hoped to



Georgiaville Fire Company - 1940s

that enough would be raised to buy a motorized Ford fire truck, but this did not materialize. Instead, the fledgling fire company began with two obsolete horse-drawn apparatus, a hook-and ladder, and a chemical wagon, both of which were housed at the Bernon Mill in a makeshift fire station. Although the apparatus were designed to be horse-drawn, there's no evidence that the fire company owned any horses, and thereby had to rely on mule power.

In the autumn of 1923 the fire company purchased a brand new motorized Chandler fire truck, and then a used 1912 Packard ladder truck, and a 1912 Cadillac forest fire truck. Motorized vehicles now allowed the fire company to respond to fires beyond the locality of the village.

On May 27, 1924, a special meeting was held where it was voted to re-incorporate The Smithfield Fire Company as the "Smithfield Volunteer Fire Company, District Number 2". The reason for the change is unknown, but minutes of the meeting state in part that it was "... voted

that this company become a permanent organization."

It was also in 1924 that the former Georgiaville Schoolhouse was turned over to the fire company for use as a permanent fire station. Three-thousand dollars was raised through social fundraisers to build an addition off the back to accommodate the fire trucks.

In 1938 the fire company ordered a modern Seagraves fire engine with a 500 gallon-per-minute pump that was considered top-of-the-line for its day. It was also in that year that plans were accepted for a new fire station to be built next to the Town Hall, for the old Georgiaville School, built in the previous century, had outlived its usefulness. The fire company moved into its new quarters on October 25, 1942. The new building was adorned with bronze letters that read "Georgiaville Fire Company".

As a side note, although the fire company had been incorporated under two other

See Early Fire Fighting, page 39



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Early Fire Fighting, from page 38

names, it had been referred to as the "Georgiaville Fire Company" in newspapers as early as August of 1915. It didn't officially become the Georgiaville Fire Company until 1950.

In 1946 the fire company purchased a second-hand Packard Ambulance, which was the first fire department ambulance in Smithfield. (One anecdote told to this writer was that prior to this purchase, a local grocery store delivery wagon would sometimes be pressed into service as an ambulance.)

Firefighting is inherently dangerous, and during its years of existence the Georgiaville Fire Company lost two members in the line of duty. The first was Lieutenant Robert W. Brown, (22), who suffered fatal injuries when he fell from a moving fire truck as it raced to a brush fire on April 2, 1960. The other was Lieutenant Eugene E. Dorgan, (38), who fell from a moving fire truck while responding to a bran fire off Colwell Road. The fire was later determined to be arson, and the perpetrator was subsequently charged.

The Georgiaville Fire Company eventually became part of the Smithfield Fire Department as we know it today, and while the bronze letters have been removed from the fire station on Farnum Pike, the building still stands.

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SHS Scoop

The Arts are Alive!

by Ellorie Corcoran



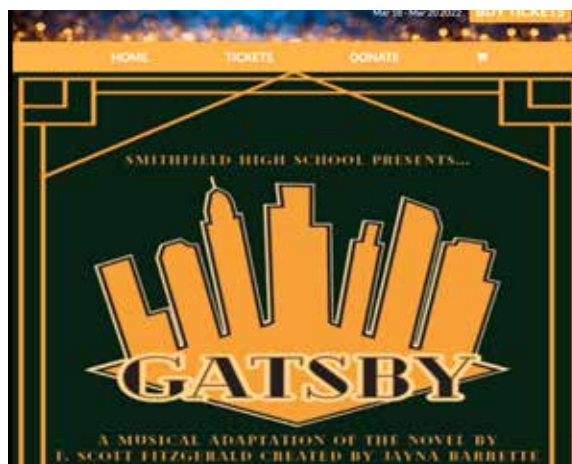
Smithfield High School has a bustling arts program that includes an annual spring musical, as well as classes in chorus, band, and musical theater. This year, art lovers will enjoy a special treat when they attend the spring musical, which was written by Smithfield High School senior, Jayna Barrette. Jana's musical adaptation of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald opens on March 18th, and we are all excited to experience the results! I asked Jayna a few questions about her experience as a first time director, writer, and composer.

Q1: Why did you decide to write your own musical?

The idea to write a musical adaptation of *The Great Gatsby* came to me after I read the novel in American Literature as a sophomore. I had such an amazing experience in Ms. Carty's class, and was fascinated by the novel's intricate language and thematic density. I had been performing in musicals at community theaters and at school for about six years, and had always been interested in writing music. Eventually, I sat down with my ukulele and experimented with chords, melody, and later, lyrics. The first song I wrote was *A Matter of Time*, which is the first, and biggest song sung by Gatsby. I was so inspired by the wonder of Fitzgerald's writing when he described Gatsby, still shrouded in mystery to both the narrator and the reader, reaching out into the darkness at a green light in the distance. The idea that I could use music to recreate the feeling I had when I read that passage and share it with other people was incredible.

Q2: What was the process of writing the songs/script? Was it more difficult than you thought it would be?

The songwriting process was a great learning experience! When I wrote the first song sophomore year, I had



very little songwriting experience. I actually wrote the first ten or so songs on the ukulele, because that was the only instrument I could play at the time. As I kept writing music, I began to learn how to play the guitar and piano, and after taking a Music Theory class, I started to notate the score. Once I had the sheet music ready to go, I wrote the script, weaving in excerpts of Fitzgerald's original language, and researching the time period to give the show a similar tone to the novel. When I first read *The Great Gatsby* I was pleasantly surprised at how relatable the struggles of the characters were, nearly one hundred years later. I made it a priority to ensure that the music both lyrically and stylistically communicated the universal messages that make the novel so special.

Q3: What was the process of getting the musical approved to put into production at the high school?

After many revisions, I completed a first draft of the musical, and knew it was time to get it staged. I had been sharing the music with my Chorus and Music Theory teacher, Mrs. Young, and approached her with the idea of staging GATSBY at SHS. Once I had Mrs. Young's support, I brought the idea to my guidance counselor Mrs. DiMuccio, who was equally supportive and recommended I submit a proposal to our principal, Mr. Kelley. He approved the idea and Ms. Roderick, an English and Theater teacher at SHS, signed on to advise the project. I feel so lucky to go to a school like SHS where a seemingly impossible dream like putting on an original musical can be realized.

Q4: How has it been directing the musical?

Directing GATSBY has been one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had, and I can't overstate how grateful I am for the opportunity. I have worked with many fantastic directors during my time performing at community theaters and in school plays, and as GATSBY became a reality I knew I was ready to use the skills I had learned from them to bring the show to life. As both the composer and director, I get to watch as each actor discovers new facets of their character, and to hear the

See SHS Scoop, page 41

music I wrote grow and transform with each rehearsal.

Q5: Are there any major challenges you encountered as you've worked on this project?

Between writing the music, directing rehearsals, attending college interviews, and doing homework, I have very little down time. Each day is a bit of a marathon, but when I get too overwhelmed, I remind myself to be

grateful for this incredible opportunity. My passion for the musical has given me a sense of energy that carries me through the longer days. Throughout the writing and staging process I have learned many valuable lessons about organization, time management, and perseverance.

Jayna plans to major in Music Composition in college. GATSBY will be performed at Smithfield High School.

Show times are Friday, March 18, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 19, at 2pm and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 20, at 2 p.m. Advance order tickets can be purchased online for \$12. Senior Citizen tickets for \$10. For online sales, please visit Tickets: Gatsby, The Musical. Please note that advance ticket sales will close on Friday, March 18 at noon. Tickets will be available at the door for \$15. There will also be raffle prizes to support the SHS Music Department.



Obituaries



Richard "Rick" Almeida

January 10, 2022

www.andersonwinfield.net



Josephine D. Tassoni

January 18, 2022

www.andersonwinfield.net



Linda L. Reilly

February 2, 2022

www.andersonwinfield.net



Michael C. Corcoran

February 7, 2022

www.andersonwinfield.net



Andrea D. Newman

February 7, 2022

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Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 36.

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

The Smithfield Times

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