

The Smithfield Times



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Gatsby, the Musical

Story on pages 5 & 6.



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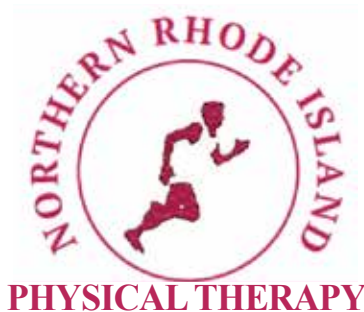
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Medicaid is a state administered program that is funded to a great extent by the Social Security trust fund. It provides for payment of medical services and long term nursing home care for those who qualify.

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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

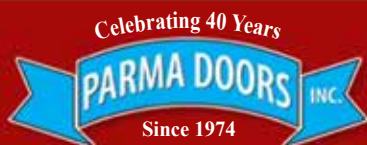
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Gatsby, the Musical, the Perfect Celebratory Toast to Usher in the Return of Live Theater at SHS.

By Marilyn A. Busch

Whether you have seen one of the famous film versions of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* or studied this American masterwork of storytelling during high school or college, most likely the striking image of a champagne glass being held high in a celebratory toast is one of the first to come to mind.

After a lengthy hiatus from live productions due to the COVID pandemic, Smithfield High School Music and Drama students took to the stage to tell this epic roaring 20s romance amid thunderous applause this past March for the eagerly awaited world premiere.

Gatsby, The Musical is the brainchild of SHS senior Jayna Barrette who not only adapted the novel but also composed the show's over 20 original songs. As if that alone were not enough, Barrette also directed the show, working alongside faculty advisor and choreographer Kerissa Roderick.

Set in 1920 amid self-made billionaire Jay Gatsby's lavish life on Long Island, the epic tale of mystery, romance and ultimately, murder, is told to us by our narrator, Nick (played by Santino (Sonny) Corbo at the opening night performance.) Sonny brought a fine and clear tenor voice and naturalistic acting approach to the role, creating a

nice contrast to the arch society types populating the play.

We soon meet Nick's lovely cousin Daisy (Sydney Singleton) and her philandering husband Tom (played by Thomas Edsall opening night) holding court with their guest Jordan Baker (a solidly entertaining Katie Lehane) in their large East Egg mansion. The group's musical number "The Buchanans" offered up the first of the many delightful harmonies of the night, highlighted by Singleton's effortlessly lovely soprano and Lehane's rich alto voice.

One of the larger production numbers is "Party at Gatsby's" a tap dance-fueled ensemble piece illustrating the raucous nightly parties that Gatsby throws in a desperate effort to lure his lost love Daisy to his lavish home.

The solo number, "Golden", is Lahane's big showstopper, part monologue and part song, where the mysterious past between Gatsby and Daisy is illuminated. Combined with a well-choreographed dream ballet, this was one of my favorite numbers of the night.

Ms. Singleton has a solid take on the humor and sophistication of Daisy and boasts a lovely soprano singing voice. Her duet at the end of the first act when she is reunited with her mysterious love Jay Gatsby (a confident Alex Henson) who urges her to go away with him was the perfect example of the power of musical theater. Featuring heartfelt



acting choices and matched with strong harmonious vocals, this moment alone was worth the price of admission.

With a cast this large and a songbook bursting at the seams with different stylistic choices and dance numbers, not only do the principals get their moment to shine, but also the ensemble, many of whom take on several roles and solo moments in song.

See Gatsby, The Musical, page 5

Molly Marsella turned in a standout performance as Tom's ill-fated mistress Myrtle who delivered the goods (despite ongoing sound problems) with her comedic song and dance number. Marsella was equally strong in the second act where her character meets an unexpected fate at the hands of an automobile driven by Daisy and leading the story to its final murderous conclusion.

The bulk of the supporting male characters are played as breech roles by actresses, among them Desiree Hirons as Myrtle's hot-headed husband George, Grace Barden as a partygoer who admits he's been drinking non-stop for a week and Madison Fitts who turned in a solid take on the intimidating loan shark Meyer Wolfsheim. Whether by choice or due to a lack of male presenting actors, I thoroughly applaud these performers diving in and making these male roles their own.

While there were ongoing issues from the start with headset microphone amplification going in and out throughout the three-hour production, the cast did not miss a beat.

Trumpeter Ronnie LePage was also a standout with his incredible leads throughout the Jazz Age score.

And what a score it was, led by conductor Christopher Hoskins, the musical was impressive, from the overture to the final number. Composer and librettist Ms. Barrette shows much promise, and I look forward to hearing more from her as she pursues her college career.

I am always so impressed with the sheer number of students involved in undertaking SHS annual musical productions. Just a glance at *Gatsby, The Musical's* program reminds one that it truly "takes a village" to put on this type

of show. While audiences can see and hear the great work of the 30 student actors, singers and dancers gracing the stage and the 15 musicians playing the show's exciting score in the pit orchestra, there is an entire team of people whose work goes on behind the scenes. Kudos go out to the show's more than a dozen design & production staff who made the stylish world of 1920s New York a reality (and the stealthy running crew of 17 who make those set changes happen.) Most important of all, one must recognize the impossible task of Stage Manager Caitlyn Lynch in keeping this entire production running along like a well-oiled machine.

Congratulations to all involved in making this year's annual SHS Music and Drama performance a reality – and hats off to you Barrette and company for creating such a unique theatrical experience for our community.



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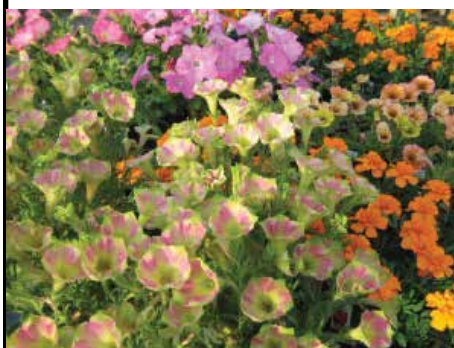


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Ukraine Crisis Hits Home for Woonsocket Pastor

By Joe Siegel

The war in Ukraine is very personal to Father Borislav Kroner, a Pastor at St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket. Russia invaded the country of 44 million people on February 24. Many of the major cities have been bombed. Close to two million refugees have crossed the border into neighboring countries such as Romania and Poland to escape the devastation.

"It's absolutely surreal to see the cities where I visited as a child, where I walked down the street with my parents, to see bombs falling on those streets, buildings being damaged – historical buildings, museums, the infrastructure, but especially people's houses, apartment buildings, it is just absolutely crushing," Kroner said. "It's psychologically damaging to every Ukrainian, myself included, to see the violence, the aggression, that our people are facing right now."

Kroner's family immigrated to the United States in the late 1980s. "My parents came here seeking religious freedom," Kroner explained. "It was under (President Ronald) Reagan and he did a lot to get them (as well as other persecuted groups) out of the country at the time."

After living in Minnesota for a few years, Kroner attended the seminary in New Jersey, where he obtained a Master of Theology degree. Kroner was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in 2010 and was assigned to St. Luke's Ukrainian-Orthodox Church in Warners, New York. He served there for five years.

In 2015, Kroner was transferred to St. Michael's. "I consider myself lucky," said Kroner. "I love this country. It's a country where people have religious freedom, the freedom to worship in the language of their ancestral homeland."

Although Ukrainian-Americans are "fiercely loyal" to the United States, they have never lost their connection to their homeland, Kroner noted.

St. Michael's has a strong connection to Ukraine. A rally was held on March 6 to allow parishioners to show support for their country.

Kroner has many friends and acquaintances living there. Many of his congregants have family members in the country as well.

Kroner was present to witness the passing of a Rhode Island State Senate resolution which condemned Russia for their actions. "This is a global crisis and we condemn this aggression in the strongest terms possible. The courage of the Ukrainian people has inspired our nation and the entire world. We stand with you and hope for peace. Slava Ukrani," said Senator Melissa Murray (D- Woonsocket, North Smithfield), who, co-sponsored the resolution with Senator Leonidas Raptakis, (D-Coventry, East Greenwich) Murray once lived in the one house that stands between the two



Father Borislav Kroner

Ukrainian churches in Woonsocket, and now represents the neighborhood.

"The invasion by Russia of a peaceful, sovereign nation for no good reason is unprecedented in modern times. This is the most dangerous time in Europe and the world since Sept. 1, 1939. Mr. Putin should end his personal war and leave the Ukrainian people alone," said Senator Raptakis.

The church is helping to raise funds for the citizens of Ukraine. A link to the fundraising effort can be found on St. Michael's web site: https://www.uocofusa.org/news_220224_1.

"We feel that it is our duty not only to speak up for Ukraine, let people know what is going on but also collect funds," Kroner added. "Checks are still coming in every day earmarked for humanitarian aid for Ukraine. We're doing everything that we can to support Ukraine, to support our ancestral homeland."



SHS Scoop

by Ellorie Corcoran

Opportunities for Students!



Smithfield High School offers many opportunities for students to get involved outside the classroom through a bustling array of after school clubs and activities. Let's meet some clubs!

The Yearbook Club's mission is to produce the annual SHS Yearbook. They meet every Tuesday after school and are advised by teachers, Lisa Perreira and Lauren Aurrecchia. Students use an online software to compile photos, build layouts, and design pages for the Smithfield High School yearbook. A normal meeting starts with agenda setting, before members work on pages independently, or with a partner. Students are each assigned a page that is their responsibility and are given creative freedom to compile photos, create the layout, and insert text. This year's yearbook membership has grown to fifteen students; a big improvement from last year when there were only two students creating the yearbook!

The Future Business Leaders of America club (FBLA) is a business competition team/club that meets every Tuesday. The students are focused on business, or business-related majors and compete at the state level every

February and March. If they win the state competition they progress to the national competition. The advisor is Scott Waterman, and there are eighteen students participating. SHS's chapter is organized by an executive board and some of the club's members who are interested in working in social media manage an Instagram page where the club posts regular updates. A normal meeting agenda includes prep for upcoming events and competitions and brainstorming fundraising and social media branding ideas. Stay tuned for two fundraisers happening this spring at Chipotle and Panera.

The Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) is a club at Smithfield High School dedicated to creating a healthy environment for LGBTQ+ youth at SHS. The advisor is John Burns, an English teacher at SHS, and the club currently has sixteen members. Meetings include conversation about issues regarding the LGBTQ+ community, before members are broken into discussion groups to talk about those issues. The GSA has worked with SHS administration to make Smithfield High School a more welcoming environment for the LGBTQ+ youth of Smithfield.

The Debate Club is a new club to Smithfield High School. It was founded this fall and currently has twenty one members. The club's co-presidents, SHS students, Olivia Rathbun and Aidan St. Jean hold their weekly meetings on Mondays after school. Their advisor, Mr. Hillery is also new to Smithfield High School! He started teaching at the high school this year in the Social Studies department, teaching 10th grade American History, and Philosophy. Olivia and Aidan founded the club with the help of Mr. Hillery, and the club is currently a member of the RI Forensic League, a group of schools that compete in debate tournaments. The SHS Debate Club has already participated in two tournaments! Their meetings include research on the topics they are preparing to debate, mock debates, and discussion.

This is just a taste of the many clubs SHS offers to help students hone in on their niche interests at Smithfield High School. Whether it be graphic design in Yearbook or research-based debates in the Debate Club, Smithfield High School has given the students plenty of options and opportunities to get involved within the school!

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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!



A Trick to Fixing Frustratingly Stubborn Plaster Failures ...

Strolling down the aisles in many hardware and big box home improvement stores can prove to be quite the interesting exercise. While the majority of items very well may be commonly recognized, there are some items on occasion that the unfamiliar may understandably stare at and wonder, "What the heck is THAT thing used for?"

Normally when someone says this (whether out loud or in their mind) upon stumbling upon one of these such objects, the item that is causing them to scratch their head in the moment is often an object that is not only extraordinarily useful, but something that ultimately may in fact be a stroke of genius as to its being invented whenever that may have happened to be.

One of these such items, definitely could be a certain 'disc-looking' object with holes all over it. This may in fact actually be the perfect example! When glancing at it for the first time, the average person may truly wonder what in the blue blazes that this could possibly be used for? However, this particular item, although not widely known outside of plaster repair circles, is crucial for many folks who do repairs to plaster on a regular basis.

Whether old horsehair plaster or more modern plaster/drywall scenarios, these discs do an amazing job at saving certain plaster failure situations which otherwise might turn into huge undertakings. If you have ever tried to do a horsehair plaster repair, one of the first things you may come to know is that the old horsehair plaster, once compromised, is highly

unstable. What may appear to be a small hole on the outset, can turn into a large hole REALLY quickly if you go poking at it.

By properly screwing in a number of these discs directly into the unstable areas around the hole, this will have a compacting action and tighten up the plaster which will allow you to correctly fix the hole or the crack, etc. With newer plaster, especially with ceilings, sometimes the plasterboard (or drywall in some cases) may have a seam loosen up and form a crack all along it.

When you push on either side of the crack, you may notice that the ceiling or wall has a lot of "give" to it. So much so that if you try to fix it by simply carving out the crack, taping, and replastering/compounding the crack may not do the trick in the long run as the crack may end up returning. If you notice this circumstance occurring as you go to push

on the ceiling or wall, and you are able to utilize these discs along either side of the crack, and then perform your more traditional repair, you will, again, better stabilize this area and most likely give yourself as best shot as possible in making sure the crack does not return.

As part of the repair processes, once screwed in, the discs can then either be merely patched over or taped and patched over in order to hide their being there.

There are tons of similar little knick-knacks out there that are tremendously useful when the situation may call for them. Knowing of their existence and being able to incorporate them into these types of happenings can feel fulfilling, in particular when you realize you know tiny little tricks to help work through challenging predicaments that normal folks would typically not have a clue about.

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.

Recipe Swap!

Avocado Pasta

Ingredients



- 1 package (14-1/2 ounces) protein-enriched rotini (about 3-1/2 cups uncooked)
- 2 medium ripe avocados, peeled and pitted
- 1 cup fresh spinach
- 1/4 cup loosely packed basil leaves
- 2 garlic cloves, halved
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 cup assorted cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup pine nuts
- Optional: Shredded Parmesan cheese, shredded mozzarella cheese and grated lime zest

Directions

1. Cook rotini according to package directions for al dente. Meanwhile, place avocados, spinach, basil, garlic, lime juice, salt and pepper in a food processor; pulse until chopped. Continue processing while gradually adding oil in a steady stream.
2. Drain rotini; transfer to a large bowl. Add avocado mixture and tomatoes; toss to coat. Sprinkle with pine nuts, and add toppings as desired.

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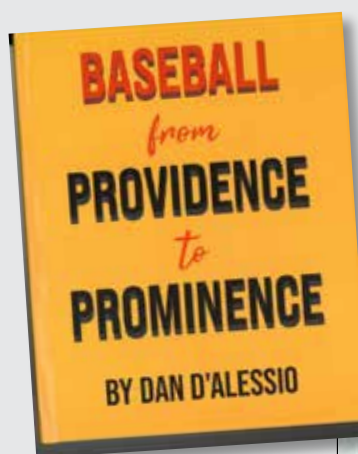
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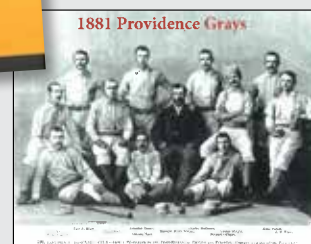
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Smithfield's New Dog Park

By Joe Siegel

Dogs and their owners will soon have a new place to explore after Smithfield Town officials reached a deal with Bryant University to lease a 1.4 acre parcel of land for use as a dog park.

and a parking area. There is also room for expansion in the future.

Alba said the goal is to open the park in July.

See New Dog Park, page 13

Town Council President Suzy Alba and Town Manager Randy Rossi met with Bryant's President, Ross Gittell, to work on identifying a location for the park. Previous efforts had met with opposition from residents concerned about the problems a dog park would bring to their neighborhood.

Bryant has agreed to lease the park to Smithfield for \$1 per year for five years, with the option of renewing the lease for an additional 10 years.

"We're very grateful to Bryant and especially their new president for making it a priority to find a piece of land they would lease for practically nothing," Alba said.

The new park will be located directly across from Industrial Drive. The address is 0 John Mowry Road. However, the entrance will be on Douglas Pike (Route 7).

Alba said the park will feature a small and large dog area, an entrance where owners can unleash their dogs safely



Plan Development

The Farnum Pike Site is large enough to accommodate both the Dog Park and a parking facility of 10 cars. A gathering area collects people (and dogs) from the parking lot and leads them into the small dog / large dog areas. Fencing is designed so that it fits with the wooded characteristics of the existing site. Existing dead/damaged trees will be removed and large shade trees will be pruned up. New deciduous trees will be planted in the center area providing shade for the benches. Under-story plantings will be minimal so that maintenance can be made easier. Grass will be maintained in the entrance area and mulch will be installed in the dog areas.



Existing Conditions



Dog Bone Bench



Dog Fitness Features



Watering Fountain



48" SPLIT RAIL FENCE WITH WIRE FENCE.



Entrance Sign



Smithfield Dog Park

Smithfield, RI

September - 2021

Farnum Pike Site

Schematic Plan



0 30 60 120 180 Feet

DISCLAIMER: This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. It was created by Smithfield Engineering & GIS for general reference. It is not intended for use in any legal proceeding. The Town of Smithfield makes no warranty, express or implied, related to the spatial accuracy, timeliness, completeness, or currency of this map.

Smithfield Town Engineers Office
Potential Dog Park Site
Bryant Univ Lot - Farnum Pike
August, 2021

New Dog Park, from page 12

“We’re all very excited,” said Beth Cerroni, Chair of the Dog Park Committee. “We’ve been working on this for a long time. We needed (a park) because a lot of other towns have them.”

The Dog Park Committee raised approximately \$60,000 for the project.

Alba said many residents and businesses have offered to donate materials, time, and equipment to make the dog park a reality. Those donations will help to offset the cost of the project, which is around \$131,000.

“We welcome additional donations if anyone out there is really excited about this coming to fruition,” Alba added. Some of the town’s general provisions regarding dog parks and off leash areas include:

- No person shall use a dog park for any commercial purpose. Professional dog walkers, whose business is to walk dogs for private individuals, may bring no more than two registered dogs at any one time. Violation of this restriction shall be subject to a fine of \$50 per incident.
- The Town of Smithfield may designate hours for the use of the dog park, which shall preclude use of the park after 9:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m., or during hours of daylight. The Town of Smithfield may specify times when the park will be closed so that the park can be cleaned and the park authority may mow the lawn and take care of any plants or facilities inside of a dog park or off-leash area.
- The Town of Smithfield shall provide or assure the installation of appropriate fencing, with a double-gated entrance area for each section of the dog park. Dog parks may be divided into large- and small-dog sections, with the difference between the sections determined by the weight of the dog, such weight to be 25, 30, or 35 pounds. Dog park rules may specify that individuals with both small and large dogs must use the large-dog area if one of the dogs fits in the large-dog category.



Dog Park Committee members: Anita Dudemaine, Suzy Alba, Beth Cerroni and Elaine Amoriggi

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Local Students Collaborate on Independent Short Film

By Paul Lonardo

Martin Scorsese had Robert DeNiro, Tim Burton had Johnny Depp, and Quentin Tarantino had Samuel L. Jackson. Great actor-director pairings have been common dating back to the earliest days of cinema. A century ago, John Ford first teamed up with John Wayne, and before they were done, Pappy and The Duke completed twelve movies together. While these are examples set at the highest bar possible, a local actor-director collaboration between current Smithfield High School filmmaker

Alexander Geil and recent SHS graduate and aspiring actor Keith R. Beck is one you will want to keep your eye on.



Alex was born in Seoul, South Korea and lived in New Hampshire before moving to Smithfield in November 2020. He is a self-taught filmmaker, who began experimenting in the medium when he was in sixth grade, making shorts and trailers. His most recent project is an independent film, “Tranquility,” which was released last fall and is now available on Amazon Prime. Alex wrote, filmed, edited, produced, and acted in this drama/tragedy, a good portion of which was filmed in Smithfield, including locations such as Deerfield Park.

Alex plans to go to college this fall to learn more about the art and business of filmmaking, but after graduating from SHS this spring, he will be taking some time to complete a few projects, including a short film that he has in the works.

Keith R. Beck, a 2021 graduate of Smithfield High School, had a dream

of being an actor since he was young. When he was thirteen, he was cast as Dick Wilkins in a production of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol at the Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket. From there he was hooked. He went on to be cast in more productions at Stadium, including Annie Jr., The Wizard of Oz, and Tarzan.

From the beginning, Keith had the support of his entire family. He credits his mother in particular for everything she did to get him started in acting, from helping him with his resume to taking him to auditions. He soon started taking classes, including with Boston Casting and Trinity Repertory in Providence, where he received training in scene study, audition techniques, diction and dialect, and advanced improvisation. Keith continues his training in the BFA Acting for Film, Television, Voiceover, and Commercial program at Pace University in New York.

While still in high school, Keith heard



Keith R. Beck

about a kid who had transferred to the school from New Hampshire, a kid who had made a number of independent films with his own equipment. Then, one day in a graphic design class, he overheard a fellow student talking with one another about some films he was making. It turned out to be Alex Geil. They were in the same class together and he didn’t know it. Soon enough, Keith introduced himself and he and Alex began talking about films and acting, initially teaming up to make a short written and directed by Keith.



Alexander Geil

It was titled, “When Natasha Left,” a drama about a man finding the will to go on with life after the loss of the love of his life.

Then Alex proposed a bigger project, the remaking of a film he had made previously, “Tranquility (2018),” which he wanted to reshoot and improve upon, seeing the story had potential if executed correctly. It was a six-character film and needing a female lead, Keith’s girlfriend, Anabel Moda, was cast. A couple of Alex’s longtime friends, Caden Ferland, and Amaya Eitapence were cast as well. The film also introduced now LA-based actress Dani Chace for her first role in film. The movie tells the story about a man who, after being released from prison, is recruited to an independent covert operations agency. But it isn’t long before he learns the dark and disturbing truth behind his recruitment and his recruiter.

I’m sure you’ll be hearing more about these two young men in the future, together or individually. Just remember, you heard it here first.

Right now, you can check out the movie trailer on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfQ3CYmcf58>. And for \$1 you can purchase “Tranquility,” which is now streaming on Amazon Prime.



Community Cat Center



The *Smithfield Times* Magazine and the Community Cat Center are working together to find loving homes for kitties that are currently living in their shelter. Here are their stories:



Jade:

Jade is a gorgeous one year old frisky and fabulous girl who is sure to make you smile. We are looking for a very special person to step forward with adoption for Jade. This stunning grey and brown tiger-striped kitty has a big personality and is in search of a patient, loving owner.

Squall:

Talk about a complete turn around! Squall was found abandoned, fending for herself while living on the streets. When she arrived at the CCC doors, to say she was in bad condition would be an understatement. After copious amounts of medical and loving care, Squall has become a super friendly feline. She enjoys attention, lots of pets and being around the company of humans.



Shy Guy:

Shy Guy was born in a recycle center where he was a loner who would hide himself away. When Shy Guy was brought to the CCC, he was in rough shape, and needed immediate medical care and TLC. Over time, he got better and has now come out of his shell, accepting loving pets and handling. He wanders around the room in search of fun and is ready for the next chapter in his life ... finding his forever home with the right loving person or family.



All cats adopted from the Community Cat Center have been spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.

If you are interested in adopting any of the cats featured in this article, please submit an application today which can be found in the link below. The CCC will only be accepting pre-approved applicants for meet and greet appointments once the completed application has been received.

<https://www.communitycatcenter.com/adoptions.html>

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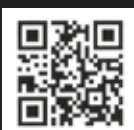
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Life is a Chalkboard

By Diane L. Marolla, LICSW



As I often say, I compare life to a chalkboard where I feel there are lessons to be learned. Now that the pandemic appears to be behind us (and I say appears as it seems to have disappeared overnight), I feel that it has taught me many lessons. As you read this article, I challenge you to be reflective in how you think the pandemic may have changed you.

Lesson #1 – Life Can Change on a Dime

Imagining a life changing event such as a pandemic is something that I never thought I would experience. Not being able to see family and friends and travel freely around the state is something I never thought I would lose. The pandemic really has taught me that we truly have little control over our lives, and that one event can be a game changer. I now tell people whether it be in writing or verbally that I care about them. I do this every opportunity I get.

Lesson #2 – I Rely on Myself

Like many of you, I spent a lot of time alone during the pandemic. Thankfully, I never felt isolated as I always felt connected with others. The technology we have allowed me to work and to stay connected with family and friends. Local radio (thank you WPRO) kept me informed and entertained. (I don't own a television and haven't watched tv since 2015.) I think because I was raised to be independent, and not to rely on others, I naturally fell into a routine of lots of quiet time either reading or taking walks or drives. I will continue to spend a lot of alone time as it keeps me calm, focused and peaceful.

Lesson #3 – Always Have a Supply of Essentials

Growing up, my mother always ensured that we had food and supplies. In our basement there was always toilet paper, paper towels, and canned goods. Both my mother and father were children of the depression. I have never been one to stock up on anything prior to the pandemic, as I never thought that there would ever be supply chain issues. Now, I always have an overabundance of toilet paper and paper towels. My freezer is always stocked with food as I'm still not a fan of canned goods.

Lesson #4 – Keep it Simple

I have been craving a simpler life for quite some time where I wanted to spend more time at home. Right before the pandemic hit, I had just moved into a small condo that is less than 700 square feet. The walls were painted my favorite color purple (thank you Tom Lopatosky), and I fondly nicknamed my home Paisley Park. (If you are a Prince fan, you will know what Paisley Park is.) Throughout the past two years, I used the pandemic to further simplify my life by weeding out what no longer serves me. Having less clutter is freeing.

Lesson #5 – Always Focus on Health

Not that I must be reminded of how important health is, but the pandemic helps me in my message to clients, family, and friends that if we don't have our health, we don't have anything. Specific to our healthcare system, prior to the pandemic I already knew we had staffing shortages in our healthcare system and that the system in general was inefficient and over capacity. I do everything I can to stay physically and mentally healthy and I try to help others

do the same. Our healthcare system remains fragile and I'm not confident that the larger health systems in RI have done their due diligence in long term planning to ensure the system is stable with staff and accessible services.

Lesson #6 – Trust My Instinct

Right before Christmas (2021), I agreed to go out with friends. Like many of you, I was weary from the pandemic. On one Sunday, I went to an extremely small restaurant with no ventilation. It was a new place that had just opened, and we were packed in the restaurant tightly. I was uncomfortable with how close we all were to each other. After eating in the small restaurant, I went into the small shops in the village we were in. Each store was packed with customers, most who weren't wearing masks. I recall getting annoyed with people not keeping their distance but kept trying to go with the flow. Needless to say, a few days later, I had gotten extremely sick. I was too sick to ever get tested so I have no idea if I had COVID or not. I also got extremely sick post-Christmas of 2021 as well.

Lesson #7 – Block Out the Noise

Unfortunately, at a state and national level, the pandemic became political. Our news media no longer reports "just the facts". With the combination of the two, it became very difficult to know what was true versus what was an agenda. This was weighing on me and I could hear and see it weighing on my clients, family, and friends. I got to the point, where I simply blocked it all out, and relied on myself specific to what was best for me. I continue to block out the noise. I am not on social media and kicked that habit during the pandemic as well.



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50-years Ago – APRIL 1972

by Jim Ignasher

Navy Seaman Apprentice Robert L. Phelan, Jr., of Greenville, had just graduated recruit training.

Marine Lance Corporal Leo F. Nadeau of Limerock Road was serving with the 1st Marine Air Wing in Okinawa.

Civil Air Patrol C/Major Lynette D. Blackmore of Georgiaville was honored for her outstanding work and dedication to the Rhode Island Civil Air Patrol.

On April 7th the Smithfield High School drama and theatre arts class presented the play, “Revolution”, billed as a “modern multi-media drama” covering topics of the day. The cast included Michael Averill, Nancy Cabral, James Conlon, Joanne DeCurtis, Mark Denerley, Duncan Eagleson, Joyce Fioire, Edward Gatta, Gerry Grace, John Kelly, Kathy Lowry, Glenn Rose, Nancy Emma, and Edward Spader.

On April 9th official ground breaking ceremonies for the Smithfield Boys Club on Deerfield Drive took place.

Smithfield Cub Scout Pack 44, Den 10, visited the Elmbrook Nursing Home to deliver gifts to the residents. Those


participating included Patrick Drummond, Domenic Burns, Michael Daniels, John Walsh, Timothy Boyles, Steven Hagapopian, Joseph Foster, William Nannie, Frank Girard, and Den Mother Norma McMaugh, and Assistant Den Mother Louise Walsh.


On April 12th, new officers of the Apple Blossom Garden Club were installed at a dinner held at the Club 44 on Putnam Pike. The new officers included Betty Paliy as president, Carmel Lancia as vice president, Kathy Talbot as corresponding secretary, Judy Lawton as secretary, and Ruth Lebeck as member at large.


On April 13th the popular TV sit-com, “My Three Sons” aired its 380th and final episode. The show had been on the air since 1960.

On April 15th the Apple Valley Chorus presented “Parade of Harmony” at the Smithfield High School auditorium. Additional talent included “The Four Statesmen”, the “International Champion Quartet of 1967”, “The Yankee


See 50-years Ago, page 21







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Traders”, and comic relief from “The Top Hats”.

The new Smithfield Recycling Center officially opened at the southwest corner of Commerce Street and Lark Industrial Drive in Greenville. The project was brought about by the efforts of the group Ecology Action For Smithfield.

New members of the Smithfield Elks Emblem Club were installed. The new officers included Mary Hill as president, Mary Schiffman as past president, Helen Mowry as 1st vice president, Mildred Campbell 2nd vice president, Ruth Mowry as treasurer, Claudette Cunningham as finance secretary, Mary Shaw as recording secretary, Rose Centofanti as corresponding secretary, Genevieve Calouri as historian, Joan Kohler as historian, Stella Kornacki as chaplain, Mildred Johnson as 1st trustee, Beverly Moreau as 2nd trustee, Doris Torti as 3rd trustee, Evelyn Newman as marshall, Carmella Amitrano as assistant marshall, Doreen Collins as guard, and Doris Coyne as organist.

On April 21 Apollo 16 astronauts John W. Young and Charles Duke, became the 9th and 10th men to walk on the moon.

On April 25th The Village Butcher Shop announced its grand opening at 977 Greenville Avenue in Greenville.

Despite having opened in September of 1971, a three-day official dedication celebration of Bryant College took place from April 28 – 30. The public was invited to take tours of the campus. Part of the tour included the recently renovated and restored Captain Joseph Mowry House which once stood about where the dome of the campus Unistructure is today. The house was moved to a location along the former John Mowry Road

where it stands today.



It was also on April 25th that the Polaroid Corporation announced its new SX-70 “instamatic” camera that would spit out a color photo which would develop itself within sixty seconds. In a day before digital cameras this was considered amazing for the time.



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In Our Community



A Prayer Vigil for Ukraine was held at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church on Saturday, March 19 by Pastor Father Dante Tavalaro. Parishioners Gail VanGordon, Tina Caldwell, Marie Piadade, and Councilman David Tikoian assisted and worked in conjunction with Fr. (Michael) Mykhaylo DoYak, who serves as the Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Ukraininan Church in Woonsocket, and who's family remains in Ukraine today. Violinist Gregory Ayriyan of Smithfield played the Ukrainian National Anthem and other songs during the service. The group raised over \$400 in donations for the citizens of Ukraine. Donations can be made for the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee at uuarc.org



Photo credit: Sandra Achille

Thank you to Kate McAdam-Prickett, Karen Armstrong and Steve Beaulieu of the Smithfield Senior Center who made sure the St. Patrick's Day celebration was a great success!



Photo credit: Steve Beaulieu





Henry Siravo Class of 2024 – SHS Winning Essay



L-R SHS Principal Dan Kelly, Dylan Matovani, Henry Siravo, Councilman David Tikoian, Olivia Martin and Vin Zibelli

Seventeen Smithfield High School students participated in the National Annual Profile in Courage Essay Contest on an Act of Political Courage by a US elected official. The contest is a companion program of the JFK Profile in Courage Award, named for Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Profiles in Courage. Councilman David Tikoian awarded citations from the Smithfield Town Council to the winners: First Place, Sophomore Henry Siravo, Second Place, Senior Dylan Mantovani, and Third Place Sophomore Olivia Martin. In addition to the citations, Councilman Tikoian sponsored the students personally by presenting each with a monetary gift card for their efforts.

Photo credit: Mark B. Carrier



Payne's Picks

By Sarah Payne

April 2022

TV Release

Better Call Saul – Season 6 – April 18

Seven years after *Better Call Saul* premiered, the final season begins airing this month on AMC with two back-to-back episodes on April 18. The next five episodes will air in the following five weeks, and the final six episodes will begin airing July 11. It's been more than two years since the last season premiered, so what's another couple of months of waiting? If you're interested in getting some behind-the-scenes scoop and commentary, I highly recommend the profile on Bob Odenkirk that ran in the New York Times in February. He talks about the heart attack he had on set last summer and the fact that he shared a home in Albuquerque with two of his co-stars (Rhea Seehorn and Patrick Fabian) during filming. Seehorn is quoted in the

article describing the final seasons as “quite funny, and then very dark – brutally dark. They turned the volume up on all of it. Whatever direction someone was already going in, they made it more extreme.”

Movie Release

The Northman – April 22

Directed by Robert Eggers, *The Northman* is set at the turn of the tenth century in Iceland where a Viking prince (Alexander Skarsgård) sets out on a mission to avenge his father's death. Eggers is best known for directing *The Witch* and *The Lighthouse* (one of the more bizarre films I've seen in the last few years) and for his painstaking attention



See Payne's Picks, page 27

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to detail. According to Skarsgård, Eggers ensured every detail – “every single stitch on a tunic” – was historically accurate. In speaking with TotalFilm, Eggers said: “When I first thought, ‘I want to make a Viking movie,’ I knew three things. I knew it needs to take place mostly in Iceland, it needs to have a revenge story, and it needs to have a naked swordfight on a volcano.” And if there’s anything I learned from watching *The Lighthouse*, it’s that Eggers loves some gratuitous nudity.

TV Reviews

Pieces of Her (Netflix) – Season 1

As I write this column, this mystery thriller starring Toni Collette and Bella Heathcote (as a mother-daughter pair) is the most popular show on Netflix – and I understand why, to a certain extent. The first episode starts off with a violent and unexpected event. I was immediately pulled in, but then almost as quickly disappointed. Collette plays a woman with a dark past – but she’s competent. She’s somehow raised a thirty-year-old daughter (Heathcote) who still lives at home

and makes incredibly stupid decisions (like asking a man she just met at a bar in the middle of the night to teach her how to shoot a gun). I haven’t finished the series yet, but as I watch I’m consistently frustrated by these obvious plot holes and a lack of nuance. And yet again I’m reminded that popularity on Netflix has almost no correlation to quality.

After Life (Netflix) – Season 3

Ricky Gervais’ dark comedy about a man grieving the death of his wife will bring you to tears in one moment and laughter in the next. The writing is remarkable, and the episodes are short and bingeable (about 30 minutes). If you ever have the chance, I highly recommend watching the bloopers, which are almost as funny as the show itself. My only complaint about this season (which Gervais has said will be the last) is that the psychiatrist (Paul Kaye) doesn’t make an appearance. In the first and second season, the scenes in his office where he shows blatant disregard for his patients’ problems are some of the funniest scenes in the entire series.

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The Nature of Things

by James Gass

Common Ravens Are Becoming Just That in Rhode Island

Common ravens were once a rare sight in southern New England, but not anymore. Previously only nesting on rocky ledges or in tall trees in the northeastern wilderness, they have adapted to mankind and now nest on college campuses, cell towers, power line stanchions, under bridges and on the ledges of buildings. There is a pair that nests regularly in Smithfield, under the Route 116 Smithfield Viaduct Bridge that spans the Woonasquatucket River in Stillwater. To see the nests, take the Stillwater Scenic Trail off Farnum Pike.

Ravens were persecuted by early settlers in New England because they damaged crops and were thought to kill young livestock. By the mid-1800's, they had largely disappeared from the region. During the 1970's and 1980's, they began appearing in Massachusetts in the winter, especially at the Quabbin Reservoir, where Mass Wildlife was regularly putting out deer carcasses for wintering bald eagles. Ravens also fed on the carcasses. Eventually they reached Rhode Island, where a small population nested in the northern part of the state for many years. They currently nest throughout the state.

Ravens are often confused with crows, but they are much larger. They have pointed wings that are more slender than a crow's, and a wedge-shaped tail that differs from the rounded tail of a crow. Ravens have a larger, thicker bill than a crow, and shaggy feathers on their throat that resembles a beard. They also utter a deep, guttural croak, unlike the "caw-caw-caw" call of a crow.

Ravens are in the Corvid family which includes Jays, magpies and crows. All Corvids, especially ravens, are known for their intelligence. A raven's brain is

among the largest of any bird. In a recent Boston Globe article, Mass Audubon's Wayne Petersen remarked that "they are as smart as parrots and engage in play, a hallmark of intelligence for all animals. For example, ravens like to play in the snow, rolling and sliding down snow-covered hillsides. They are also good at vocal and behavioral mimicry, another indicator of animal intelligence, and can even be taught to speak a few words."

According to Dan Berard, President of The Ocean State Bird Club, one of the earliest incidents of ravens nesting in an urban area in southern New England was in the 1980's in Worcester, Mass, under a railroad bridge in Greendale. They continue to nest there every spring. The bridge is right across from my office, and for years I have enjoyed the antics of these wily and fascinating birds.

Ravens are highly opportunistic omnivores and will eat berries, fruit, insects, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, bird eggs and also baby birds. I have personally seen one methodically raiding pigeon nests under the highway overpass near our office. One time I watched a raven hold a Slurpee straw in its bill to use as a tool to overturn leaves under a beech tree in our parking lot. I'm not sure what it was looking for, maybe insects. Maybe it was just having fun.

A few of us were standing at the entrance to the office one morning and what looked like a thigh bone of a chicken dropped from the roof. A raven peered down at us. Someone picked up the bone and threw it back on the roof. The raven dropped it down again. Was he inviting us to play?

Ravens also eat carrion. One morning



Common Raven. Photo by Sandra Achille

we watched one dig something up from underneath the beech tree. It turned out to be a rabbit's head that the raven had previously cached. But sometimes the fact that they eat carrion can have tragic results. There is a rat problem in Worcester and businesses routinely put out poison traps. The rats ingest the poison and die, sometimes out in the open where the ravens can see it. In the last three or four years, at least two of the ravens near our Worcester office have died from eating a dead, poisoned rat.

Sandra Achille, photographer for *The Smithfield Times*, recalls when a raven visited her home. "He or she was an injured bird. I saw him in my yard, and when I went out he went over the fence to the neighbor's yard. I called him Smart pants. I said I know you're one of the smartest birds in the world, and you know I have food. So come back here and get something to eat. He jumped the fence and ate a bunch of bird food. He came to visit me for about a month, and I saw him a few months after that in someone else's yard."

If you would like to see a common raven up close, visit the Audubon Environmental Education Center in Bristol. They have nine rehabilitated birds that cannot be released to the wild, including Zachary the Mischievous Raven. Maybe he'll invite you to play.

Local Craft Store Has Everything Under the Sun

By Paul Lonardo

Local artisan Maureen Van Herpe is a crafter by heart and a woodworker by trade. For those in town who are not familiar with Maureen or what she does, she is the proprietor of Wood Items & More, a retail craft supply store and studio that has been part of the Smithfield community for twenty-four years. The business began in Chepachet in 1992 before relocating to Greenville in 1998. Maureen's focus has always been teaching classes, and there seems to be few, if any, crafts that she doesn't know something about. She instructs classes in decorative painting, stenciling, crocheting, knitting, grouping, basic sewing, among other crafts. She does special jobs for customers, such as building frames, laser cutting, printing T-shirts, as well as hosting weddings, birthday parties, and Girls Night Out events. She helps the Girls Scouts and the Boy Scouts with the different projects that they have, including the Pinewood Derby, the Scout's longtime wood car racing event. She also teaches offsite, as well, so it can become a balancing act at times.

"I'm never bored," admits Maureen.

If you see the full schedule of classes she runs, you'll understand. Each week she

teaches between 60-75 students, who range in age from 8 to 80.

"We are a full-line gift shop as well as a craft supply store, with two floors of merchandise and classes of various kinds that are being taught throughout the day." Maureen adds with pride, "The shop is the last independent full-line craft supply store in New England."



Maureen Van Herpe

There is a lot of traffic on the section of Putnam Pike outside the building, so Maureen will often get people who wonder inside her shop for the first time and are genuinely amazed by how much stock is on the shelves. Benny's used to occupy the same historic building, but Wood Items & More certainly has that



same flair, an eclectic quality that assures her customers will find something they're looking for, and even more that they are not looking for.

"I've got everything under the sun in there," Maureen aptly says.

Business is starting to pick up as we all continue to rebound from the pandemic, and while Maureen is there every day and manages to keep herself busy, she hopes to have a staff working alongside her again soon. Being well-established in the community has helped in the process of getting things back to normal, with word-of-mouth being the best advertising.

Summer classes are filling up, so drop by Wood Items & More at 576 Putnam Pike in Greenville or contact Maureen by phone 401-949-3550 or email WoodItemsAndMore@gmail.com.

The shop is open Tuesday through Friday 10 AM-5 PM, with additional hours Tuesday through Thursday 6:30-8:30 PM, and Saturday 10AM-3PM.



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The Way The Wind Blows

By Jim Ignasher



Long before the days of satellite computer models designed to give us “up to the minute, pin-point accurate” weather forecasts, there was the humble weathervane. In fact, the weathervane, also known as a “weather-cock”, is perhaps the world’s oldest weather forecasting instrument.

The man generally recognized for inventing the first weathervane was a Greek Astronomer named Andronicus, in the year 48 B.C. However, some historians claim weathervanes were in use long before that.

By comparison, the first primitive thermometer for registering temperature wasn’t invented until 1612, and the first barometer for measuring air pressure didn’t come along until 1643. Technical improvements for both thermometers and barometers have occurred over the last four-hundred years, but weathervane technology hasn’t changed since it was invented.

The word “weathervane” is said to have derived from the Old English word “fana”, meaning “flag”, as in “weather-fana”, but it’s likely that those living in the ancient world had other names for it.

There was a time when the common man could look at the different types of clouds the sky and reasonably predict what the weather over the next few hours would be, and wind direction played a part in those calculations. In southern New England for example, a winter storm-wind blowing from the north meant dry powdery snow, but a southern wind meant wet heavy snow. While the same holds true today, early Rhode Islanders didn’t need a weatherman to tell them what was coming.

Early American farmers generally made their own weathervanes, usually from

wood, and for obvious reasons very few have survived. The more durable vanes were made of various metals mostly copper or iron. While farmers used them for weather forecasting, some were gilded in gold leaf and used as architectural finials on church steeples and public buildings. Some weathervanes dating to the 17th and 18th centuries can still be seen on such buildings today – all one has to do is look up.

Andronicus’s weathervane depicted the Greek god Triton, who was half fish and half man, but weathervanes throughout history have come in all kinds of imagery bounded only the maker’s imagination.

One of the earliest weathervane symbols still in use is the common rooster, partly due to its connection to Bible scripture, and partly due to the shape of the rooster’s tail being perfect for catching the wind. Beginning around 600 A.D. many Christian church steeples were adorned with roosters symbolizing Peter’s betrayal of Jesus before His crucifixion. Furthermore, it’s the rooster that announces the dawn of each new day, with the rising sun driving away darkness and evil. It’s likely this is how the term “weather-cock” originated.

One of New England’s oldest, and perhaps most iconic weathervane, is the famous grasshopper which sits atop Faneuil Hall in Boston. It was made by Shem Drowne in 1742 for Peter Faneuil, owner of Faneuil Hall. What few may realize is that the grasshopper has had a tough time of it over the years. In 1755 it fell from its perch during an earthquake, and again in 1761 when Faneuil Hall caught fire. Apparently some restoration work was conducted in 1852, for items from that year were discovered inside the weathervane when in 1889 it once again hit the ground, this time requiring extensive repairs and replacement of its

glass eyes, and antenna. Then it was stolen in 1974; a crime that made national news. Fortunately it was recovered by a police detective, an officer who happened to be a direct descendant of Paul Revere!

America’s oldest weathervane dates to 1656, and is presently on display in the New York State Museum in Albany. The weathervane, a rooster, originally sat atop a Dutch church.

The birth of aviation brought forth a new type of weathervane, of sorts, called a “windsock”. It consisted of a brightly colored cloth cone that would become inflated when caught in the prevailing wind currents. The cone, when viewed by pilots from the air, would appear as an arrow indicating wind direction, which was good to know when deciding from which direction to land the plane.

As a point of fact, the “world’s largest weathervane” is an actual DC-3 airplane mounted on a custom pedestal outside the Youkon Transportation Museum in Canada. It only takes a five knot wind to move it.

If you’d like to own a vintage weathervane, you can sometimes find them in antique shops, most with at least one bullet hole in them to add character. If you can’t afford the price, there are many great reproductions to be had which when aged by the elements are hard to tell apart from the originals. And if you’re looking for something special, there are still artisans in New England who can create a one-of-a-kind weathervane worthy of a museum piece.

Meanwhile, don’t forget to look up.



The Chief's Corner

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

Spring is here and another year's cleanup is upon us. Let's make it safe and enjoyable. Here are a few things to consider.

Cleaning Safety Reminders



- Household and pool chemicals, paints and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key, away from children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking, expired or that look bad.
- When cleaning up hazardous chemicals wear rubber gloves and follow the safety directions on the package. Never mix chemicals in the same container. If you don't know how to dispose of them, seek outside advice. Never put them in the trash or pour them down the drain.
- Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of reach of children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Never use gasoline to clean skin, clothes, auto parts or floors.
- Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches or other work items away from children's reach.

- Check your barbecue grill for leaks and cracks and be sure to store any propane tanks away from your house and garage.
- Remove all fire hazards, including stacks of rags, newspapers and magazines. Pay special attention to the spaces around your furnace, hot water tank, fireplace, space heaters and dryer, as well as under the stairs.

Yardwork Safety Reminders



- Limber up. Yard chores may seem easy, but they involve muscles you probably haven't used in a while.
- Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.
- More than 75,000 people are injured in lawn mowing accidents each year.
 - Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operations.
 - Pick up or rake stones and loose debris before mowing to help prevent them from being launched into the air.
 - Wear sturdy shoes while mowing. Do not wear sandals.
 - Wear eye and hearing protection.

- Always start and refuel mowers outdoors.
- When refueling your mower, make sure the engine is off and cool.
- Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine, and
- Don't smoke while pouring gasoline.
- Lawn trimmers, edgers, pruners and power saws also contribute to injuries and death each year.
 - Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.
 - Inspect the tool for damage. Do NOT use it if there are problems.
 - Use proper eye and hearing protection.
 - Make sure blade guards are in place on all cutting equipment.
 - Unplug all tools when not in use.
 - Make sure the tool is in the "off" position before you plug it in.
 - Store gasoline-powered equipment away from potential ignition sources (i.e. pilot light).
 - Make sure you use the right tool for the task at hand.
 - When pruning trees, be careful not to let metal ladders or trimmers contact overhead wires.

See The Chief's Corner, page 33



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- Before you do any hands on weed removal:
 - Make sure you know how to identify poison ivy, sumac, oak and similar toxic plants.
 - Find out ahead of time how to treat the rashes they cause to reduce the irritation
- Check outdoor cords for frays and damage.



Ladder Safety Reminders

More than 90,000 people visit the emergency room each year, because of ladder mishaps. Here are a few safety tips:

- Read the manufacturer's instructions for guidelines for weight and height limits as well as for the proper use of their product.
- Inspect the ladder before using it to make sure there are no loose or broken rungs.
- Is the ladder the right length for the job? Many accidents happen from overextending your reach.
- Make sure the ladder is completely open and that all of its feet are planted on a firm, level surface. Extension ladders should not be placed at an angle that is too extreme.
- Avoid using metal ladders near electrical sources.
- Face the ladder when climbing and descending.
- Maintain three points of contact with the ladder while climbing. Half of all ladder accidents are due to carrying items as they climb.
- Practice ladder safety. If you plan on climbing a ladder, you should do so accompanied by someone who can help in the event of an emergency. Be sure ladders are placed on level spaces and they have been secured.



General Safety Tips

- Consider your smoke alarms. Do you have enough in your residence or workplace? Change the batteries each spring to be sure you are properly prepared for an emergency.
- Review your emergency escape plan with each member of the family in the event of a fire.
- Clean or replace your furnace filter.
- Grease can accumulate on your stove hood. Properly cleaning this is one way to keep flames from spreading should a fire break out.
- Check all fire extinguisher needle indicators and dates to be sure they are working.
- Clean around your dryer. Pay close attention to any ducts or dampers to be sure that lint has not accumulated and blocked this space. Accumulation of lint can lead to a fire.
- Check all cords to prevent an electrical fire. Make sure they are not frayed and wires are not visible.
- If you should have any questions about fire safety, contact our Fire prevention Division at 401-949-1332.

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Indie Cycle E-waste Recycling Event

Saturday, April 16 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
For a complete list of acceptable items, visit
indiecycle.blogspot.com/p/what-we-take.

Community Tiny Art Exhibit

The exhibit will be on display from April
1st – 30th in the library.

5th Annual Poetry Contest

Poets of all ages are invited to enter the
Greenville Public Library's 4th annual
poetry contest. Poets may enter from April
1 - 29, 2022. Detail and guidelines are
available on our website.

Adult Events

Mystery Book Club

Tuesday, April 5 at 1:30 pm



The Mystery Book Club will be discussing
So Say the Fallen by Stuart Neville. Copies
of the book are available at the library.

Picnic Table Reads Book Club

Thursday, April 21 at 1:00 pm

This month the Picnic Table Reads Book
Club will be reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*
by Harper Lee. Copies of the book are
available at the library.

Virtual Book Chat

Thursdays, April 7 & 21 at 6:00 pm

Coffee & Books

Wednesday, April 13 at 10:30 am

Home Sweet Home Book Club

Monday, April 25 at 6:30 pm

Intro to Homeschooling with ENRICHri

Wednesday, April 13 at 6:00 pm

It's Uber-Easy to Get a Lyft!:

Getting Started with Ride Share Apps

Presented by AAA

Thursday, April 14 at 10:00 am

Greenville Library Community Garden Season Opens in May!

Are you interested in planting and
maintaining your own garden plot in
the Library's raised garden beds? We
are currently taking applications for the
2022 season. Please contact Cassie at
greenvilleasstdirector@gmail.com or call
401-949-3630 x117 for more information.

*Please see our website for details and to
register for all programs.*



East Smithfield Public Library

50 Esmond Street, Smithfield, RI 02917

Contact: Frank Floor - 401-231-5150 x5; Bethany Mott - 401-231-5150 x2

Children's Programming:

Playdough Fun – Saturday, April 2nd from
10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April
16th @ 10:30 a.m.

**Tiny-Tots Story Time (children 1 to 2 ½
years old)** – Tuesday mornings from 10:30
a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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

Bookworms Book Group – Thursday,
April 7th at 4:30 p.m.

“Books are Fun!” Book Group –
Thursday, April 14th at 4:30 p.m.

Middle School Book Group – Tuesday,
April 12th at 4:30 p.m.

Kindergarten Countdown – Thursday,
April 14th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Arts and Crafts Club – Monday, April
11th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Snapology, Gamebots – Tuesday, April
19th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Trash Turtles – Thursday, April 21st from
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Pajama Story Time – Thursday, April 21st
from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Young Adult Programming:

Excel Basics and Sreadsheets –Monday,
April 11, from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Excel Part II – Monday, April 18, from
6:30–8:00 p.m.

Individual Technology Help

Sessions – Wednesday evenings from 5:00-
7:00 p.m.

Ancestry for Beginners – Monday, April
25, @ 6:30 p.m.

Take and Make Craft for Young Adults:
Guerrilla Gardening – Saturday, April 16,
from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Anime Club – April 29 from 5:00 p.m. to
6:00 p.m.

Zines for Teens – Thursday, April 21, from
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Adult Programming:

Thursday Night Book Club – Thursday,
April 28th, @ 6:00 p.m.

Share the Love Card Club – Thursday,
April 7th @ 5:30.

Adult Craft – Decoupage Egg Ornament
– Thursday, April 14th @ 5:30.

Intro to Freshwater Fishing – Thursday,
April 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Friends of the Library Events:

Annual Spring Egg Hunt – Saturday,
April 16th, @ 10:30 a.m.

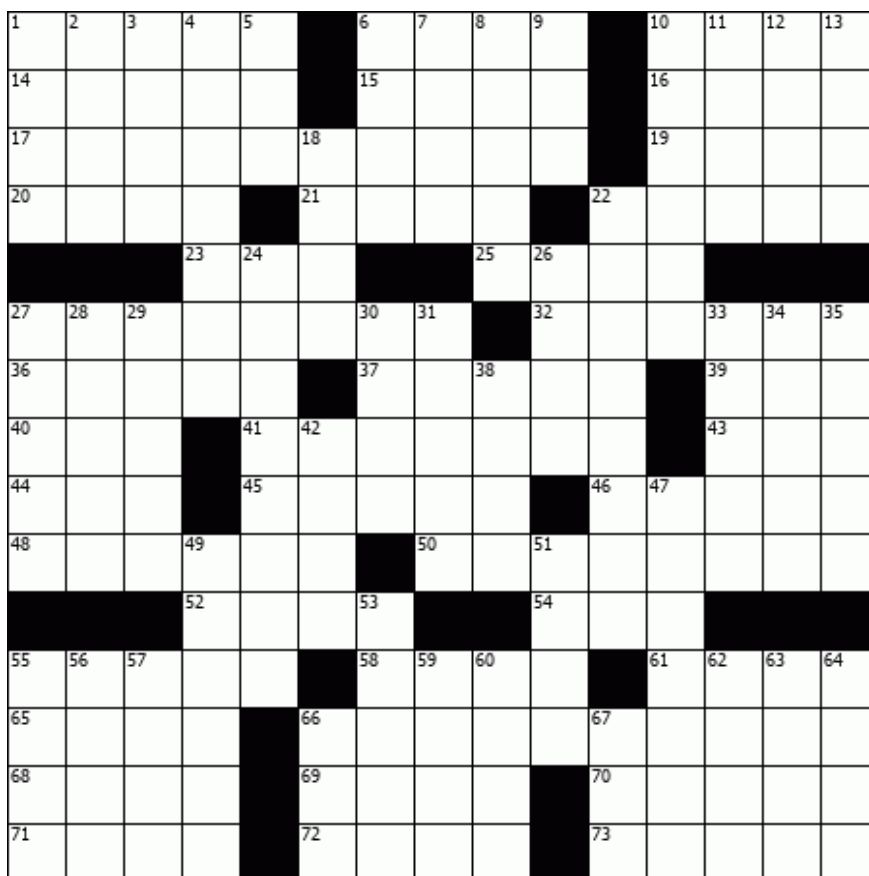
24th Annual Plant Swap & Sale –
Saturday, April 30th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Coffee, Cake & Conversation Book
Group** – Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Box
6. Annoying one
10. Probabilities
14. Of the moon
15. Not active
16. Not fake
17. Appeal
19. Competent
20. Hone
21. Horse feed
22. Performed
23. Medical group (abbr.)
25. Ice pellets
27. Before birth
32. Tops of waves
36. Wash lightly
37. Wood spinner
39. Law officer
40. Choose
41. Cut
43. Wallet bill
44. Quilting session
45. A sense
46. Type of poplar
48. Baseball blunders
50. Tiniest
52. Fair (hyph.)
54. Fixed charge
55. Clapton and Roberts
58. Horse command
61. Back of the neck
65. "Star Wars" character
66. Not condensed
68. For all time
69. Slight
70. Actress Della ____
71. Large bodies of water
72. Military force
73. Criminal burning



Down

1. Talon
2. Babe ____
3. Poker fee
4. Scottish plaids
5. Epoch
6. Pocket bread
7. Rewrite
8. Splash
9. Hamilton bill
10. Soothsayer
11. Liability
12. Valley
13. Winter toy
18. Outerwear
22. Large terrier
24. Great conductors
26. Hurt
27. Investigate
28. More mature
29. Computer key
30. Exclamation of woe
31. Endures
33. Range
34. Pitches
35. Depleted
38. Those people
42. Scottish girl
47. Skinny
49. Hollywood awards
51. Not nearby
53. Proprietor
55. Ogles
56. Wander
57. Concept
59. Hurt
60. Mind
62. Mellows
63. Mexican coin
64. Genesis garden
66. ____ Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"
67. Fin. fund



Answers to puzzle on page 42

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A View From the Cheap Seats

Dan Pieroni

Forget the Field: the most interesting subplot of NFL free agency is occurring in the broadcast booth. \$90 million dollars to talk football on TV. Read that job description and salary figure again and let it sink in.

Troy Aikman, formally Fox's lead football analyst will likely be the benefactor of ESPN's fiduciary role to put a price on his happiness over making Monday Night Football a solid ratings winner. Aikman's likely move to ESPN underscores the notion that we are living in a brave new world of broadcast empowerment

The poster child of this movement was Tony Romo, who was paid a pretty penny by CBS to remain their lead NFL analyst to prevent him from going to ESPN in 2020. Now Aikman, coincidentally also a former Dallas Cowboys quarterback stands to be the latest beneficiary of the empowerment movement Romo was wrought, but it won't stop there. Several other prominent NFL broadcasters are in a position to cash in and move to other network and content providers.

Such prevalent movement threatens to make free agent player movement a less intriguing storyline in the NFL offseason because of the more human connection we share with broadcasters as fans. Let's examine the options of each prominent NFL broadcaster who could be moving elsewhere in 2022, and the advantages and drawbacks of each broadcaster's situation.

Troy Aikman: As of this writing, nothing has been made official regarding Aikman's impending move

to ESPN. However, it is more likely than not to happen. I can't see Aikman turning down a \$90 million-dollar contract offer to stay at Fox outside of anything else but loyalty. While Aikman has long been the voice of the NFC's marquee game of the week, he threatens to vacate that title should he move to ESPN because Monday Night Football is often a lower quality game. However, Aikman's role will probably expand at ESPN as he can regularly contribute to other programs like SportsCenter and NFL Live. In addition, since ABC Sports is a subsidiary of ESPN, he could receive more opportunity at the network level in entertainment, other sports broadcasts, and news like current Fox colleague Michael Strahan. I'd be very surprised to see Aikman remain at Fox.

Al Michaels: The dean of current NFL broadcasters, Michaels is in an untenable situation at NBC. His contract has recently run out and will likely not be renewed at the expense of Sunday Night Football colleague Mike Tirico who is expected to move into Michaels' old role at NBC alongside Cris Collinsworth this fall. Since Amazon is taking over the Thursday package of games, Michaels could be at the forefront of a revolutionary broadcast. Who better to navigate the NFL's maiden voyage into exclusive streaming broadcasts than the man many consider to be the best in the field if not all time? The sales pitch to Michaels was further sweetened when it was reported by many media outlets that Fred Gaudelli, his longtime producer will be moving to Amazon. There are however several drawbacks to this situation. First, Michaels will be calling games like Falcons/Panthers and Texans/Falcons

on a regular basis. This is a major step down from what he's used to. Second, Michaels is 77, if Amazon wants to be in the rights game for the long haul, it does not make sense to build a broadcast around someone who is likely a short-term solution. Third, Amazon requires a Prime subscription to access the games except in rare circumstances where a game can be broadcast on a local network affiliate if the local team is playing on Thursday. It is a pretty safe bet to assume many in the pro Michaels camp are used to consuming their media by traditional means. Thus, Michaels may not receive the audience he's used to getting, because some fans will have difficulty accessing the game. Fourth, Amazon is so green in this endeavor that Michaels will probably never broadcast a Super Bowl again when he's already done 12 of them. Can he live with those drawbacks?

Joe Buck: The face of Fox Sports. Buck has one year left on his current deal. ESPN is courting Buck to reunite with Aikman on Monday Night Football. If he were to jump ship, Buck could continue broadcasting baseball and golf as he has at Fox. However, Fox is scheduled to broadcast two of the next three Super Bowls and the next seven World Series. In essence, Buck could call everything except the marquee events in two major sports for the next few years if he chooses to leave. If Buck stays put, ESPN could turn its attention to Michaels, which would provide a nice homecoming to the broadcast where he became a superstar in sportscasting.

Let the negotiating games begin!

The Ghostly Crew Of The Charles Haskell

By Thomas D'Agostino
www.tomdagostino.com

The eerie accounts of the *Charles Haskell* and its fated crew stand to this day as one of the most retold tales of New England's coastal ghosts. The supernatural phenomena witnessed by a whole crew makes this following account all the more reputable.

The *Charles Haskell* was built in 1869. She was a beautiful schooner that any captain would be proud to sail, but tragedy beset the boat before it ever left port. A workman making one last inspection aboard the vessel slipped and broke his neck. Such a tragedy makes superstitious sailors think twice about boarding a cursed ship. The original purchaser immediately backed out of the sale, and the schooner sat dormant until a brave captain named Clifford Curtis purchased the boat and set sail for Georges Bank with his crew.

That winter, as the ship was anchored in the fishing grounds of Georges Bank, a terrible storm blew in. There sat many other fishing vessels moored in the bountiful shoals. The captain feared other boats might lose their anchor lines and smash into the *Haskell*. He ordered the lines cut for maneuvering purposes. This proved to be a fatal move as the ship crashed into another schooner, the



The *Charles Haskell*

Andrew Johnson, out of Salem. Salem's vessel sank quickly, taking all ten crew members to their graves. The *Charles Haskell* was damaged but stayed afloat.

A few months later, the vessel was repaired and set sail once again for Georges Bank. The crew fished for several days undisturbed until the most terrifying incident changed their lives forever. As the midnight air descended to an intolerable chill, ten phantom fishermen in oilskins floated over the railing of the boat. They silently began manning invisible nets, baiting unseen hooks, and going about the tasks of a well-seasoned fisherman. Captain Clifford Curtis and his crew stared in disbelief at the apparitions. At one point, the captain mustered enough courage to approach the specters but was immediately frozen in his tracks when they turned towards him with black holes of the dead for eyes and unearthly disdain on their face.

The ghostly crew resumed their duties until dawn. At that point, they climbed over the railings and vanished into the sea. The *Charles Haskell* sailed at breakneck speed for the Port of Gloucester. Unfortunately, breakneck speed in those days was not enough for them to reach dry land safely before another night saw them once more, in the company of the phantom fishermen. This time as the ghostly crew pulled in their invisible nets and lines, they climbed over the railing, stared at the captain and crew for a few moments, then began walking across the water towards Salem Harbor.

Once in port, the schooner was immediately abandoned and never saw the fishing grounds of Georges Bank again. Some say that the *Charles Haskell* sat in the Gloucester port until it fell into ruin, as no one would dare board the haunted ship. Another account states that a Nova Scotia merchant purchased the vessel and took it away. Either way, Gloucester was eventually rid of its haunted schooner. As for what became of the ten ghostly crew members, many who fish Georges Bank will tell you that sometimes they see things or receive help from unseen hands. Perhaps the spirits are still hard at work helping the fishermen from Salem before finally coming to port after such a long time at sea.





Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

The Bunny Revisited -

My favorite bunny ... no, not Bugs, or even Beatrice Potter's *Peter Rabbit*, and certainly not the hare on steroids in *Alice in Wonderland*. My favorite bunny weighted at least 8 oz., was made of solid milk chocolate, and always lost its ears before breakfast on Easter morning. A large chocolate coated vanilla cream filled egg was my next appetizer before breakfast. I am ashamed to say that I kept my belief in the Easter Bunny well into my teenage year – and Mother always went along with the ruse.

While Easter each year occurs on a different date, in our Western culture it always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25, or approximately seven days after the full moon. The arrival of Spring and the changing of the season is associated with rebirth and renewal, both closely linked with Easter celebrations around the world that center on the religious commemoration of the rebirth of Christ. But amidst those most serious religious observances and messages lies another more secular side of Easter popularized and commercialized as many of our holy days have become. Enter the Easter Bunny and the Easter Egg. Which is the most iconic symbol of the holiday?

There is actually well-documented historical evidence about the origins of both symbols. It has been suggested that the symbols of the rabbit and the egg have roots in early pagan rituals organized around the renewal of life and the goddess of dawn and fertility, who was often represented by both symbols. It is also suggested that early missionaries blended the pagan rituals with Christian beliefs as a way to attract new believers, thus resulting in the merging of the pagan tradition with the resurrection of Christ. The first mention of an Easter "hare" (not bunny), appears in German literature in

the late 1600s. The concept is thought to have been transported to America by Protestant Germans who settled in Pennsylvania Dutch country in the early 1700s, with the hare leaving treats only for children who had been judged "good" during the previous year.

The symbol of the rabbit or hare is also said to have religious connotations, as it was thought that the rabbit often reproduced in large numbers. The egg, also a sign of fertility, has in many cultures, a significant place of respect. For example, in the Orthodox religion, one of the early traditions was the complete abstention from eggs during Lent – a fast broken on Easter morning with hard boiled eggs dyed red, a symbol of the blood Christ and the egg as a symbol of the empty tomb.

It probably comes as no surprise that the English candymaker Cadbury was to first to produce the candy Easter egg in 1875. They promoted their product by hosting an Easter egg hunt that today takes place in over 250 public areas in the United Kingdom.

The Easters of my youth were hardly unique. Our "Easter best" always included a dress coat, white ankle socks with ruffles, black patent leather shoes with ankle straps, white gloves, and a tiny corsage purchased by my father made with a fresh carnation centered with a pink rose.

We often used our hats from previous years, but they were always adorned with new grosgrain ribbons and sprigs of fresh spring flowers. Although Irving Berlin's hit of the 1930s, "Easter Parade" was still very popular, our small home town never hosted an organized parade to show off our Easter finery, but we did always walk

to the town square after church to meet our neighbors.

Both my sister and I had hand-made straw baskets (mine was larger!), that we used each year, lined with a fresh bed of decorative grass, always green – never in the now popular pinks and yellows – which we placed at the foot of our beds on the night before Easter. The candy left by the bunny was always the same. The centerpiece was a large chocolate covered cream filled egg, surrounded with a chocolate cross, yellow peeps, marshmallow filled eggs, solid chocolate mini eggs in bright foil, a large sprinkle of jelly beans – and of course, the solid chocolate bunny.

It's been a tough winter everyone, continue the traditions of your youth. Enjoy a solid chocolate bunny or cream filled egg! (I now prefer dark chocolate – I'm told it's healthier!)



Author's Notes:

Based on June 2021 data:

- Americans spend about \$18 billion on Easter; the average person spends over \$150 for Easter related items.
- Approximately 180 million eggs are purchased to be dyed and decorated.
- Approximately 90 million chocolate bunnies are made world-wide each year, and 90% of Americans include them in their Easter baskets.
- Confession: My daughter just turned 50; I still send her an Easter basket.



**Audubon Society
of Rhode Island**

Audubon Camouflaged Egg Hunt!

Four Locations Offered, See Below

April 9, 2022

Check-in 9:30 am, Egg Hunt 10:00 – 11:00 am

Register through the events calendar at asri.org/calendar.

Program Fee: \$5/member child; \$7/non-member child. Ages: 3-10.



April School Vacation Week

at Audubon Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge

12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI

Advance registration is required for all vacation week programs at Powder Mill Ledges. Visit the events calendar at asri.org/calendar to register. Program Fee: \$5/member child; \$7/non-member child. Ages: 3-10.

Leo the Lightning Bug and Glow-in-the-Dark

Firefly Craft

April 19, 2022; 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Life Under a Log: A Hunt for Mini-beasts

April 19, 2022; 2:00-3:30 pm

Audubon Mythbusters: The Truth is Better than Fiction – Virtual Program

April 19, 2022; 7:00-8:30 pm

Make and Take: Birdfeeders

April 20, 2022; 11:00 am-12:00 pm



Raptor Encounter with Audubon

April 20, 2022; 2:00-3:30 pm

Mysterious Sounds of the Night

April 20, 6:30 – 8:30 pm



Toad-ally Awesome!

April 21, 2022; 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Playing with Plants

April 21, 2022; 2:00-3:30 pm



Pond Exploration

April 22, 2022; 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Nature Photo Scavenger Hunt

April 22, 2022; 2:00-3:30 pm



Additional information, fees, and registration for all events through the events calendar at asri.org/calendar.



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Phone: (401) 949-5454 • Fax: (401) 949-5788
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Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 36.

C	R	A	T	E		P	E	S	T		O	D	D	S
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595 Putnam Pike, L3-N, Smithfield, RI 02828
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Thomas J. Lopatosky, Jr. – Owner, Operator
Tom@LopcoContracting.com

Ann Marie Donahue – Executive Editor
amdonahue@smithfieldtimesri.net

Elaine S. Amoriggi – Creative Director, Design
eamoriggi@smithfieldtimesri.net

Advertising and Sales

Camilla Spliid – cspliid@smithfieldtimesri.net
Grace Genereux – grace@smithfieldtimesri.net

Writers

Harry Anderson
Peg Brown
Ellorie Corcoran
Thomas D'Agostino
Jim Gass
Brittni Henderson
Jim Ignasher
Paul Lonardo
Diane L. Marolla
Sarah Payne
Dan Pieroni
Joe Siegel

Albert Tavakalov – Photographer
Sandra Achille – Photo and Creative Contributor
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