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The Smithfield *Times*

smithfieldtimesri.net

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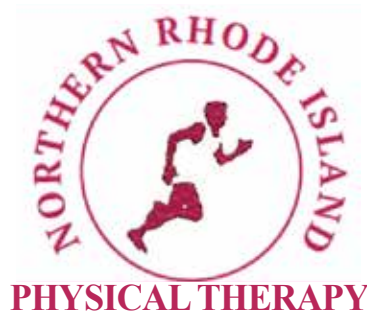
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Medicaid is a state administered program that is funded to a great extent by the Social Security trust fund. It provides for payment of medical services and long term nursing home care for those who qualify.

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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

Courtesy of:

George M. Prescott

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Mother/Daughter Business Owners Plant New Roots In Greenville

Cherryhill Flowers Too and White Dahlia Boutique Now Open on Putnam Pike

By Marilyn A. Busch

Spring has sprung and the signs of new growth and change are all around us. For two local business owners, this season of change marks the successful launch of two new shops in the area, much to the delight of local shoppers.

Susan Falso, owner and operator of the very popular Cherryhill Flowers in Johnston has recently branched out with a second location, aptly named Cherryhill Flowers Too, at 649 Putnam Pike, Greenville. Joining the floral shop in the building is the White Dahlia Boutique, a delightful women's fashion store owned and curated by Susan's daughter, Morgan Falso.

An accountant by trade with Ernst & Young, Morgan has always been drawn to fashion and found herself looking for something creative to do while quarantining during COVID last year. "I was just so bored," says Morgan with a laugh, "and I really wanted to do something new and fun."

That spring Morgan took a creative leap of faith – and put her CPA training and business acumen to good use – to become owner of the online store White Dahlia Boutique. The shop gave fashion-lovers a chance to shop a curated collection of youthful and fun West Coast clothing - and was an instant success.

When asked why she chose women's fashion, she explains, "I love shopping ... My mom and I used to go shopping every single weekend until COVID."

When her mother Susan was looking at the Greenville location for her

expanding floral design business, Morgan saw the perfect opportunity to grow her store's reach by opening up her own brick & mortar boutique, right alongside her mother's flower shop.

The entrepreneurial duo opened their 649 Putnam Pike location to the public last winter and the response by the local community has been very positive.



Morgan Falso

"People just come in all the time telling us they drive by every day and were curious to see we were all about." Morgan continues, "Everyone that comes in says the same thing – we need this here!"

Morgan sources most of her store's unique fashions from the LA Fashion District with a few select vendors from New York City. What sets her garments apart from what shoppers can find in other stores in the area? Her personal attention to detail and her passion for fashion.

"I have a thing about fabrics," she tells me, gesturing around her, "and everything in the shop, everything you touch here, is super soft."

That Morgan has a dedication to bringing beautiful experiences to her customers is not surprising at all, as her mother Susan has a stellar reputation for her artistic excellence in floral arrangements and special event design.

Susan started out her local creative journey in completely different artistic medium – ceramics. She was owner of Ceramic City in Johnston, RI, for twenty-five years. The floral design came about gradually, as an addition to the ceramic pieces she made and sold. Once her daughter Morgan was born, Susan decided to put her floral arrangement skills to the forefront and change over the business to Cherryhill Flowers.



Cherryhill Flowers Too Staff

See Mother/Daughter Business, page 5



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Mother/Daughter Business, from page 4



Cherryhill Flowers Too Arrangement

for children I taught ceramics to many years ago!" "It is so rewarding" she reflects, "I feel as though our clients make you a part of their family when they entrust you with their special events." In addition to their specialty in custom creations for weddings and holiday decor, Susan and her talented staff offer a large selection of arrangements to compliment any birth, christening, birthday, or special occasion.

with tall candles and calla lilies with white orchids." She complimented Susan for her ability to take the time to listen to her client's vision, concluding, "This should be every bride's first stop for flowers."

Not one to take all the credit, Susan says that much of Cherryhill Flowers success is also due to her hard-working staff, saying "Our work family is incredible, loyal ... and so talented!"

Cherryhill Flowers Too and the White Dahlia Boutique are both open Mondays through Saturdays at their new Greenville location at 649 Putnam Pike. For store hours and more information, visit them online at www.cherryhillflower.com and www.shopwhitedahliaboutique.com.

Today, Susan is a full-service florist and special event designer, offering floral arrangements for any occasion, large or small.

Both Morgan and Susan have fond memories of families coming to Cherryhill for each of the many milestones in their lives. Their faithful customers came first as teens for their prom needs, then were back for bridal bouquets and wedding decor.

Susan remarks, "At this stage in our business, I have designed weddings

Cherryhill client Diane hosted a destination wedding for her daughter at Rosecliff Mansion in Newport and gives Susan and her staff a glowing review. "Cherryhill Flowers is the best florist in all of Rhode Island," she said, continuing, "They created an unbelievable ambiance



Apple Blossom Garden Club Plant Sale

By Joe Siegel

The Apple Blossom Garden Club is holding their annual Plant Sale on May 21 and 22 at Blackbird Farm, 660 Douglas Pike, from 9 am to 3 pm. The event will be held rain or shine.

The club's members will be selling their perennials, annuals, several varieties of tomato plants, and herbs such as basil and parsley. Gail Gallagher, who is in charge of the sale, said the proceeds will be used to support the club's community projects.

"We try to have a big assortment of different things," Gallagher said of the plants she sells from her greenhouse in town.

"Because of the pandemic, things were really shut down," Gallagher noted.

"Last year we donated one of the trees to the Greenville Library. We just made a donation to the Wild Plant Society because we haven't been able to go out. Normally we (visit) the nursing homes for (the club's garden therapy programs).

(The plant sale) supports buying the plants or the flowers for the nursing homes." Master gardeners will be in attendance to answer questions and to provide free soil testing on May 22 from 9 am until 1 pm.

There will also be pot recycling.

Let It Grow will be providing free samples of their plant tea which they brew specially for plants.



Save the Dates!

Apple Blossom Garden Club's Huge Annual Plant Sale

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Pot recycling • Food trucks



SHS Scoop

by Ellorie Corcoran



Much like the flowers, SHS spring sports are in full bloom. Spring is the season when the high school provides the most sport opportunities. Whether it's boy's or girl's lacrosse, outdoor track, softball, baseball, golf, or boy's tennis, there's something for everyone interested in being active as the weather gets warmer. Sports are a big part of life at Smithfield High School. Stands were packed during the winter season for hockey and basketball, however this will be the first year since 2019 that students will have an opportunity to see the spring season games. Covid-19

protocols either canceled seasons or limited spectators so for the Junior class and below this is their first year students will be able to fully participate or spectate during the spring season. The Seniors are finishing their time at Smithfield High School being allowed to do spring sports again with their peers as spectators, increasing the hype for the spring sports this year.

While practices have started for all teams, some sports have already begun games. The boys' lacrosse team started their season with a bang, winning their

first game 5-4 against North Smithfield. The girls' lacrosse team bounced back from a loss for their first game with a 9-8 victory against Narragansett in game two. The girls' outdoor track and field beat Burrillville 114-40, and in the same meet the Boy's Outdoor Track and Field team beat both North Smithfield (111-43) and Burrillville (125-24). The softball team secured their first win of the season in their third game against St. Mary's Academy 2-1. The boys' tennis team had a hit-off for their season

See SHS Scoop, page 7



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SHS Scoop, from page 6

winning their first match 5-2 against Middletown High School.

Thanks to team Instagram pages, which are run by students, everyone stays informed and can make plans to cheer our Sentinel teams on. If these first games are any indicator, students are seizing the opportunity

to support not only the teams, but also the return to normalcy. While not every student is involved in a spring sport, or likes to spectate at the games, the return of spring sports is a welcome example of how this has been the most normal year since 2019. Go Sentinels!



For more information about when SHS sports are go to: rhodeislandinterscholasticleague.org



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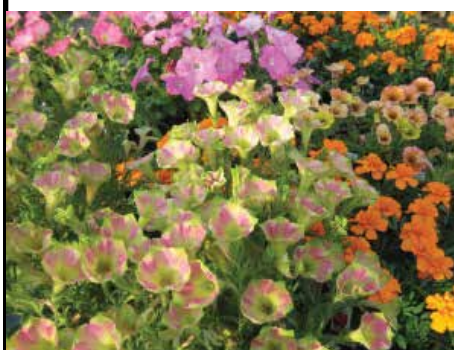
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Smithfield Students Host Second Sentinel Legacy Gala

With kind hearts, students raise awareness, funds for heart health



Pictured in photo: Andrew Kelley, NHS Vice President Dylan Mantovani, Jacob Turbitt, Megan Nicholson, Kate Placido, Marissa McDonough, Kim Boisvert, NHS President Tyler Rose, and Town Manager Randy Rossi

Watch the halls of Smithfield High School transform into a red, pink, and white wonderland at this year's Sentinel Legacy Gala on Saturday, May 14, 2022, 4:00-6:00 pm. The Gala, hosted by Smithfield Senior Megan Nicholson and her National Honor Society classmates, will honor Megan's mother, the late Doreen Nicholson, who passed away suddenly in 2018 from a heart complication. The colors are representative of heart health awareness, the effects heart disease has on people and their families, and the hard work these students are putting into supporting a cause so close to their hearts.

Doreen was adored by everyone she knew. As a loving mother of four, she solidified herself as a pillar of the Town of Smithfield with a prominent presence in the community. Doreen involved herself in as many groups and organizations as possible. She belonged to the PTA, coached various sports teams, and volunteered as often

as she could. Doreen put her heart and soul into everything. The ripples from Doreen's many acts of kindness and generosity will be felt by so many for years to come.

This year's gala, the second ever of its kind, will not only highlight Doreen's legacy, but it will allow town residents, family members, and friends to learn about the importance of heart health while enjoying a night out on the town. Megan and a robust team of National Honor Society members partnered with the Southern New England American Heart Association to incorporate educational resources like CPR demonstrations and blood pressure checks into the event. Over 22 local vendors, businesses, and talent will also be on site providing food samples, live music, and other forms of entertainment throughout the evening.

While the partnership with the Southern New England American Heart Association is greatly helpful in

many ways, these students are almost fully planning, coordinating, and organizing this event themselves. Lindsay Iadeluca, The Director of Development of the Southern New England Heart Ball, says that while she is there to help these bright young adults, they are doing most, if not all, of the work themselves.

Town Manager Randy R. Rossi agrees with Iadeluca's sentiment.

"I love working with this group of students," he shares. "I couldn't imagine a better group of role models. They mean a lot to me."

The Sentinel Legacy Gala is free to the public, but organizers ask that guests consider supporting the Southern New England American Heart Association by donating before or during the event. There will also be raffles throughout the evening, including National Honor Society President Tyler Rose's personal favorite—Boston Bruins tickets. According to Rose, two tickets to any Boston Bruin's game will be up for grabs at the gala.

To donate, text SHSAHA to 71777 (message and data rates may apply), scan the QR code below, or visit app.mobilecause.com/vf/SHSAHA. All proceeds from donations will support the American Heart Association and all proceeds from raffles will go to the Doreen Nicholson Scholarship.

For more information about the gala, visit sites.google.com/spsstudents.org/smithfieldheartgala/home

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!



What is Parging?

New England is a part of the country where the majority of folks have some type of basement.

Contrasting from a good portion of the rest of the country where most people's homes are built on "slabs" (most often to lessen the chances of flooding, particularly on areas with higher water tables).

The older the home, the more likely one is to have a foundation built out of a material that was assembled [brick, fieldstone, cinderblock ("block")] vs. out of poured concrete (which is the case in more modern homes).

Specifically, when it comes to fieldstone foundations (though at times with brick and block as well), the mortar (or other material which may have been used to help keep the assembled material in place) may become compromised to some degree over time. When this happens, signs of moisture (especially during rainy periods of time) may begin to show their face in the basement. The moisture may gradually leech its way through the walls in the form of a noticeable substance that is called "efflorescence" (a white, powdery substance that if you were to touch it would come right off on your fingertip). Sometimes you may be able to see the actual water itself work its way through the foundation walls in its true form and exhibit its wetness on the material the foundation is made out of.

In the most severe cases of this occurring over a longer period of time, mold can develop in some form on the walls. Usually the moisture challenge is spotty, though at times it can definitely

be much more widespread.

Whether minor, severe, or anywhere in between, one of the best ways to combat the moisture from coming through these types of walls is through a process called "parging".

Parging is a procedure where someone (often best done by a mason, though someone properly trained should be able to do so as well) takes a certain mixture of mortar and proceeds to apply it over the entire surface of the area in which one is aiming to correct these aforementioned types of issues – think almost like a rough skim coat, typically applied with a trowel.

The purpose of parging is to not only prevent moisture seepage into the basement, but it also helps solidify any cracks, visible or not visible, that may be in the process of occurring between the joints in the fieldstone, brick, or block. This is a huge help in aiding to guard against water

freezing and expanding within these joints and causing an accelerated deterioration process. More often than not the parging processes we have helped Clients with over time have more so been done with fieldstone foundations than brick or block.

This may purely be the case of the fieldstone foundations in our region simply being older and hence even more prone to moisture challenges than a lot of the brick or block foundations which are around, though it would not be unusual for us to be called into a situation that calls for us to recommend to parge a brick or block wall as well.

Whether fieldstone, brick, or block, it is always important to monitor the walls of your basement for moisture challenges.

Knowing that a solution such as parging exists can be quite helpful for those that discover this type of an issue and are not quite sure what to do to stop it.

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.

Steady As She Goes

By Harry Anderson

This year, 2022, Ye Olde English Fish & Chips is observing its centennial. In the past many competitors fried up this traditional meal for textile mill workers around Rhode Island, from Woonsocket to Arctic, from Greystone to Cranston, to wherever the looms were chattering non-stop. Most are now silent. So are the mills. To get an explanation for the longevity of this place I sat with Gordon Robinson, its fourth-generation proprietor, and probed him.

He is back from Florida where he is “slowly retiring”, letting his son Steven and daughter Diane preserve 100 years of tradition. He is back to help plan a May-long centennial celebration. His main contribution to the gala is to get his book entitled *The Story of the Ye Olde English Fish & Chips Restaurant* published. Replete with old photographs, names, dates, miscellaneous information, the book is a treasure trove, a must-read for those wanting to learn the history of this fixture in Woonsocket’s culture.

The tentative cover design features the coat of arms of the Sowden and Robinson families. In the opening pages Gordon gives the reader his family tree, dating from 1910 to the present. It shows that Harry Sowden (1888-1971) wed Ethel Hartley (1889-1984) in Bedford, England, and their daughter – Ethel Mae (1920-2010) – married Harry Robinson (1912-2000). From that marriage came Gordon Sowden Robinson. His wife (nee Elaine Brisson) and he begat David, Steven, and Diane.

In pursuit of the American Dream, the Sowdens immigrated from Bradford to Greystone, RI in 1910 to work in the village’s textile mill, eventually venturing into the fish and chips business. From then on Gordon fills the pages of his book with profiles of his kin and Ye Olde English Fish & Chips employees, and

with anecdotes and interesting facts. For example, he estimates that since 1922 the Robinsons have processed 17,160,000 pounds of whole fish, 15,600,000 pounds of potatoes, and have sold over 15,000,000 orders.

Gordon cut short the interview, having to keep an appointment with the publisher of his book. He paused in the shop’s foyer to make sure I saw the framed proclamation from the General Assembly hanging on the wall and signed by Governor Raimondo that acknowledges the significant contribution to the community made by Ye Olde English Fish & Chips. On the opposite wall hung a map of the world with colored pins stuck in the countries called home by customers. There were many, even one in northern Siberia.

He dashed off, leaving the unanswered question: Other than the perfectly deep-fried, battered fish and freshly-cut potatoes, what else has kept this restaurant going for a century? By reading between the lines of his book, one can surmise a probable answer.

Gordon writes of the fastidiousness of his forebears in the preparing and cooking of fish and potatoes and of their wont to give their customers a sense of coziness and dignity – a “clean, well-lighted place” – knowing well the grimness of mill labor and tenement living. He tells of their keeping the lights on until two in the morning so that third shift workers would have a place to rest and to eat. He singles out Nana Sowden, who in the midst of the Depression, when spotting on Main Street a child in tatters, would shoo them into Oscar’s Outlet and buy them a new jacket and a pair of shoes.



Ye Olde English Fish & Chips, Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Gordon also writes of the loyalty of many employees and their romances and success. Anita Farley for one, who through high school wrapped orders to go in paper and, after graduation, enlisted in the Air Force, earned two college degrees, and became the first female African American to serve as chaplain with the 177th Fighter Wing. And then there are Richard and Diane Dowding and Ian and Jessica Dalpe, who had discovered each other while in the employ of the Robinsons. For over 30 years Lucie Ricitelli kept the floors and tables immaculate. The record holder for longevity is Raymond Kucharski, who is in his 47th year, serving as the restaurant’s manager. The list goes on to fill three pages.

Add it all up and emerging from Gordon’s story of Ye Olde English Fish & Chips is a lesson to be learned by those who think what it takes to succeed in the restaurant business is innovation like trendy décor and menu selections with strange sounding names. What has anchored this Haymarket Square establishment through the years? What has kept its lights on through two world wars, a great depression, hurricanes, floods, a pandemic, profound social/demographic shifts, economic chaos? An infrangible commitment to Charity seems to be a likely answer.

But certainly for the Sowden/Robinson family “Steady as she goes” would suffice.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

By Diane L. Marolla, LICSW



As a mental health counselor, I work with people every day to help them improve their overall quality of life. When I made the decision to become a Social Worker, I was 35 years old. At that time, becoming a mental health counselor was not on my radar screen. I knew nothing about mental health at that time. I had taken psychology courses here and there, but that was about it. My goal was to become a hospice case manager. As I chose my internships while in graduate school, I knew it would be important for me to understand how our mental health affects our physical health. I chose one of my internships to be at Butler Hospital. As I learned about mental health through my internship at Butler, I immersed myself in all things mental health.

Given that May is mental health awareness month, this article focuses on why caring for our mental health is important, when should someone seek help for mental health services, what someone should do if they are struggling, why in RI it can be difficult to find help, and what resources locally and nationally can help.

Why is it important to care about mental health?

Our healthcare system is flawed in that mental health has been separated from physical health. I don't know who or why someone made this decision, but in simple terms, it makes no sense. At

the end of the day our brain and how our brain functions, affects how we function physically. For example, our mental health affects our sleep. If our sleep is consistently disrupted due to excessive worries, then the lack of sleep will impact our diet, our mood, our memory, and our ability to concentrate. By our diet being impacted, we can gain weight, which puts us at risk for obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and high cholesterol. If our concentration is off, it will affect our ability to perform in school or at work. Our mental health affects our physical health, and our physical health affects our mental health. Just as we should be exercising every day to stay physically healthy, we should be caring for our mental health every day.

How do I know if I need to see someone for help?

- If you are having thoughts of hurting yourself or someone else
- Lack of pleasure or interest in things you normally like/love
- Eating too much or too little
- Drinking too much alcohol and/or smoking marijuana to cope
- Engaging in dangerous/reckless behaviors
- Isolating yourself from people
- Changes in mood
- Excessive worrying and/or fears
- Ongoing feelings of sadness
- Changes in sex drive
- Losing a sense of reality (hallucinations/delusions/paranoia)

- Prolonged feelings of anger and irritability
- Problems with memory and concentration
- People who love and are close to you are telling you they notice changes in your personality
- Having difficulty performing your job
- Extreme or repetitive behaviors (i.e., washing hands excessively)

What should I do if I feel like I need help?

First, talk with your doctor. Tell them how you are feeling. Your doctor will ask you a series of questions that will help them determine if you should seek help. They may also prescribe medication for you. If your doctor advises you to see a counselor, the next step would be to identify someone you can see. You can obtain names of counselors through your health insurance provider directory or by calling your health insurance company. Once you identify who your insurance will pay for, the next step is to go to that provider's website and look at the profile of the counselor. Once you have reviewed the therapists profile online the next step is to make an appointment.

I know I need help, but I am having a hard time making an appointment. Why is this and what should I do?

Prior to the pandemic, the State of RI

See Mental Health Month, page 13

Mental Health Month

had a shortage of licensed mental health providers. During the pandemic, more people started to seek services creating a further burden on an already broken and stressed system. Mental health providers in RI are not adequately paid by the insurance companies. This has been a problem for years. We have little to no psychiatrists in the state. We have well-

seasoned, and well-trained clinicians who have left the state to work in Boston because they are paid more. Until the payment structure is fixed, we will continue to have this problem. **If you have tried to find a counselor, and were unable to, it is your health insurance companies responsibility to find you one.** If necessary, they will

need to pay a counselor who might not be taking your insurance. All the insurance companies in RI are aware of this problem and a need to be held responsible and accountable by you the consumer who pays them, the employers who contract with them, and yes, the State of RI who is responsible for paying for our Medicaid recipients healthcare.

What are the resources where I can learn more about mental health or can help me find help?

- BH Link Hotline: (414-LINK; 414-5465) a one-stop, statewide 24/7 call-in center.
- Prevent Suicide Rhode Island – <https://preventsuicideri.org/>
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1-800-273-8255 – www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
- "A Parent's Guide to Suicide Prevention" – How to Support your High School or College Student <https://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/resources/suicide-prevention/>
- The Samaritans of Rhode Island – <http://www.samaritansri.org/>
- Suicide Prevention Guide: <https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/college-suicide-prevention/>
- The Mental Health Association of Rhode Island – <https://mhari.org>
- SAMHSA'S NATIONAL HELPLINE: 1-800-662-HELP(4357)

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Smithfield Heritage Hall of Fame

Office of the Town Manager
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The Smithfield Heritage Hall of Fame Committee is requesting nominations from the community for the 2022 Induction. The purpose of the Committee is to select and induct any individual or family, a former or present resident of the Town of Smithfield, who has brought credit, prominence and contributed to the history and heritage of the Town of Smithfield. The committee is seeking those who have distinguished themselves by their contributions to the betterment of Smithfield, its citizens and quality of life be it in education, public service, recreation, business or community service.

A nomination packet may be obtained at the Town Managers Office, the Smithfield Senior Center or on the Town's website at WWW.smithfieldri.com. All nomination packets must be received by June 30, 2022 to the Town Managers office. Please contact Karen Armstrong at the Senior Center or the Town Manager for any further questions.

Those Were the Days in Smithfield!



Our readers are listening! The *Smithfield Times* received a few calls to reminisce about growing up here in our town. Here's one stop many of you may remember.

One of our readers, Russell recalls a typical rainy Saturday afternoon in Smithfield. Neighborhood pals decide it's a good day for a few strings at the Hearthiside. That's the Hearthiside Bowling Lanes (where the Walgreens stands now). This is the place where a Mom can unload a carload of kids at the front door with \$5.00 to go.

We pile in the bowling alley giggling and pushing our way to the front desk. The grouchy guy behind the counter knows what's coming, as we all shout out our shoe sizes for the ancient bowling shoes that came with the building. Of course, these are a necessity to slide down those worn-out bowling lanes! We decide three

strings (at 56 cents per string) would take us through the afternoon and fulfill our limited attention spans.

Once gathered on our assigned lane, off to the soda machine, where for 15 cents you may (or may not!) get a cup with your syrup mixed with carbonated water, but DON'T bring it down to the alley or you'll hear it from the grouchy guy! That and a candy bar puts us in great shape for tackling the bowling balls our small hands can hardly wrap around ... (duck pin size!).

Of course, there were the old score sheets which we would argue over how to score a "strike" or a "spare", a legal one that is. The fancier lanes actually had projectors to reflect those scores for all to see on the wall above the lane! After a few shenanigans, we finish up at the lane, probably leaving candy wrappers and other debris

behind and proceed back to drop off those smelly shoes with the grouchy guy, who is almost smiling as we prepare to depart the scene.

Of course our bowling capers were not complete without a visit next door for an A & W Root beer Float and an order of fries. Walking down Route 44 in those days did not require a crossing guard or an adult in sight! We'd sit upon a picnic table, one that you may still find today, and decide what to do next. Miniature golf is our next activity. We still have \$1.25 in our pockets, so why not!

If you baby-boomers remember this, please reach out to share your fun memories of being a kid before you had to plug in to have fun

Thank you Russell. Let's keep these stories coming!



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Charl!**

Old Coot of Mount Greylock

By Thomas D'Agostino

www.tomdagostino.com

From our latest book, *Strange New England* by History Press

In 1861, a North Adams farmer named William Saunders, like many of his time, left his home to fight for the Union in the Civil War. Saunders kissed his wife and young children goodbye on the promise of a speedy return. During his tenure as a soldier, he wrote faithfully to his wife, Belle, who waited anxiously for her beloved to come home. About a year after enlistment, a letter arrived at her door stating he had been seriously wounded by a cannonball in battle and was not likely to survive his injuries. This would be the last correspondence she would receive in regard to her husband.

Her sorrow was deep, for she knew her husband had become a casualty of the war and was most likely buried in a mass grave on some forlorn battlefield. Despite her grief, she still needed to tend to the farm so she hired a young man named Milton Clifford to help with the work while she and the children did what they could. As time passed, she made peace with the fact that her husband had perished in the war and Belle eventually married Milton, who, in turn, adopted her children.

The war ended in 1865, and the soldiers on both sides went back to their

respective lives. One of these soldiers was a bearded, weathered farmer named William Saunders, who had survived his injuries only to continue fighting for the cause. Saunders made his way back to his home, gaunt, tired and ragged, yet eager to reunite with his wife and children, who were but babies when he left.

His joy turned to disbelief when, from afar, he saw his wife in the arms of another man whom his children now called "Daddy." This devastated the poor Saunders, who realized his family had gone on without him during his absence. Instead of encountering them to announce he had come home, he turned and headed toward Mount Greylock, where he built a crude cabin in the remote portion of Bellows Pipe. There he lived out the rest of his days, occasionally working at local farms for his necessities. The locals called him "Old Coot," as he never gave them a proper name. This moniker he was happy to accept. No one he knew before recognized him due to the injuries he suffered in battle and the aging beyond his years from the rigors of the war. It is said that he even helped at his own farm, sometimes joining his family for meals. Whenever he faced his family, it was with his long, straggly hair covering



what was left of his haggard face. To say he may have gone insane, either from the war or over losing his family, was an understatement. Either way, one cold winter day in January, hunters stumbled upon his shack, where they found Old Coot dead. They were more than frightened when his spirit jumped from his body, bolted out the door and flew up the mountainside. To this day, his "bedraggled spirit" is seen on Mount Greylock, always ascending the peak near Bellows Pipe and Thunderbolt Trails, but never reversing direction.

Bellows Pipe derives its name from the wind that whistles through the pines, making the sound of a large pipe being blown into. Is it the wind, or could it be the wailing of a sad spirit that left for a good cause only to be left behind?

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Respect Week Begins on Day One in Smithfield Schools

By Paul Lonardo



We all hear a lot these days about the importance of inclusion, particularly in the school setting, but what exactly does that mean and how can it be practiced in a real world setting? Well, one of the best examples you will find how to teach children about the virtues of compassion is a week-long event that the students at Pleasant View Elementary participate in each March. It's known as Respect Week, and over the course of five days the children learn practical lessons about what it is like for others who have various forms of physical and intellectual abilities.

"It was run like a Spirit Week, with each day having a different theme, with an activity to go along with it," says Alicia-Marques-Jordan, the event organizer, known as Mrs. MJ to PVES students.

Pleasant View is a Unified Champion National Banner School for Special Olympics, and the lessons the students are taught are one of the reasons that the school was chosen to receive this honor by the organization. This is the sixth year that Respect Week has been held at the school, which had extra special meaning this year after all the disruptions over the last two years due to Covid, as well as with the recent merger of William Winsor with Anna McCabe to form Pleasant View.

"So much has been on hold for so long due to Covid," Mrs. MJ says. "It's almost like starting our Unified program all over again this year. But with this event, it's starting to feel like we're back on track and becoming one big family, one community. In fact, the assembly we had that week marked the first time that we've all been in the same room

together, the entire school, the students and faculty. So, it couldn't have come at a better time, the week we celebrate inclusion and respect. It was perfect."

The week before had been World Down Syndrome Day, so the National Down Syndrome Society of Rhode Island came down to do a presentation at the school, which was a great kick off for the upcoming Respect Week because it allowed the kids to think about what was meant by intellectual disabilities and what respect meant.

The annual event kicked off on Monday, March 28, with Hat Day, with the theme being, 'put a lid on disrespect.' The Smithfield High School Unified Team showed up with signs and stickers to give out after forming a high-five tunnel to greet the younger students as they walked into the building.

The following day was Tie Dye Tuesday, and each student wore a tie dye shirt or a brightly colored one. "The shirts symbolize how everyone is unique," Mrs. MJ says. "You never get two that are exactly the same."

Author Shelby McCarthy visited the school virtually that day to read from her book, *Let's Go Play: A Children's Book About Adaptive Equipment and Inclusion*. The book uses playful rhymes and vibrant color illustrations to talk about how children with disabilities use adaptive equipment or "tools" that help them navigate their days.

Wednesday was Mismatched Socks Day. "This theme was used to highlight Down Syndrome awareness because the socks kind of look like chromosomes," Mrs. MJ says.

For lunch that day, local firefighters came in and interacted with the students, making the week a true community event. Later, Tanya Creamer, Director of Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools and Youth and School Programs, spoke at an assembly to the students, telling them about their mission and how they help people with intellectual disabilities.

Thursday was Autism Awareness Day, and the students wore something blue that day as a symbol of unity. Special Olympics loaned The Imagination Playground to the school. This consists of big blue blocks which are intended to inspire creativity and imagination as the kids build whatever comes to mind. It was an activity that students had a lot of fun participating in together.

Friday was School Spirit Day, and the students wore colors representing the school, which are green and gold, symbolizing that they are unified in showing respect to everyone. That day Smithfield police officers had lunch with the students, and they were shown a short film, *Ian*, about a little boy with cerebral palsy and how he overcomes his struggle with discrimination and bullying. It's a film that is shown every year at the school, and it really hits home according to Mrs. MJ, offering a great depth of symbolic value that the students pick up on, and giving them a real feel for the barriers that people with disabilities face on a daily basis and how they can help prevent it from happening.

Two days that week, Mrs. MJ set up a simulation lab. This lab consisted of displays that allowed students to take

See Respect Week, page 19

part in different activities that simulate specific disabilities. It was interactive, so the students were able to experience what it was like for people with a certain impairment to perform daily tasks which others take for granted. Members of the Smithfield Police Department even tried out some of the activities.

Respect Week is celebrated for a week every March and is preceded by Kindness Week. Kindness Week includes a Connections Survey to make sure all students feel connected to at least one adult within the school. This survey is conducted, not just at her school, but across the school district in Smithfield.

“Our focus on kindness, respect, and inclusion is not just something we do, we want it to define who we are,” Principal Catherine Pleau says. “And that is always being kind, respectful and accepting of everyone.”

These are wonderful ideals that transcend all grades and age levels. At Pleasant View Elementary the ‘Road to Respect Week’ starts at the very beginning of each school year.

As an example, each morning a ‘kindness quote’ is read during the school’s Morning Meeting, and classes can discuss what they believe is the meaning of the quote. There is also a Feinstein Kindness Tree upon which the kind deeds performed by the students and adults for others are listed, and the idea is to grow the tree with kindness.

The finale of Respect Week introduced Inclusion Stones, which are based on a viral trend, ‘Kindness Rocks,’ where people paint rocks, write a positive message on them, and then hide them at playgrounds, walking trails, or stores. A label is placed on the back of the rocks directing the finder to a social media group where they can post

a picture of the found rock. With Inclusion Stones, the stone is painted with the corresponding color and symbol that is associated with the disability. The premise of Inclusion Stones is that they will spread awareness for different disabilities to those who find them. For example, an Inclusion Stone that is advocating awareness for Down syndrome will be painted blue and yellow and will have a picture of mismatched socks on it.

Mrs. MJ asks the community to be on the lookout for Inclusion Stones throughout Smithfield and to help move them across the state. Her goal is for Inclusion Stones to reach other states and hopefully other countries someday. The students will be able to track the Stones’ progress on the Twitter page @InclusionStones to see how far their advocating for others can reach.

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50-years Ago – May 1972

by Jim Ignasher

Army Sergeant Gabriele V. Pate was serving with the 243rd Engineer Battalion in the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

Navy petty officer 3/c David R. Young of Greenville was serving aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Intrepid.

Sergeant Alan R. Colwell of Greenville was serving as an aircraft maintenance specialist.

Navy Seaman George H. Young, Jr., was serving aboard the destroyer escort U.S.S. Harold E. Holt.

Richard Rudis, a senior at Smithfield High School, was accepted to the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Of the 17,000 applicants, only 250 were accepted; and only two from Rhode Island.

Sergeant James H. McVey of the Smithfield Police Department was promoted to the rank of deputy chief after the recent death of Deputy Chief J. Lester Tobin. At the time of his promotion, McVey had been on the force for twenty-two years.

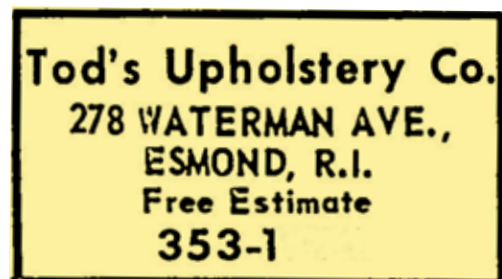
Three new members of the Smithfield Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol took orientation flights in a Cessna 160 airplane from North Central Airport. The youths were: Henry Gombeyski, Norman Gage, and Henry LaChapelle, all of Farnum Heights.

The Smithfield VFW Post 6663 elected new officers. James E. Lyle was elected post commander; Americo Rossi, Jr., senior vice commander; Leroy Hilton, junior vice commander; James Cummings, quartermaster; J. Leo Keefe, chaplain; Fred C. J. Miller, surgeon; Peter Mancini, adjutant post advocate and Edward Sagatis, trustee.

On May 5 the town posted its proposed budget for the upcoming 1972-73 fiscal year which included \$1,663,000 for the school department, \$295,848 for the police department,

and
\$264,191
for the fire
department.

On the
evening of
the town
financial



meeting, a “mobile emergency room” ambulance was parked in front of the high school for voters to inspect. It looked like a mobile home, and could serve as a field hospital in times of disaster. The Greenville Fire Department wanted it to replace an aging rescue truck that was purchased in 1957. The cost was \$29,000, which was about the cost of a modest home in those days. The voters approved the purchase.

David F. Culton of Greenville became Senior Warden of the Nestell Lodge No. 37, of the A. F. & A. M. in Providence. He was also serving with the Rhode Island Air Guard.

On May 7th the Greenville Public Library held an art show. Two local participating artists were Mrs. Mary Jane Spardello and Mr. Alexis W. Krupka.

In Bryant College news, the scuba diving club cleaned the bottoms of the ponds on campus.

The “Country Comfort”, a bar/café located on the campus officially opened. Among drinks offered was apple cider from Jaswell Farms.

The Bryant Indians baseball team posted its upcoming season.

On the weekend of May 12-13, the campus held its annual “Spring Weekend”, during which a young singer named Linda Ronstadt gave a concert to raise money for cancer research. Tickets to see the concert were one dollar.

If one went to the Apple Valley Cinema, they might have seen “Dirty Harry”, a police drama starring Clint Eastwood. Or perhaps, “Blindman”, starring Ringo Starr and Tony Anthony. A western about a blind gunfighter who sets out to rescue kidnapped mail-order brides. Then there was “Puppet on a Chain”, a British thriller known for its eight minute boat chase, and “Silent Running”, an apocalyptic science fiction film.



See 50-years Ago, page 21

On May 19, the Smithfield Junior High Drama Club presented the play, "It's Great To be Crazy", a comedy about a family that is erroneously informed that their ancestors included the likes of Jack-the-Ripper, Bluebeard the pirate, and other assorted famous criminals.

On May 20, the Dorothy P. T. Dame School in Esmond held its annual PTA officers installation dinner at the Greenville Inn. Installed as president was Alice Downes; vice president, Ann Lembo; recording secretary Anthony Ciotola, Treasurer, Virginia Stedman; and corresponding secretary, Eva Bonitati.

It was also on May 20 that the Smithfield Recreation Department sponsored an eleven mile bicycle race that began and ended at the high school. Contestants were

divided by age categories and trophies were awarded to the winners.

On the night of May 20, the Smithfield Police Department held its annual policeman's ball.

Miss Kendral Bliven of Ashaway, R. I. was crowned Apple Blossom Queen at the annual Apple Blossom Festival, sponsored by the Rhode Island Fruit Growers Association, and the Rhode Island Grange.

The Apple Valley Junior Women's Club elected new officers. Elected president was Sally Butterfield; vice president; Gloria Thomas; recording secretary, Flora Simeone, Treasurer, Simone Carbone and corresponding secretary, Judy Hoskins.



Lemon Lush

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 (3.4 ounce) packages instant lemon pudding mix
- 3 ½ cups milk
- 1 (12 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed

Directions

Step 1

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). In a medium bowl, combine the flour and butter using a pastry cutter until a ball forms. Press into the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish.

Step 2

Bake for 25 minutes in the preheated oven, or until lightly golden. Remove from oven and allow to cool completely.

Step 3

In a medium bowl, beat the cream cheese and sugar together until smooth and well blended. Spread evenly over the cooled crust. In another bowl, whisk together the lemon pudding mix and milk for 3 to 5 minutes. Spread over the cream cheese layer. Chill until set, then top with whipped topping.



In Our **Community**

Easter Egg hunt held at the Stillwater Assisted Living Facility on April 15.



Photo credit: Camilla Spliid



Hand-in-Hand Dinner and Dancing Fundraiser



Photo credit: Mark Carrier

The Smithfield YMCA hosted a "Hand-in-Hand Dinner and Dancing Fundraiser" on April 29. Councilman David Tikoian contributed \$1000 to this fund to Dr. Janet Ray and Shauna Lewis, CEO. Along with his family, Councilman Tikoian participated in many YMCA programs in his youth, and felt motivated to give back. "The Smithfield YMCA is a wonderful organization with professional leadership, dedicated staff, and a supportive board of directors that I am pleased to support," stated Tikoian.

All proceeds help support the numerous YMCA Programs along with their Community in Need Scholarship Program. Please reach out to Shauna Lewis at 949-2480, ext. 102 to donate an item or service to this worthy cause.



Photo credit: Sandra Achille

The Smithfield Times

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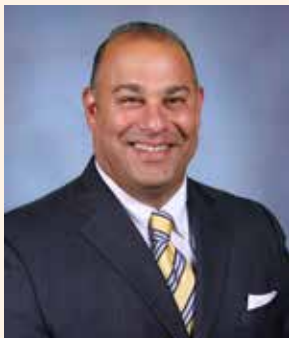


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David P. Tikoian
Smithfield Town Council



Happy Mother's Day!



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*Happy Mother's Day
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Photo credit: Sandra Achille



Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

The Relics – *that your children and grandchildren may actually want!*

We all know these do not include your wedding china, crystal and the family silver that you polished at least twice a year. What younger generations DO actually want probably lies somewhere in your attic, garage or basement. And be prepared when you retrieve these relics to use a hand cart – because the newest rage in collecting is vintage vinyl records. You know, the ones you couldn't bear to discard because they represented some of the most romantic and escapist moments of your life.

For over eight decades vinyl delivered the music of our lives – our youth, our causes and our fantasies. Unrecognized by most of us, the renewed interest in collecting vinyl records began over a decade ago, when DJs began spinning the turntables in dance clubs. What followed was a surge in “old-fashion” record shops, the development of a significant increase in the prices of “classics” in mint condition, and new recording stars releasing albums on vinyl for the first time. (Taylor Swift's *Evermore*, released in 2020, broke all album record sales since reporting began in 1991).

While MP3s, CDs and streaming sources are a long way from Edison's first introduction of the phonograph in 1877, vinyl has a history of providing the rhythms of our lives. Not long after Edison's introduction of the concept, producers perfected a way to introduce flat discs that could be played on gramophones. Made from shellac, a material that was very brittle, they were produced in both 10” and 12” sizes and could play for about 3.5 minutes on each side at 78 rpms.

Actually, well into my teenage years, the source of music at camp was a gramophone, with a helmet shaped top,

that contained a metal head with a needle that, after you cranked up the machine, had to be placed very precisely in the first groove of the record you selected. I remember a large number of very heavy 78s that were stored in the bottom cabinet, mostly of classic music preferred by my grandparents.

It wasn't until 1948 that Columbia released the 33 1/3 rpm, followed shortly by RCA Victor's release of the 45 rpm that popular music invaded our living rooms in the form of large, boxy “Hi-Fi”. Often playing the sounds of the early bobby sockers of the big band era, I grew up with Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey propelling my mother around the living room on many occasions.

I credit keeping my sanity during my college years to a never-ending stream of Motown sounds recorded both on albums and 45s. One of the best inventions for dormitory life was the production of a tall spindle that could hold multiple 45s, essentially eliminating those brightly colored discs that need to be inserted into the record for single play. I mostly missed the eight-track era and graduated to cassettes, helped along by Sony's development of The Walkman in the 1960s, a trend that was further advanced by the installation of cassette players in cars. Both the vinyl and cassette forms were essentially “obsolete” when digital compact discs outsold both forms.

Had it not been for CDs and country music, I would have fallen asleep on many a night as I commuted to UCONN for a graduate degree. And, as an admitted luddite and techno-phobe, that's where my experience with music delivery systems ends. I don't stream, I don't own an iPhone or iPad. Sirius FM is my music lifeline.

There are many theories why this renewed interest in vinyl has become a recent rage among Boomers, Millennials, and even Generation Z. Since Sony produced vinyl again in 2017 for the first time since 1989, what accounts for the willingness of over 30 percent of Americans ready to pay for vinyl records today and for vinyl sales to now outstrip CDs?

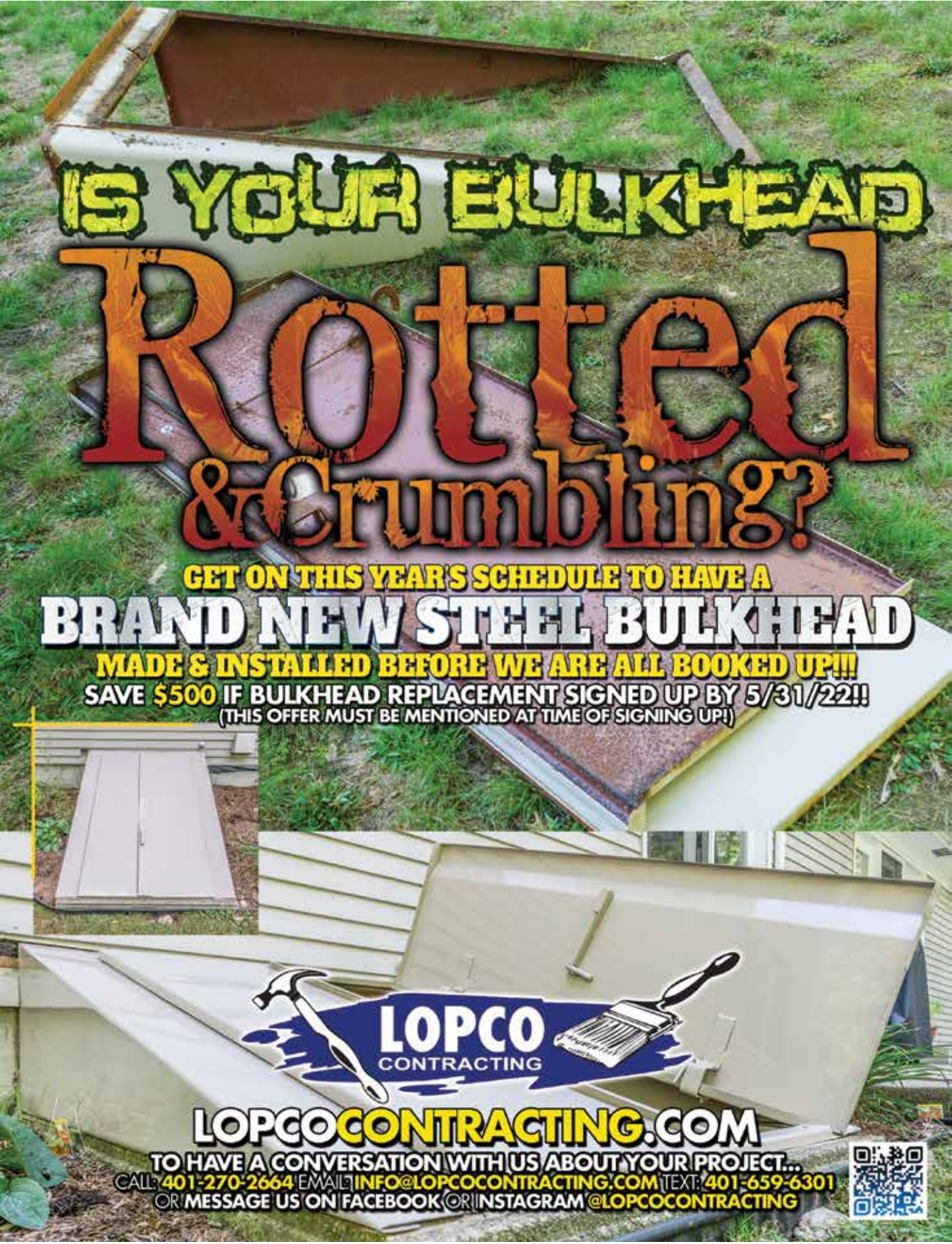
Some suggest that the trend reflects “younger listeners nostalgic for an era when music – and maybe life in general, seemed more hands-on and fun.” In some cases, maybe it's a way of aging millennials to create a bridge to their boomer parents. And as one person stated, “With vinyl there are no decisions to make. You put on the record, you sit back and you listen.” (*WSJ, March 13, 2022, Why Millennials Want Their Parents' Vinyl Records.*)

Author's Notes:

- In 2021, 87 new vinyl albums were cut. Topping the list – Adele's “30” with a price of \$40.
- Check those boxes before you pass them on. In 2019 Ringo's copy of *Abbey Road* sold for \$246,000.
- The Beatles – *Yesterday and Today*, Butcher cover recently sold for \$125,000. And pre-1957 Elvis records are also among the most valuable and collectible.

Get out those dusty boxes. You never know what treasures you may have.





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AGES 15-18+ (AGE AS OF 2023)

MAY 17TH:

5PM-6:30PM

AGES: 5-9 (AGE AS OF 2023)

6:30PM-8PM:

AGES: 10-14 (AGE AS OF 2023)

8PM-9PM:

AGES 15-18+ (AGE AS OF 2023)

MAY 18TH:

6PM-8PM

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Payne's Picks

By Sarah Payne

May 2022

TV Release

Stranger Things – Season 4 – May 27

The pandemic messed with all my plans – including the release of season four of *Stranger Things*. But COVID isn't the only reason we haven't seen new content in nearly three years. Series creators Matt and Ross Duffer recently told *Deadline* that this latest season is nearly twice as long as any previous season, with each episode running at least an hour long. The show is set in the 80s in Hawkins, Indiana, and follows a group of young friends who witness supernatural forces and mysteries. Ross said: "Back when we did season one, Netflix just kept going 'Can you explain all this mythology to us?' ... So we wrote this giant 20-page document, which talked about everything in terms of what was going on and what exactly the Upside Down was. And then each season we're just sort of peeling back the layers of that onion, so to speak. But this season, we really wanted to really get into it and (revealing) some of those answers."

Movie Release

Top Gun: Maverick – May 27

Tom Cruise's *Top Gun* sequel will finally hit theaters this month, a year and a half since it was originally scheduled to release. Say what you want about Cruise as a person; but you can't deny his entertainment value. He also puts 1000% into every performance – including this sequel to his 1986 film. His co-star Jennifer Connelly told *Total Film* that Cruise took her for a ride in his Second World War Mustang: "That was pretty extraordinary. His is actually a licensed aerobatic pilot." Also speaking with *Total Film*, co-star Miles Teller said: "We were all mini Toms making this movie. He put us through ... I'll just call it a 'Tom Cruise boot camp.' We were getting in killer shape ... We did flight training for three months before we started filming."



TV Reviews

Upload (Prime) – Season 2

My husband and I binged season one of *Upload* at the start of the pandemic when we were in desperate need of an escape. And the futuristic satire served us well in that regard. Created by *The Office* showrunner Greg Daniels, *Upload* is set in 2033, where people have the ability upload their consciousness into the cloud after death. The main character, Nathan, is killed in a car accident and finds himself uploaded to the uber expensive Lakeview, where he will "live" out the rest of his digital days. The concept is fascinating; and if you've read anything about Elon Musk's company Neuralink, you realize it might become reality sooner than expected. *Upload* is prescient but also silly. And I swore I wouldn't watch another season because some of the acting (namely, Andy Allo) and the writing is downright cringeworthy. But I gave season two a shot and I was pleasantly surprised. With the novelty of the concept well established in the first season, this season feels a bit funnier and lighter. If you're into science fiction, I highly recommend it because it really opens your mind to what's possible and some of the moral implications of technological advancement.

Euphoria (HBO) – Seasons 1 & 2

There weren't many options as far as new films this month, so I decided to be super late to the party and watch *Euphoria*, which first premiered on HBO in 2019 and the second season premiered in February of this year. The show is extremely popular, second only to *Game of Thrones* as the most watched show on HBO. Knowing the subject matter of the show, that fact is a bit unsettling. Zendaya plays Rue, a teenager and recovering drug addict. Each episode follows her and classmates navigating relationships and unfathomable trauma. And I now understand why the show is so controversial. HBO has always pushed boundaries when it comes to nudity and graphic content. But it hits differently when those scenes feature characters who are underage (even if the actors aren't). While *Euphoria* is certainly stylish and well produced, the content is quite disturbing. I worry about the message it's sending young adults about what actually happens in high school – and what's just the fantasy of a Hollywood producer reimagined their glory days.

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A View From the Cheap Seats

Dan Pieroni

Hickory Dickory Dock: Krzyzewski's Clock's Run Out.

Two days after Duke lost in the national semifinals to their longtime archrival the University of North Carolina, I read an interesting piece by Slate.com writer Alex Kirshner. It brought up an interesting question that I felt was worth reflecting upon here.

What if the man known to millions of admirers as well as detractors as “Coach K” could be considered great and a phony at the same time? The case for greatness is quite compelling.

Educated at the US Military Academy at West Point New York, Krzyzewski played basketball under the stern and demanding eye of one Robert Montgomery “Bobby” Knight; he would later serve his country as an officer for the army for four years and later coach the basketball team himself.

It was at Duke though, where Krzyzewski made his beans, amassing a staggering 1,202 wins as a collegiate head coach along with 15 ACC Tournament victories, 13 final four appearances, and most importantly, 5 NCAA men's basketball championships. It can also be said that Krzyzewski ran a clean program at a prestigious academic college. His players mainly went to class, stayed out of trouble, and stayed in school for four years.

Krzyzewski's international bona fides should not be ignored either, as he won three Olympic gold medals as head coach of the US men's basketball team. When you consider the fact that his got noted egomaniacs like Kobe Bryant and LeBron James to buy into his methods for the good of patriotism and international basketball dominance, it is

all the more impressive.

Yet underneath that veneer of success lies a harsh truth. While Krzyzewski would like to believe he is pious, virtuous, and stands for everything that is good in college sports, he cannot deny the fact that he has benefited from the one-and-done pipeline ookas much as any coach not named John Calipari. As Mr. Kirshner pointed out in his piece though, why did Krzyzewski use his pulpit to bash the NCAA one-and-done model during the recent NCAA tournament? Wouldn't that make him a hypocrite? Thus, you have to take the good and bad Krzyzewski with a grain of salt.

The first time I had my doubts about his righteousness was when I saw his press conference after he lost to a California team led by future NBA star Jason Kidd in the 1993 NCAA tournament.

To be fair, Duke was the two-time defending champion and while it may have been hard for him to face the reality that he had been knocked off his pedestal, there he was struggling to fight back tears talking how great the college game was. You can look at this one of two ways, on one hand, it was a noble and classy act to deflect criticism of his own team and focus on the purity of the game.

On the other hand, here was a guy who essentially had access to a continuous pipeline of talent that was always going to be replenished because of who he was and the weight he carried. It was easy for him to talk about how great college sports were when he would be a lifelong beneficiary of greatness.

More recently Krzyzewski appeared sullen and dour at a postgame ceremony in his honor after he lost his final home game at Duke to the same hated Tar Heels of North Carolina. While he apologized to the crowd for his team's poor play and his mood, he asked people to “pipe down” while they were yelling cheers of support to them.

While this may not seem like a big deal, former players, dignitaries, and adoring fans had come to Cameron Indoor Stadium to pay their respects to a man they loved. They did not deserve a stone-faced, miserable Krzyzewski who could not get over the anger caused by one loss. Couldn't he have taken the congratulatory honors in stride? Despite his flaws Krzyzewski still is an admirable character.

Hardly anyone can survive going 38-47 in his first three season at a basketball-mad school and be able to emerge on the other side of a cottage industry where recruits are lining up at the door for him. So, while he may be the type to tsk-tsk your program for wrongdoing while he stands atop Mount Pious, at least he is self-aware to know he's been fortunate.

Now as the clock has run out on a remarkable career and he fades off into a sunset of memories, mementos, and pride, where does this leave us the fans? Krzyzewski may have represented the goody-two-shoes know-it-all you either loved or hated but couldn't deny made the game more interesting.

The larger-than-life coach is quickly becoming a thing of the past, but rest assured the next devise coach is in waiting.

Local Author Educates and Advocates For Baseball History

By Paul Lonardo

Dan D'Alessio grew up in Providence with an appreciation for sports, graduating from Central High School in an era when many talented local athletes were coming to prominence. Dan brings a lifetime of experience and knowledge to this, his second book, "Baseball from Providence to Prominence." The title offers his personal reflection on the early years of the game and the men who brought the game to prominence, including the Rhode Island natives and other great ballplayers who visited our state and showcased their talent.

One of Dan's earliest influences as an author has a major tie to Rhode Island. While in his sixth-grade classroom at Broad Street School in Providence, a substitute teacher told Dan and his classmates that he had written a book. Dan found this intriguing, and the next time he visited the library he found the book and saw a photo of the teacher on the back. Today, you can see the name of that author on numerous schools all around Rhode Island; that man is Allan Shawn Feinstein. Part of young Dan D'Alessio knew then that he had a book or two in him.

Dan attributes the writing of his latest book as an outgrowth of the passion he has to educate people about the true history of baseball as well as to pay tribute to the legends who played the game and paved the way for the players of today. This is a uniquely constructed book, which might be best described as a personal almanac in which the author expresses all that the game of baseball means to him, strong feelings that are shared by many baseball fans worldwide.

The book is broken in three parts, starting off with a selection of quotes from everyone from Abraham Lincoln to Dolly Parton, with some of Dan's own thoughts sprinkled in for good measure. The second section is collection of baseball

stories about the game's greatest players and features many interesting tidbits and historical facts that few people beyond the most knowledgeable students of the game would know. For instance, casual fans are likely to site a man named Abner Doubleday, a major general of the Union Army, as being the father of baseball, but it was actually Alexander Cartwright who deserves foremost recognition for the role he played in the creation of the game that we see played today. Cartwright even established his own ballclub, the New York Knickerbockers, two decades before the Civil War.

Among the dozens of stories about the early pioneers of baseball are profiles on players with a local ties, including Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourn, a Hall of Fame pitcher whose best years were with the Providence Grays baseball club, a team that in 1884 was considered to have won the first unofficial World Series. Radbourn won a remarkable sixty games in 1884, pitching an even more remarkable 678 innings that year while recording 73 complete games (pitching all nine innings of a game).

Another chapter is devoted to Napoleon "Nap" Lajoie, who grew up Woonsocket and broke into the Major Leagues at the turn of 20th century. Dan writes that what makes Lajoie a Rhode Island treasure is the great respect that players, managers, umpires, sportswriters, and fans throughout the country had for him. The five batting titles that accompany his .339 lifetime batting average and other offensive achievements make it clear why many consider him to be the greatest second basemen in baseball history.

The final section of the book is a compendium of Dan's own original poetry on baseball and its most noteworthy legends. One ode that particularly stands out, "Shoeless" Joe



Dan D'Alessio

Jackson, pays tribute to the White Sox slugger who was banned from baseball for life in 1920 for his alleged involvement in the "Black Sox Scandal," an incident in which several members of his team were accused of conspiring with gamblers to throw the 1919 World Series. Much has been written about that dark part of baseball history, but no evidence has ever been found showing that Jackson participated in the game-fixing scandal. Quite to the contrary, in fact, his performance in the Series was stellar, and two years later was acquitted of all charges, but sadly he was never allowed to play baseball again. Today, there is growing consensus that Jackson should be officially exonerated and deemed eligible for indoctrination in The Baseball Hall of Fame, backed by a .356 lifetime batting average, including batting .408 in 1911. Dan is the self-proclaimed biggest supporter of the legendary "Shoeless" Joe Jackson in Rhode Island, and is involved in the effort to have Jackson's reputation restored by having him enshrined in Cooperstown with all the other greats of the game. Dan has read extensively about Shoeless Joe and later visited Jackson's hometown of Greenville, South Carolina, attending the unveiling of a statue that was erected in honor of their hometown hero.

Whether you're a casual fan of the game or bona fide baseball history buff, *Baseball From Providence to Prominence* is a book you will enjoy. It is available in hardcover, paperback, and electronic formats on Amazon and through other booksellers.



The Nature of Things

Look For These Early Bloomers

by James Gass



Red Trillium

If you are like me, you are doing a lot of woods walking now that the weather is becoming more spring-like. In April and May, I like to look for early blooming wildflowers. Some of the most interesting and beautiful native plants found in southern New England are flowering at this time of year.

One of my favorite early bloomers is marsh marigold, or cowslip. My friend Brant calls them “molly blobs.” This common member of the marigold family has bright, cheery yellow flowers that grow on the plant in clusters. They are found in swampy areas, mucky backwaters, wet meadows and along stream shallows. In our area, they bloom from mid-April to early June.

Another early blooming wildflower that is not-so-common is bloodroot. Its sap is red, hence the name. Bloodroot is found in rich, open woodlands. They are unusual because like skunk cabbage, the flower appears before the leaves do. The flower stalk grows with the leaves wrapped tightly around it, and after the flower opens, the leaves unfurl. The delicate white bloom opens in full sun and closes at night. Bloodroot is a member of the poppy family and is the only species in the genus *Sanguinaria*.



Marsh Marigold

It flowers from late April to May, but it can be tricky to find due to excessive deer browse.

The large whorled pogonia is a member of the orchid family and is an uncommon early spring bloomer. They bloom in early-to-mid May. They are listed as “C” or “Species of Concern” by the Rhode Island Natural History Survey (RINHS). I have found them at the Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Sanctuary in Smithfield, growing along the yellow trail just before it crosses the access road that leads to a transfer station. The plant has five wide, whorled leaves at the end of a long stem. The flower emerges from the center of the whorl and is green or yellow with three long purple sepals. They like dry areas of forest that have rich acidic soils with partial or total shade. The small whorled pogonia, a similar species also found in Rhode Island, is very rare and is listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as “T” or “Threatened.” RINHS currently lists it as “SH” or “State Historical,” as the last documented population of small whorled pogonias was found in the western part of Providence County in 2007.

Yellow trout lily is another one of my



Blue Flag Iris

favorite early bloomers. They grow colonially from bulbs. These common members of the lily family are found in open woodlands throughout Rhode Island. They emerge and flower from March through May, before the trees leaf out, which gives them additional energy from the sun and added nutrients from the soil before most other plants. Their name comes from the brownish mottling on their elliptic to lanceolate leaves, which is said to resemble the back of a brook trout. The nodding yellow flower forms on a single stalk and closes at night.

Trilliums are another common early bloomer found throughout the state. They are sometimes called wake-robin or toadshade. Trilliums grow in rich woodlands and typically bloom in early May. All trilliums belong to the Melanthiaceae family and grow from underground rhizomes. They do not produce true leaves or stems above ground. The stem is actually an extension of the rhizome which sometimes produces tiny, scale-like leaves. The above-ground plant is a flowering scape and the “leaves” are three symmetrical bracts subtending the

See The Nature of Things, page 35

flower. The bracts also photosynthesize. The flowers have three green or reddish sepals and three petals in shades of red, purple, pink, white, yellow, or green. I usually find red and painted trilliums on my spring walks at the Steere Hill Farm Conservation Area in Glocester.

Though it blooms a little later than

the previous plants mentioned here (May-July), blue flag is another one of my favorites. This member of the Iris family is fairly common and is found in marshes, along stream banks, ponds and sedge meadows. Like trout lilies, they are colonial and grow from bulbs. There are several native species of flag iris that occur in Rhode Island including

large blue flag, slender blue flag and yellow flag. Yellow flag is not native, however. You can find these plants almost anywhere.

I hope you get out and find some of these delightful flowers. With so much ugliness happening in the world these days, we could all use a little extra beauty.



East Smithfield Public Library

50 Esmond Street, Smithfield, RI 02917

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Children's Programming:

Family Story Time

Saturday, May 7th @ 10:30 a.m.

Playdough Fun

Saturday, May 21st from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 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, May 5th at 4:30 p.m.

“Books are Fun!” Book Group

Thursday, May 12th at 4:30 p.m.

Middle School Book Group

Tuesday, May 10th at 4:30 p.m.

Kindergarten Countdown

Thursday, May 19th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Arts and Crafts Club

Monday, May 9th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Young Adult Programming:

Excel Basics and Sreadsheets

Monday, May 9, from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Excel Part II

Monday, May 16, from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Individual Technology Help Sessions

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

Ancestry for Beginners

Tuesday, May 31, @ 6:30 p.m.



Take and Make Craft for Teens

Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Anime Club

Friday, May 27, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Cheese Please

Friday, May 13, @ 5:00 p.m.

Adult Programming:

Thursday Night Book Club

Thursday, May 26th, @ 6:00 p.m.

Share the Love Card Club

Thursday, May 5th @ 5:30.

Adult Craft – Mini Carnation Bouquet

Monday, May 2nd @ 5:30.

Rhode Island Stories – Dr. Michael Fine

Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Tabletop Game Night

Thursday, May 19th @ 6:00 p.m.

Friends of the Library Events:

Jewelry Sale

Friday, May 20th from Noon to 6:00 p.m. and

Saturday, May 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Coffee, Cake & Conversation Book Group

Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

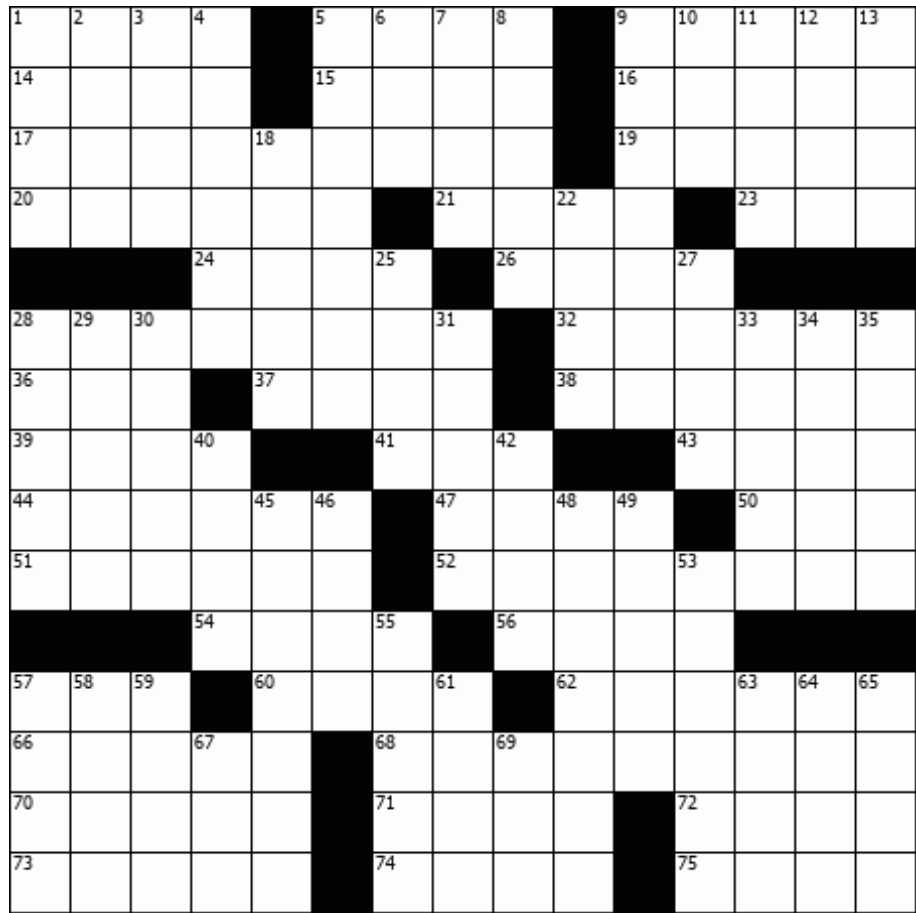
Friends of the Library (FOL) Meeting

Saturday, May 14th @ 1:00 p.m.

Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Space agency (abbr.)
5. Upon
9. Self-respect
14. Lincoln, et al.
15. Billiards
16. Angered
17. Patched a ceiling
19. Eyed flirtatiously
20. ____ citizen
21. Shipped
23. Double agent
24. Bothersome insect
26. Coral ridge
28. Of speech sounds
32. Concurred
36. Yet, poetically
37. Broker's advice
38. Bookworm
39. Assigned job
41. Table part
43. Grow weary
44. Leveled
47. Actor ____ Baldwin
50. Spy org.
51. Eye part
52. Told (a story)
54. Vocalist ____ Turner
56. Achieves
57. Pack animal
60. Pant
62. Type of staircase
66. Gorge
68. Card game for one
70. Diva ____ Callas
71. Margarine
72. Refusals
73. Gives forth
74. Dime or penny
75. Doctor's "at once!"



Down

1. Siestas
2. Competent
3. Actor ____ Penn
4. Appoint
5. Perform surgery
6. Neither's companion
7. Foot digits
8. More dated
9. Mentor's student
10. Oil-drilling equipment
11. Misfortunes
12. Profound
13. Water whirl
18. Hues
22. Advance upon
25. Cultivate
27. Campus gp.
28. Anchorman ____ Jennings
29. Throw
30. Start
31. Immaculate
33. Decree
34. Supernatural
35. Great fear
40. Make socks
42. Cheerful
45. Mysteries
46. Comic ____ Carvey
48. Wearing away
49. Moved sneakily
53. Japanese, e.g.
55. Civic gp.
57. Summit
58. Pillow cover
59. Delhi dress
61. Horseback game
63. Civil disturbance
64. Region
65. "____ we forget"
67. Occupy a chair
69. Maui garland



Answers to puzzle on page 42



GOOD NEWS

Donna from the **Community Cat Center** has submitted pictures of two of the three kitties who were featured in last month's issue with their newly adopted humans! Many thanks to our readers with warm hearts to share with a new friend!



Jade and Lisa



Shy Guy and Kay

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Local Organization Prepares Youth For Real-World Careers

By Paul Lonardo

Riverzedge Arts, established in 2002, is a nonprofit youth development organization located in northern Rhode Island which provides specialized career training in art and design, using industry-standard techniques and equipment, with the goal of putting the students on a path to economic and cultural sustainability.

“We really believe in applied learning,” says Geo Darrow, the organization’s Communications and Development Assistant. “We work to connect them with academic and clinical supports, which include access to tutoring and mental health professionals to make sure they have everything they need to succeed both in school and in our studios. We do everything we can to identify and meet the needs of our community and the people we serve.”

To those ends, the organization runs two programs, the first being the arts, education and training (AET) program, which is what they do in their own building in Woonsocket, on 2nd Avenue. This program encompasses four different disciplines and studios; screen printing, graphic design, media arts, and public art, the latter two include fields such as photography, videography, fine painting, sculpture, wood carving, and murals.

“We don’t charge students for our services,” Geo says. “In fact, every student that is part of our AET program receives an hourly, state-mandated age-appropriate minimal wage for working in our studios,” Geo says. “They work on real projects of professional quality.”

The result is that the students work and get paid as they learn, and Riverzedge

Arts, as the employer, sells the merchandise produced on their own website, as well as in local brick-and-mortar stores, such as Craftland and Frog & Toad, both in Providence. They also take on commissioned projects for clients.

“This is not arts and crafts,” Geo says. “We want to give the students skills and abilities that are marketable and that are part of a real career, so that when they graduate high school and leave our studios, they can get a real job as a graphic designer or a professional artist.”

They also run an ELO (Expanded Learning Opportunities) program at Woonsocket High School, where they pair a student with an individual professional where they can earn academic credit outside of the traditional classroom setting by working on a project with that individual.

While most students are from Woonsocket, the programs at Riverzedge Arts are not limited to kids from this geographical location. All students are welcome, but the organization does not provide transportation services, as it is the responsibility of the student to get to and from the facility.

Once they get through high school and the program at Riverzedge, the world will have become a much smaller place, and one where they can fit in and do their part by making a difference.

“We believe that every student has the potential to get into a four-year college or university if they chose, and we really do encourage that,” Geo says.

The organization understands that college is not right for everyone, but they do require that each student formulate a future plan for themselves during their senior year, whether it be an academic pursuit or career employment, apprenticeship, travel, whatever the case may be.

“We want to make sure they have a plan for the future, and that we’re doing everything we can to ensure that they have the resources they need to succeed with whatever it is that they decide to do.”

Some graduates may decide that they do not want to become a lifelong artist, and that is okay too.

“Only part of what we do is arts training,” Geo explains. “There is a lot of applied learning that is really valuable, in going through and learning a trade like this, learning to work with your hands, experiencing a sense of accomplishment, knowing that the work you do is valuable and people are willing to pay for it. We are also building confidence, and I think that is a key element.”

Many of the students that come out of these programs go on to become entrepreneurs.

Riverzedge and everything that they do is something to be celebrated, and



See Local Organization, page 39

starting this month, as part of the organization's 20-year anniversary, that is just what they will be doing.

On April 16, they are hosting a Happy Hour at the offices of Keller North America in Cumberland, an event that is being catered by two Riverzedge alumni and entrepreneurs. Everyone is welcome, so stop by to help them celebrate.

There will be a Summer Block Party event that will take place in July, a Gallery Night in October at Machines With Magnets in Pawtucket, and the first week of April marks the opening of Riverzedge Arts' Free Community Garden, which is run out of the backyard of their property in Woonsocket.

Their students work and maintain the garden, learning things about everything from composting to environmental sustainability practices. The fresh local produce that is grown is given away to the public. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for a plot, in which gardeners may grow flowers, vegetables, or anything else they want this summer.

Geo says, "We really imagine this as a way for the community to get to know each other, to spend time in a shared green space and also to explore and learn about ways they can change their relationships to food systems and practice different ways of ecofriendly living."

The garden contains twenty-five plots, including four that are accessible to people with disabilities. Plots go quickly, so sign up soon. There is no fee and interested parties should write to info@riverzedgearts.org or call 401-767-2100 to request an application.

➡ **To learn more about Riverzedge Arts check out their website:**
<http://riverzedgearts.org/>

Greenville Public Library

573 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI 02828

Contact: Cassie Patterson • 401-949-3630 ext 117
greenvilleasstdirector@gmail.com • greenvillelibraryri.org

Please register to attend any events on our calendar at greenvillelibraryri.org or by calling 401-949-3630.

Poetry Contest Ceremony & Reading

Join us in celebrating our 5th Annual Poetry Contest contestants!

Adult Events

Mystery Book Club

Tuesday, May 3 at 1:30 pm

Picnic Table Reads Book Club

Thursday, May 19 at 1:00 pm.

Virtual Book Chat

Thursdays, May 5 & 19 at 6:00 pm

Coffee & Books

Wednesday, May 2 at 10:30 am

Home Sweet Home Book Club (Zoom)

Monday, May 23 at 6:30 pm

Esmond Mills Exhibit and Talk

Monday, May 16 at 6:00 pm

Join local collector and Smith-Appleby House Museum Curator **Sandra Achille** for an exhibit of Esmond Mills and Bunny Esmond collectibles. The items in the exhibit contain blankets, photos, magazine ads and more. All items in the exhibit are from 1906 to 1948. Come learn more about this wonderful part of Smithfield's manufacturing history! Please register to attend on our event calendar at greenvillelibraryri.org or by calling 401-949-3630.

Exhibiting Artist

Nancy Turbitt

Quilt Art | April 1 – May 31

The Greenville Public Library will host the work of local quilt artist, Nancy Turbitt, through the month of May.

To view more of Nancy Turbitt's work, find her on Facebook (@StudioGirasole).



Sandra Achille's Exhibit





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:



DAWN: Dawn is a wonderful, playful cat just shy of one year old who loves to catch things with her paws and to carry her toys around the room. Dawn is good with other animals and has lived with a gentle dog in her previous foster home. Dawn enjoys naps in boxes, cups of ice water, and yummy treats. Dawn will need a slow introduction as she can be skittish and may take extra time get comfortable in her new forever home. Dawn is an absolutely delightful kitty and worth the effort needed to get to know her.



EDDIE: Eddie is a big, beautiful boy! This lovely light gray and beige tabby with white markings has so much love to give for his next family. Eddie just adores his head rubbed and scratched. He is approximately 3 years old, and just like a baby, his most favorite things in life are eating and sleeping! Eddie likes to purr and will knead the blanket before sleeping with you on the bed. This handsome guy has a big appetite and will meow when it's mealtime. Eddie will bring much joy to whoever adopts him and he might just be the purr-fect kitty companion for you!



FELICIA: Say hello to smart and sassy Felicia who is a chubby gray ball of fun. She loves to bounce around the room, playing fetch and trying to catch her favorite feather toy. Felicia is a delight to be around and you will be constantly entertained by her. She came to the CCC when her owner passed away suddenly and although initially confused, she has adjusted well. Felicia is a spunky feline looking for a forever home with a new family for her to love.

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>

A no-kill shelter is an animal shelter that does not kill healthy or treatable animals even when the shelter is full, reserving euthanasia for terminally ill animals or those considered dangerous to public safety.

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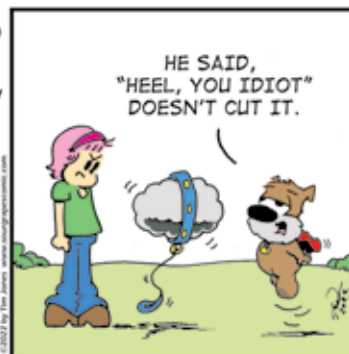
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by Tim Jones



Tim Jones – Cartoonist

Obituaries



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Betty Anne Gravelin
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www.robbsfuneralhome.com



Mary D. Reilly-Walsh
4/4/22
TuckerQuinnFuneralChapel.com



Shirley M. Bonnier
4/8/22
TuckerQuinnFuneralChapel.com

Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 36.

N	A	S	A		O	N	T	O		P	R	I	D	E
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