

COMPLIMENTARY

DECEMBER 2022

The Smithfield *Times*



smithfieldtimesri.net

Happy Holidays



Alex Jean-Baptiste holding Asher Jean-Baptiste, Gerard Jean-Baptiste holding Jaxon Jean-Baptiste. Story on page 8.

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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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In Our Community

Pleasant View Veteran's Day Tribute on 11.9.22

Pleasant View Elementary School students, along with Principal Cathy Pleau, honored veterans in the front of Pleasant View Elementary school. Guests included veterans from school families, as well as members of American Legion Balfour-Cole Post of Smithfield.



Balfour-Cole American Legion gave out coffee and donuts at Deerfield Park on Veteran's Day, 11.11.22.



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– John J. Tassoni Jr.



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The Road to Miss America Starts in Smithfield for Abby Mansolillo



Miss Rhode Island, Abby Mansolillo (photo credit Daniel Gagnon Photography)

By Brittni Henderson

It'll be a totally *lit up* month for Miss Rhode Island Abby Mansolillo! The current Miss Rhode Island is excited to be the Grand Marshall in Smithfield's annual *All Lit Up Christmas Parade* on Saturday, December 3. Abby will head straight from the holiday festivities in her hometown to compete in the Miss America competition on December 15, a day she's been looking forward to all year.

"December is a very exciting month in my house," Abby says. "I was delighted when the Smithfield Town Council asked me to be the Grand Marshall in the parade. I remember going to the tree lighting ceremony when I was younger, so to

See Abby Mansolillo, page 7

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Abby Mansolillo, from page 6

be a part of it in this capacity is such a beautiful, full-circle moment. These past seven months have been truly transformative and humbling.”

Abby shares that her immersion in the Smithfield community allowed her to meet so many inspirational people.

“I have heard their stories of strength and healing and been able to share my experience with the Miss America organization and my Social Impact Initiative, ‘Trust Your Gut: Be Your Own Health Advocate.’ I am continually stunned by the amount of support I have received, and for that, I am extremely grateful.”

Abby’s Social Impact Initiative focuses on the empowerment women have in a medical setting. The project was inspired by her mother Elena’s personal health journey. Elena always took her health seriously, but especially so after a large tumor was found in her small intestine. She took charge of her health and made sure that she was properly cared for.

“The hope is that women can speak openly with their healthcare providers and ensure their health is at the forefront of every appointment,” Abby says. “If I can encourage one young woman to speak up, I’ll feel successful.”

Abby is working closely with the Dana Farber Cancer Institute to help patients and their families.

“I am thrilled to be fulfilling a ten-year long dream of representing our state and hope to make all of you proud,” Abby says. “We may be the smallest state, but we have the biggest spirit.”

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Home Sweet Home for the Holidays

By Brittni Henderson

It's been over a decade since Alex Jean-Baptiste has spent the holiday season with her entire extended family. Alex, 31, and her husband Gerard, 29, both professional dancers, spent that time dancing around the world, eventually finding their homebase in Orlando, Florida. The dynamic duo started building their own family, welcoming Jaxon, 4, and Asher, 2 into their lives once they were settled in the Southeast.

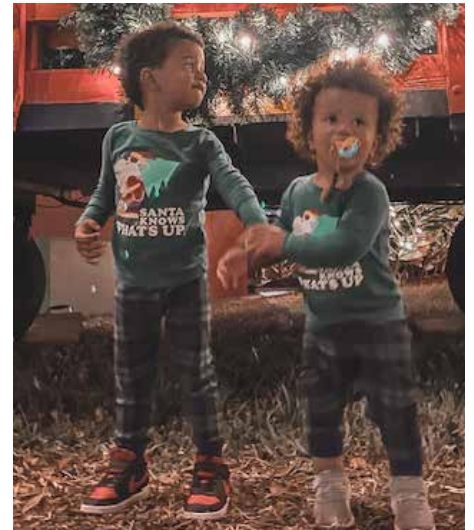
"Living in Florida was incredible," Alex shares, "but we didn't have any family or close friends where we lived. We were struggling without our 'village.'" Facing a crossroads in both housing and employment, the Jean-Baptiste family took it as a sign to resettle in Smithfield when both Alex and Gerard received job offers.

"It was a sign to make the move back," she says.

While living in Florida, Alex and Gerard spent Christmas Eve dancing at Animal Kingdom followed by spending the evening with family who traveled to watch them. Once Jaxon and Asher were born, Santa assigned Bart the Elf to their home to keep an eye on the children.

"We've had family visit us at Disney almost every Christmas," Alex says. "Unfortunately, that's not a tradition we can continue, but we are excited to make new ones with everyone."

While on their journey to find their new forever home, the Jean-Baptiste family is looking forward to spending quality time with everyone in their extended family.



Jaxon and Asher Jean-Baptiste

"My family does an Italian seven-fish dinner, which I haven't been able to enjoy for 11 years!" Alex says. "We're excited to intertwine all of our traditions together."

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SHS Scoop

Holiday Storyfest

by Ellorie Corcoran



The holidays are in full swing, and so is preparation for Smithfield High School's second annual Holiday Storyfest, which is planned and hosted by the SHS's National Honor Society. Last year, NHS member Erica Botelho pitched the first Holiday Storyfest. The event attracted over 500 attendees and was held in front of Anderson Winfield Funeral Home. Santa, The Grinch, and Sparky the Dog all made appearances and children enjoyed a Touch-A-Truck station, craft station, and multiple leaders in Smithfield read holiday stories to the children.

"We're reflecting on the festivities of last year's Storyfest and working hard to make this year's event bigger and better," says National Honor Society President, Emma Ferraro. "In addition to fun activities, we have invited town leaders to appear as guest readers to share their favorite holiday stories and promote childhood literacy."

The planning committee for this year's Storyfest anticipates more attendees and hopes to attract guests beyond Smithfield. In addition to food and drink vendors, plans are underway to include music,

live animals, an escape room, and prizes. This event is run and created completely by students, and it once again shows how Smithfield High School inspires students to grow beyond the classroom and have a positive impact on the community.

Mark your calendars for this festive and free event! The fun will happen on December 10th, from 4:00-6:30pm in front of Anderson Winfield Funeral Home.



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A heartfelt THANK YOU to all the voters of Senate District 22 for your support on Election Day. I promise to be a dedicated public servant, representing the taxpayers and residents of our state with dignity, honor, and professionalism.

Wishing you and your family Happy Holidays.



– David P. Tikoian

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New Smithfield Business Offers The Best of All Worlds

By Paul Lonardo

Dany Abounajem and Fadi El-Ammar are co-owners of the new Coffee Connection and Slice and Scoop in Smithfield, two businesses under one roof. The two men, who are not only business partners but brothers-in-all, are hands-on businessmen who take great pride in what they do, and it would not be unusual to see them working behind the counters.

Because this is, they can't be everywhere at once. They rely on the best people to operate each facility the way they believe it should be run. The Smithfield location alone employs more than 20 people, six of them on a full-time basis.

"We have a lot of food that we prepare in-house," Fadi says, "so we make sure we hire all the people we need to staff each shift."

Fadi, who has a background in hospitality, understands that good customer service is job one.

"Establishing and maintaining a consistent and standardized quality of service allowed us to expand," he says. "We train our staff and our managers to maintain the high standard and consistency that the Coffee Connection brand is known for."

The first Coffee Connection was established in 2001 in Cumberland by Dany Abounajem. Going up against a two-headed dragon in Dunkin Donuts and Starbucks, both staple franchises to java-loving Rhode Islanders, was no small undertaking. But hard work and determination, as well as offering an exceptional product and service, goes a

very long way in any marketplace.

Primarily through word of mouth, the oldest and most effective marketing method, and assisted by social media, the establishment developed a loyal



David Tikoian, Dany Abounajem (Owner), Fadi El Ammar (Owner), Paul Gemma (Slice & Scoop Manager), Dina Abounajem, Chief Robert W. Seltzer, Michael Phillips (Town Planner) and Suzy Alba.

patronage base that only increased over time. Ultimately, this is what allowed the company to expand, opening a Coffee Connection in Woonsocket in 2011, North Providence in 2014, North Attleboro in 2019 and Providence in 2021.

The newest location in Smithfield, which opened for business at the end of October, offers more than just coffee. The owners established a twin business called Slice And Scoop, a unique business model that sets them apart from their competition. If the coffee isn't enough to get you in the door, you will not be able to resist treating yourself to some ice cream or pizza, complete with a full range of toppings and

amenities to choose from. Beyond pizza, there are options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The menu includes everything from breakfast sandwiches to grinders, wings, chicken tenders, pasta, meatballs and lasagna, as well as lighter fare such as salads and subs with vegan options.

"We have wide-variety menu," Fadi says. "Our target goal has always been to give our customers options. There's something on the menu for everyone, no matter what your taste."

It's hard to disagree with that. The seating areas are roomy and clean, and the décor is welcoming. There is an outdoor patio, a drive-thru window, and take-out is available. It's certainly a unique setting, and Smithfield has embraced the one stop combination coffee shop-pizza-ice cream shop.

Dany and Fadi would like to continue expansion of their

brand throughout the state, and they are always looking for good people at any of their current locations. If you are interested, feel free to contact the owners of Coffee Connection. Visit them on-line at coffeeconnectionri.com.

The new Coffee Connection and Slice and Scoop are located at 665 Douglas Pike.

➡ Slice and Scoop is open from 11:00am-9:00pm Monday through Saturday; 12:00-8:00pm on Sunday.

➡ Coffee Connection is open from 6:00am-6:00pm on weekdays; 6:00am-4:00pm on weekends.

Photo credit: Mark Carrier



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Coming Soon – Assados Kitchen & Bar, *A Place to Make Memories and Friends*

By: Brittni Henderson

Amongst the buzzing of chainsaws and pounding of hammers, father-and-son partners Jorge and Ryan Diogo beam with excitement for their delicious new business venture, Assados. The duo is revitalizing the space at 102 Putnam Pike in Harmony to bring a modern-American, casual dining experience to the space that has homed the memories of friends and family for years.

The Diogos hope to continue the tradition of family-friendly dining while bringing new life to the building that has fed so many.

“This building already had great bones,” says Ryan, 26, who is following in his father’s footsteps. “The Town of Gloucester has been so welcoming. We have met so many people who stop by to introduce themselves, inquire about who we are, and seem genuinely excited about our restaurant.”

Jorge has been in the industry for 45 years. He started as a part-time line cook to at the Roast House restaurant in his youth and took over as owner short of two decades ago. He took his son Ryan under his wing and Ryan’s passion for the hustle and bustle of the restaurant business quickly blossomed.

Keeping with the theme they’ve been so familiar

with for years, the name Assados is Portuguese for the word “roast.” The Diogo family is proud of their Portuguese heritage and will incorporate some authentic dishes to the menu to reflect this. Their family heritage runs deep and will be evident through the experience diners will enjoy at Assados.

Expect to dive into delectable seafood dishes, prime rib, and steak. There will be a Mediterranean flair to some dishes, but the classics like fish and chips will be available, too. Ingredients will be sourced locally to reiterate their passion for community connection.

Jorge and Ryan invite all to dine

at Assados. They are aware of the history the building holds for many in the area. From high school events to weddings, those walls have seen it all. The Diogos hope to keep the traditions alive and invite parties of all sizes to eat, drink, and create memories at Assados.

With opening expected at some point in December, you will not have to wait much longer to enjoy a meal at Assados. Come spring, the outdoor deck area will be ready for even more fun!

Assados is hiring a full staff and are hiring every position from bus person to manager. To apply, visit assadoskitchenbar.com.



Jorge and Ryan Diogo

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Rhode Island, We Have A Problem!

By Diane L. Marolla, LICSW, CFRC

I love quotes. “Houston, we have a problem,” is a specific phrase that is in my head daily as we have a serious shortage of healthcare providers in Rhode Island. Regardless of your patient status, wait times are long. The last time I met with my Primary Care Physician (PCP) was in 2020. At that time, I was unable to schedule my annual visit in 2021 because she did not have any appointments available. I went without an annual mammogram that year as well.

Recently, I had to reschedule my six-month annual cleaning for my teeth. The earliest appointment I could get with my dentist is March 2023. Wellness visits such as our annual exams for our physical health and oral care are critical. When we don’t have them, we are at risk for chronic or life-threatening health conditions. It is very important to maintain relationships with doctors if you have them and attend your visits faithfully. If you need to reschedule, be prepared to wait a long time.

NBC 10’s Tamara Sacharczyk recently did a story on the shortage. The story was quite comprehensive as it spoke to how the reimbursement rates for Rhode Island providers is substantially lower than the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Poor reimbursement rates to healthcare providers have been a problem for years. Our local state representatives and senators know this is a problem. The Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner knows. Our federal delegation also knows this is a problem. If everyone knows this is a problem, then why doesn’t anyone fix it? Well, the answer is simple. They have been convinced by the insurance

companies, and by the Department of Human Services that it will raise premiums for businesses and raise taxes for Rhode Islanders. This is a lie. The truth is the insurance companies scare our politicians and DHS into believing this. They do this every year when the topic comes up. What the insurance companies and DHS fail to communicate to elected officials is the following:

- Insurance companies’ payment policies are flawed. Insurance companies only care about one thing – making money. Having worked for two located here in RI, I learned that each company has layers of executives with fancy titles. These executives at the Vice President and Director level make over six figures. In the larger, for-profit companies, they make seven figure salaries. What they don’t tell you is that their bonuses and salaries are based on making money and saving costs.
- The insurance companies are held “hostage” by large health systems like Lifespan because Lifespan holds all the power in RI. The rates that are paid by the insurance companies for all the services they provide leave no negotiating power for smaller healthcare systems or the small practices in RI. The evidence is clear that large health care systems increase costs of healthcare and decrease

the quality of healthcare. That is why the merger between Lifespan and Care New England was stopped.

It is perplexing as to where our one and only medical school is in the advocacy process for paying healthcare providers more. If people recall, Brown University was pro the Lifespan merger and against Partner’s Healthcare coming to RI. They used their power and influence to join our then Governor to stop that merger. And why were they opposed? They didn’t want to compete with the Massachusetts based medical schools.

If you are having difficulty finding a provider, I recommend the following to you:

- ▶ Call your insurance company and tell them THEY must find someone for you.
- ▶ Call your local state representative and senator.
- ▶ File complaints with Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner. This office, in my opinion, needs to be more assertive in protecting the healthcare of the citizens in RI.



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David Tikoian Press Release

Let me begin by saying thank you to all the voters in Smithfield, North Providence, and Lincoln for electing me as your State Senator in District 22, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Whether it was by mail, early, or in person voting, you participated in the great American experiment called Democracy.

I wish to thank my family, friends, supporters, and volunteers who enthusiastically gave their time, resources, and wisdom during the campaign.

While it would be difficult to thank each and every person who supported our Team, I wish to acknowledge everyone who has been by my side from day one to those who recently contributed.

Whether you walked along side me, assembled signs, put one up in your yard, or contributed ideas to the campaign, I want you all to know how grateful I am to each and every one of you.

A special thank you to thank the over 5,800 voters who voted for David P. Tikoian.

I want to be very clear, although you voted for David P. Tikoian, you also voted for a return on your investment.

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Ask an Expert

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

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



Is Painting Over Wallpaper a Good Idea?

Occasionally I get asked a serious question that may invoke some giggling from others until they hear the answer to it.

The question: "Is painting over wallpaper a good idea?" falls directly into this category.

If the average home improvement contractor/painter were to overhear someone asking me this question, their initial reaction may be a bit of head shaking accompanying a chuckle, as the question on its surface may seem a bit ridiculous to them.

Afterall, if one was going to paint a wall with wallpaper on it, wouldn't they want to take the wallpaper off first?

I mean, seriously, isn't that the whole purpose of painting a wallpapered wall properly?

If you paint over wallpaper, aren't the surfaces just going to look like painted wallpaper??

Possibly.

However, possibly not ...

As crazy an idea as painting over wallpaper may appear to be on the surface, there are not only viable circumstances that may justify painting the wallpaper, but there are typically ways to paint a wallpapered wall and

make it look like a regular painted wall without any long-term negative implications.

Even if it "can" be done, why the heck would someone want to paint over wallpaper in the first place?

Possibly for a number of reasons ...

The person undertaking the project may be afraid that if the wallpaper is removed, the walls that the wallpaper is attached to may come off with it.

In many instances, this is a legitimate concern!

Maybe the person taking on the project is short on time and needs to get the walls painted quickly, or perhaps the person merely wants to paint the walls

and not have to deal with the hassle of removing the wallpaper.

If the goal is to paint the wallpaper and truly have things look like what one would expect to see when looking at a normal painted wall, there are certainly things that must be done in order to most correctly achieve this.

The first thing one should do is to make sure that the walls are clean and that any loose paper is surgically removed (a razor knife teaming with a putty knife will work fine for this task).

After that, a prime coat of 'GARDZ' or comparable primer should be applied to the wallpaper to stabilize its surfaces and neutralize any weird reaction that the coming layers of product might have

See Ask An Expert, page 19

About Tom Lopatosky

Tom Lopatosky has run his own RI-based painting and repair business since 1995; LOPCO Contracting - the "Personable, Particular Professionals" - specializes in exterior & interior painting and carpentry. 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. You can catch Tom LIVE on the radio EVERY Saturday, 2pm-3pm, on 630 WPRO AM (99.7 FM) during his weekly ProTalk Home Improvement Radio Show!

interacting with any adhesive used to originally hold the wallpaper in place.

Following this, I would suggest priming the walls with a latex primer, then smoothing out any imperfections and/or seams with a thin layer of joint compound or spackle. Next, you would sand the dried joint compound or spackle after it has dried, spot priming the sanded areas, and then repeating the process of smoothing out/sanding/priming until the surface appears to be prepped out properly enough (smooth looking and feeling) to paint.

Then, finally, apply two coats of finish (in this scenario my suggestion is a 'Matte' sheen) and voila, at this point you should have some pretty good looking painted wallpaper!

Although I am certainly not advocating for painting over wallpaper as a common practice, as my preference truly is to remove the wallpaper completely prior to painting any wall with wallpaper, I am simply acknowledging that contrary to popular opinion, wallpaper can absolutely be painted and is not as horrible an idea as one may initially think.



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The Ghosts of the Lost City

By Gabrielle Libutti

Don't blink or you might miss it. Nestled deeply within the woods of Smithfield are unmarked trails that lead you through what's left of Hanton City. The colonial-era village, also known as "haunted city," "the lost city," and "ghost city," has long been the center of speculation by history buffs and ghost enthusiasts alike. Take a step back in time and see original stone foundations, a well once used by the townspeople, and even old highway markers. These are the only remains of the city ... Or are they?

A YouTube video from Jason Allard's series, "Abandoned from Above," which documented his findings from his trip to Hanton City, sparked interest among Smithfield Parks and Recreation Director, Robert Caine and Program Coordinator Laura Field-Swallow. As the end of October crept closer, they were inspired to organize a guided walk on the trail where locals could safely explore the rich history of the town and do a little ghost hunting. They reached out to local paranormal researcher and

investigator, Tom D'Agostino, and his wife, Arlene, and invited them to lead the walk. Tom has previously investigated the area many times, and Arlene grew up right alongside the original trail so both had considerable knowledge and were eager to share with the group.

Around 1:00pm on Saturday, October 30th, Tom and Arlene led a group of 25 Smithfield residents on a two hour, two mile walk along part of the Hanton City Trail. Right from the beginning, Tom and Arlene offered lots of interesting historical facts, handouts with additional information, and even had the group's stops mapped out to investigate areas with the most electronic voice phenomena (EVP) activity. One of the more heightened levels of activity occurred at an old stone foundation. Tom recorded a voice that clearly said "reach." The group found many out of place items with no explanation as to how they ended up along the trail. An old walking stick was one such item, and Tom cautioned the group to not disturb

it. Evidence collected on the walk is still under review and any new readings will be sent to the participants for their review. I was told that right before the walking tour began, Tom and Arlene changed which trail they explored with the group because higher levels of EVP readings were being recorded on the new path.

On behalf of the whole Smithfield Recreation Department, Robert and Laura extended their gratitude towards Tom and Arlene. Without their extensive knowledge, equipment, and willingness to lead the investigation, the walking tour wouldn't have been possible. Part of the trail runs along property owned by Fidelity, so they wanted to thank Fidelity for allowing the tour to venture onto their land. Unfortunately, Jason Allard was unable to attend the walk, but his videos were greatly appreciated and enjoyed. Finally, a huge thank you goes out to all the people who participated in the walk and those who showed great interest in it.

See Lost City, page 23



While the group was capped at 25 people this year, plans for next year's walking tour are in the works. Hopefully more people will be able to experience this once in a lifetime adventure.

Whether you attended, were interested, or are just hearing about it now, the Smithfield Recreation Department would love your feedback! What did you love about this year's tour that you would like to see repeated? What improvements would you suggest? They want to hear it all. Be sure to check out their Facebook group "Smithfield Recreation Department" to stay updated on the plans for next year's trail walk or other exciting events they have planned.

The little known but largely speculated Lost City of Hanton is only the beginning of the rich history that makes up the town of Smithfield. Chock full of mystery, it gets you wondering. Who's living in your backyard?

Engagement Announcement

Kyle and Heather Anderson and William and Robin Orteleva are elated to announce the engagement of their children Alexandra Elizabeth Anderson and Michael Anthony Orteleva, respectively. Alexandra of Greenville, RI and Michael of Galax, VA lit the flame of their romance while working at Applebee's in Smithfield, RI. The two will tie the knot January 20, 2023 at the Towers in Narragansett, RI.



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Ask Our Attorney

Terrance N. Turner, Esq.



This legal column is only for purposes of general discussion of the law. It is not designed for purposes of legal advice for your own personal case, nor is any given. Discussion in this column should not be relied on without a consultation with your own personal attorney. No attorney-client relationship is established between the reader and Turner Law Offices.

He Took My Money ... and Disappeared!

... and was never heard from again.
Hmmm?

Fall is in the air. Apples are being picked (or dropped in some cases.) The scent of steaming cider is in many kitchens. Bails of hay, scarecrows, and ghosts many homes in the area.

Amongst all the fresh, delicious apples being picked from local orchards, there are bound to be a couple of bad ones. A few bad apples can be found in every area of life, including with contractors. Most are dependable, honest, and quality workers, but a small handful can leave a bad taste in your mouth (pun intended) and give the overall industry a black eye.

Every year my office gets a few phone calls from anxious homeowners who have had, or are having, problems with home contractors. This usually occurs in late Fall, when people are getting nervous about not having a certain home renovation project done before the New England Winter settles in. At the other end, these calls also come in early Spring, when people often have a 'laundry list' of repairs for their property that they want done before the Summer arrives.

I can think of no other business contract scenario more apropos for those words of wisdom from one of our great American institutions, the Boy

Scouts: "Be Prepared!" Getting ready to sign contracts for house repairs? Be prepared. Getting ready to write out a check for a new paint job? Be prepared. Replacing that old, dilapidated deck with a new one? Be prepared.

"Speak now or forever hold your peace" may sound more apropos for a wedding than for a building contract, but the underlying concept is the same: ask questions first, sign the contract later. Far better that you check on the contractor's background, before you write out checks for the work you want done.

Mind you, I'm not talking about checking out the contractor's record with the Better Business Bureau. What I'm referring to is a professional background investigation by someone who knows how to do such a check from top to bottom. Most homeowners/consumers don't have the knowhow to do this or don't have the time to do so. This is where you may want to consider retaining an attorney who is skilled and experienced at checking out a builder/contractor from "A to Z" so to speak. Not all attorneys provide this sort of professional service as part of their law practice, but some do. They'll know how to thoroughly screen the builder you're interested in, everything from credit bureau reports to government agency records, and to lawsuits involving the contractor.

Depending on what state you're in, there are usually a few government agencies involved in dealing with builders/contractors. Depending on what the state calls these agencies, you may end up dealing with the District Attorney or Attorney General (if the matter becomes criminal); the insurance commissioner's office; the contractor's registration board; the department/bureau of business regulation; the secretary of state's office; your local building commissioner; your municipality's engineer; your zoning official; and a myriad of other local or state regulatory bodies.

Sounds like a lot to deal with, doesn't it? Well, that's precisely the point. Do your "due diligence" (or have your legal counsel do it) before you sign that contract or write out a check.

I must end this article here, because I've got to finish painting my deck!

➡ **Terrance N. Turner, HON.**
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Mr. Piggy – A True-life Rhode Island Adventure

By Sue Guilmain

On a crisp September day, my husband got up, looked out the window and said,

“There’s a pig.”

“What I asked?”

“A pig.”

“A what?” I wasn’t sure if I heard him right.

“There’s a pig in the back yard.”

I went to look, and sure enough, there was a cute, 100 pound pig eating the acorns that covered our back yard. We were careful to take the dog out on a leash to the front of the house, but by the time we had gotten back inside, the pig was gone.

The next morning the pig returned he stayed over an hour. We contacted a neighbor about this peculiar stray, and he said that the pig was named Loin. The pig had been loose for about three weeks, but he had no way to contact the owner.

I found a potential address, so I drove the mile down the road to see if I could speak to the potential owner. Unfortunately, no one was home so I left my phone number.

Meanwhile, I spread some corn in a few places on the edge of the back of my lawn. Within a few hours it was gone. Perhaps I could put a line of corn from the yard to the unused, partially fenced garden, or the garage, which would enable us to close him in. So, we tried to lure him further. Unfortunately, the fence was near the driveway, and he knew we would appear from that side of the house. He wanted no part of being near people. If he saw us, he would stare for a second, then trot off into the woods.

After a few days, I was able to get a correct phone number for Kurt, the pig’s owner, and texted him. He was glad we saw him, and that Mr. Piggy was coming back regularly. The pig had been in a rough area of town with rocky ridges and cliffs where he could fall and injure himself. He had roamed several miles north and south of where we were but was now coming every day for a cup or two of cracked corn.

Kurt was in Missouri, showing his Grand Champion dogs at a national show. He promised to get a Have-A-Heart trap out and set it up for us. When he set it up, Kurt filled it with his grain, pumpkin, and marshmallows, treats the pig apparently loved.

Mr. Piggy was no fool. He ate the marshmallows outside the trap, but would not go in. After a few days, Kurt came back with more treats, but Mr. Piggy only ate what was outside the trap, or maybe in the first few inches of the trap’s entryway.

We learned that he had made a nest for the night on the side of our neighbor’s alpaca pen. Mr. Piggy dug down three feet or so, then piled brush on top, so he was cozy and relatively dry. Kurt’s next plan was to corral him in the alpaca pen and get him home from there. It took several people one evening, but they were able to get him into the pen. Since it was getting dark, it was decided to leave them together overnight. Sure



Loin – A.K.A. Mr. Piggy

enough, they were fine overnight, but when people came to the pen in the morning, Mr. Piggy was not ready to go home. He broke through the gate, and in the chaos, let all the alpacas loose too!

That was how I was greeted in the morning – the pig was gone, but a herd of alpacas were running by with the neighbor chasing them and trying to get them home. My neighbor did capture the alpacas, commenting, “It is easier to capture alpacas than a pig!”

Mr. Piggy remained a local vagabond for the time being. Kurt had researched ways to catch a pig and decided a southern good old boy wild hog trap was his best bet. This entails building a 10 or 12 foot diameter pen with fencing, and fence posts which are staked down. The entrance is a flexible “V” shape that narrowed to let an animal in but should prevent it from leaving.

One fine fall Saturday, Kurt constructed the wild hog pen in our backyard. Mr. Piggy hadn’t come by for a while after escaping the Have-a-Heart trap, but was

See Mr. Piggy, page 27

probably watching the commotion from a safe distance. Then the plan would be to get him into a dog crate to transport him home.

Sure enough, Mr. Piggy came out to inspect the pen, after everyone had left. He circled it, ate the food in the entryway, and even got to the food inside, but then was able to get out. He then left the yard, probably again laughing at escaping the people trying to outsmart him.

Kurt came back, again to put food in the pen and adjust the opening so Mr. Pig could not get out. This time, after Kurt walked away, Mr. Piggy went into the hog pen and couldn't get out! He tried to dig down under the fence. He pushed and grunted. Kurt knew his pig, and the pig knew Kurt. When Kurt stood opposite the pig, who was trying to dig out, and firmly said "No. No Pig!" Mr.

Pig stopped and walked away. He was still pacing and pawing and angry, so Kurt got the other half of the vodka-soaked watermelon, a trick learned from an anonymous veterinarian, and set it in the pen.


He slurped, guzzled, and ate that half watermelon in a flash. After a few minutes, it was time to try to put him into a smaller transport cage. But still Mr. Pig was having no part of that. A half a bottle of vodka and a watermelon weren't going to end his freedom. Time for more vodka. Under Kurt's instructions, I put a scoop of grain into our dog's water dish, and poured in another 1/4 bottle of vodka, to be soaked up into the grain. After soaking several minutes, Kurt gave it to his pet.

Again the pig immediately slurped and gobbled the grain, even licking any spilled vodka from the floor of his cage.

Every drop of vodka was diligently found and consumed. Who would have known? This pig loved vodka! For this, he would gladly go into the carrying crate and his attempts at escape were much more subdued. Of course, 3/4 of a bottle of alcohol might put anything his size out cold.

Mr. Piggy was then able to be closed into the carrying crate, lifted onto a truck, and brought home. He had been on the run for 33 days. Mr. Piggy was brought home to his pen, which he had peacefully shared with his sister for 4 or so years, and where they had slept side by side in a small shed. But this time, his sister would have no part of the drunken fellow that returned home. She kicked him out of the shed, and so that night, he slept it off, alone in the doghouse.

Welcome home, Mr. Piggy. Safe and sound again and seemingly content.





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Inside The Brown Bag

The Year of TWO Christmas Trees?

By Peg Brown

The pandemic spawned many trends that remind us of our younger selves. Many of us wish to capture the magical memories of our childhood. However, retail companies have created a new category for these nostalgic seeking adults, deeming them Kidults!

There has been tremendous growth in toy sales to Kidults over the past year. Purchases by those 18 and over now account for over \$5.6 billion dollars in sales. Chief among the purchases to put under the second tree include building sets like LEGOs, stuffed animals, and action figures – Star Wars has never died for the 40 and over demographic. A 2021 survey conducted by the US Toy Association confirmed that more than 50 percent of adults bought toys and games for their own use. (WSJ, Oct. 8, 2022)

In shopping for the Kidult in your family, stop for lunch at your nearest McDonald's to make your list. Never to miss a trend, McDonald's recently introduced a happy meal for adults that contains chicken nuggets, fries, a drink, and a version of the early McDonald's mascots as a toy. Once you have your list you can head out to fulfill one of your kidult's wishes on his or her Santa list.

Your first stop should be your local Build-a-Bear. Originally designed as an opportunity for adults and their children to create a customized fluffy pal, adults are now creating their own furry friends, accounting for 40 percent of sales. If you're thinking of something a little more risqué in this category for your Kidult, you'll have to visit the Build-a-Bear website that offers let's just say more suggestive themes

that might not be appropriate for your 10-year-old.

The absolute "hottest" item for Kidults in an American Girl Doll. Founded in the 1980s, the American Girl Doll Company began producing dolls and books that portrayed 8- to 14-year-old girls and boys of a variety of ethnicities, faiths, and social classes from different time periods through history. Eventually dolls and stories of contemporary life were added. Options were introduced to create dolls that looked like their owners under the "Truly Me" series.

American Girl stores opened cafes where youngsters could choose their favorite character over lunch. In response to the renewed interest by Kidults, these cafes have added cocktails and wine choices to their menu. Promoted by films, an American Girl Doll magazine, and videos which have a collective 361 million views on Tik Tok featuring adults and their dolls in matching outfits, the market has exploded. One collector has even planned a bachelorette party featuring American Dolls. If the invitees don't have an American Girl Doll – no problem, she has eight.

Be warned however if you plan to place a few of the dolls under your Kidult Christmas tree. Basic dolls without accessories cost \$115. If you add a backpack, a service dog, historically accurate furniture, the American Girl Doll coffee shop, a kitchen, and a camper for the doll's vacation for \$325, you'll need to be ready to invest almost \$1,000 on doll merchandise.

If there's any room under that Kidult tree for the men in your life, the favorite



nostalgic gifts this year include Stretch Armstrong, a Hot Wheels garage exclusive bundle with 20 cars, a LEGO kit to build a Star Wars spaceship, and a classic Lionel train set, complete with a smoke-belching locomotive.

Leave the electronics to the teens. Put up your Kidult tree and capture a moment from your past. After all, isn't Christmas about all your childhood memories? And couldn't we all use a bit of a nostalgic escape this year?

Author's Note:

- In truth I remember very few of the Christmas gifts I received over the years. What I do remember were the traditions associated with decorating, cooking, gathering family and friends, and the smell of evergreens throughout the house. These are the memories that mean Christmas to me.
- But ... I did always want a train set and Santa never seemed to believe that a little girl of the 1950s should have one. That's when Santa was all bogged down in gender specific gift choices!

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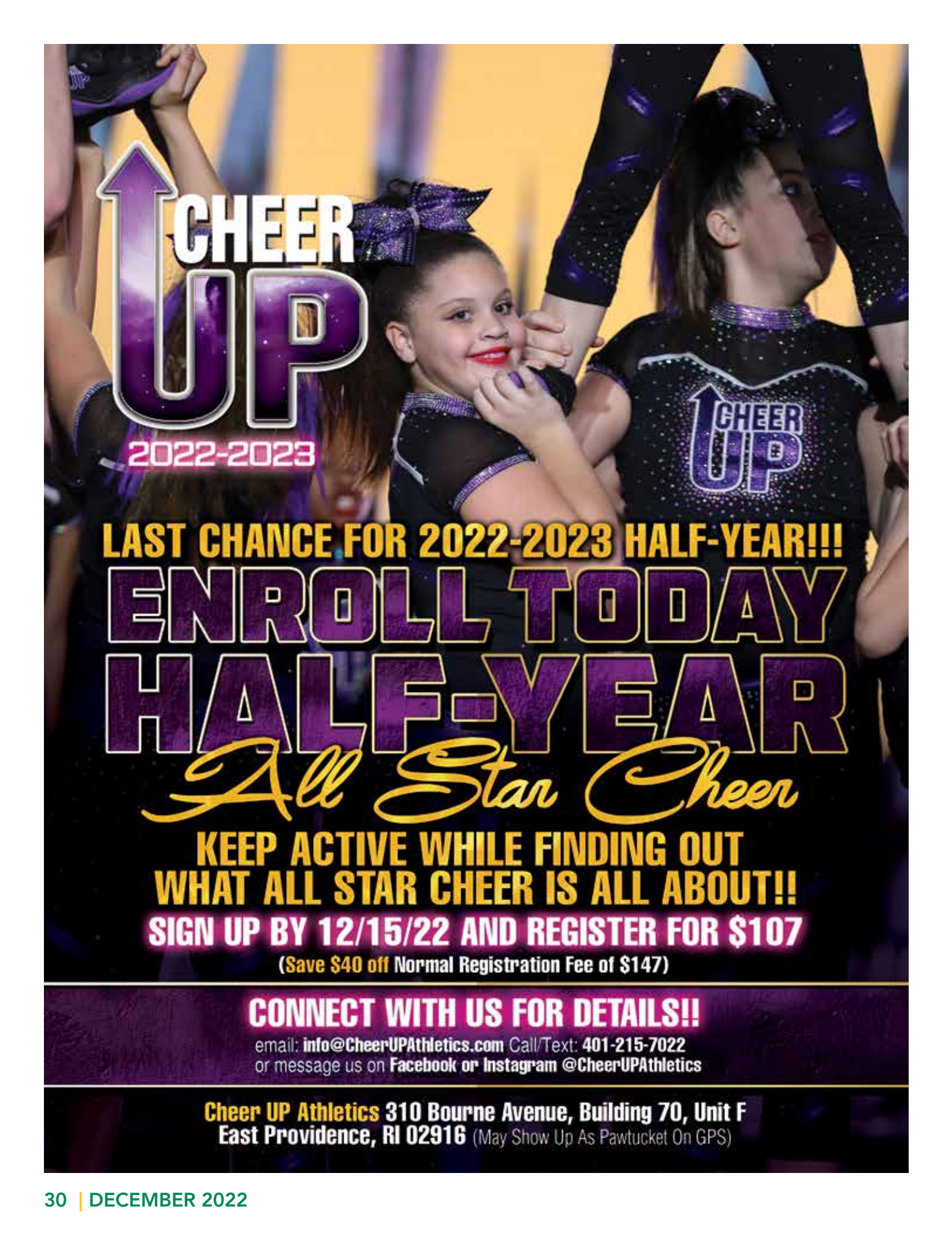
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The Nature of Things

by James Gass

These Plants Bring a Splash of Winter Color

Have you been out in the woods lately and have noticed two medium-sized shrubs throwing some much needed color into an otherwise bland landscape? One of them has dainty yellow blooms forming along its branches, the other, bright red berries. You probably already know what plants I'm talking about. They're witch hazel and winterberry.

These common broad-leaved deciduous shrubs are found in Smithfield and throughout southern New England. Witch hazel prefers moist woods, temporarily flooded forested wetlands, or fringes of swamps. Winterberry (sometimes called black alder) is usually associated with forested wetlands and shrub swamps, often found growing along ponds, streams, or in the rich soil of river bottoms. Witch hazel can sometimes grow as high as 30 feet (usually 5 to 15 feet), but winterberry tends to be shorter, usually 6 to 10 feet. If you have never seen these plants, a specimen of each graces the walkway leading to the main entrance of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island's headquarters here in Smithfield. Both shrubs are native and are an excellent alternative to use in landscaping rather than introduced species.

As its name implies, winterberry has showy red berries that form along its branches that persist well into December and beyond. It is in the holly family, and like its cousin the American holly, is sexually dimorphic, meaning the plants are either male or female (females bear the fruit). The plentiful berries are a good food source for overwintering birds. During the summer, this wetland shrub has alternately-

arranged, coarsely-toothed leaves that have a distinctive tip. The small, white flowers form singly or in clusters in the leaf axils, blooming from May through August.



Witch Hazel

With its cheery, festive red berries, you might be tempted to cut the branches of a winterberry to decorate your home or hearth during the holiday season. However, this practice is illegal in Rhode Island. Along with several other native deciduous shrubs including American holly, inkberry, and flowering dogwood, winterberry is protected by the "Christmas Greens" law. It is unlawful to take a part, or the whole, of any of these plants unless it is on your property or you have written permission from a landowner.

Witch hazel is unlike most of our other native shrubs in that it blooms from late fall through early winter, not in the spring. The delicate, threadlike, pale yellow blooms form in clusters in the leaf axils and are most conspicuous from late October through November, sometimes into December. After the bloom passes, a small, hard, light brown fruit capsule with four well-spaced

compartments forms. It takes months to mature and may remain on the plant for several years. When ripe, the capsule bursts open and propels tiny black seeds a considerable distance, sometimes up to 50 feet. Witch hazel leaves are alternately arranged with rounded teeth that have wavy margins.

Although winterberry has the colorful berries, it is witch hazel that has the more colorful history. One of the reasons the shrub got its name is that during the colonial era in southern New England, it was thought that a forked branch from this shrub could lead you to an underground water source, a practice known as "dowsing" or "water witching." The technique was widely used in Europe at the time and was brought to the New World by English settlers. The colonists eventually learned of the plants medicinal properties from local Native Americans, and now witch hazel is a common over-the-counter remedy found in the medicine cabinets of most American homes. The leaves, twigs and bark contain an oil which when distilled, produces an extract that can be used as an anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory, astringent, haemostatic, or tonic. It is generally used for skin problems such as acne, bedsores, bruises, hemorrhoids, insect bites, poison ivy, or sunburn.

Witch hazel and winterberry grow on practically every Smithfield town park or conservation area, or anywhere there is a wetland. It may be a little late to catch the witch hazel in bloom, but keep an eye out for the vibrant, red winterberries – before the birds eat them all!

Bishop Nikolaos of Myra and Santa Claus

By Jim Ignasher

Nikolaos was born in the year 270 AD in what is today known as Turkey. He was raised a Christian and was deeply religious. While in his teens, he lost both parents to an epidemic and inherited considerable wealth.

Nikolaos used his money to help those in need and performed many anonymous acts of charity. There's a popular story concerning a poor man and his three unwed daughters. In those days, a woman needed a dowry to be married. In this story, the family lived in poverty and the possibility existed that the girls would be sold into slavery. Upon hearing of this, Nikolaos secretly went their home one night and tossed a bag of coins through an open window. He repeated this gesture each night and his third visit, the girl's father was keeping watch to see who his benefactor was. Some versions relate how the bags happened to land in the women's shoes which had been set by the hearth.

Nikolaos went on to become a priest and eventually the Bishop of Myra, a town on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. In addition to charitable work, there are legends that tell of miracles he performed, including raising the dead. Nikolaos died on December 6, 343 AD and was later canonized a saint in the Catholic Church as Saint Nikolaos, better known today as Saint Nicholas.

Afterwards, people across Europe began celebrating December 6th, as his feast day. In the Netherlands, it became known as the Feast of Sinterklass, on the eve of which children would place their shoes before a hearth to be filled with candies and other small gifts left by Sinterklass.

Sinterklass rode a white horse and wore a bishop's cap and a red cloak. He also carried a book containing the names of children who'd been naughty or nice.

In the early 1600s, Dutch immigrants established a settlement on the tip of Manhattan Island and called it New Amsterdam. Keeping with their cultural traditions, they continued to celebrate the Feast of Sinterklass in the New World. When English settlers came to America, the name "Sinterklass" morphed to "Santeclaus," and finally became "Santa Claus."

Although the name had changed, it took a long time before the image of Santa Claus as we think of him today came to be. He wasn't always dressed in red, flying a sled pulled by reindeer. That transformation didn't take place until the 19th century.

What's believed to be the earliest description of a flying Santa was given by famous author Washington Irving in his book, "Knickerbocker's History of New York," published in 1809. Irving wrote of "Nicholas" passing over the trees and rooftops dropping presents down the chimneys of his "favorites."

In 1821, William Gilley wrote a book titled "The Children's Friend." This story was a depiction of Santa in his sled parked on a rooftop being pulled by a single reindeer. Eventually Santa stopped dropping presents down chimneys and began bringing them down himself.

In 1822, Clement Clark Moore wrote a poem called "An Account of a Visit from Saint Nicholas," that described Santa as being, *"dressed in all fur, from his head to his foot, and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot."* Moore also described Santa's rosy cheeks, white beard, his smoking pipe, and ample girth, as well as a sled pulled by "eight tiny reindeer," all of which had the names we know today. Moore's poem is still a Yuletide favorite, but it's now known as "The Night Before Christmas."

Artists of the time built upon Moore's description but took artistic license in their renderings.

While virtually all depicted Santa with a white beard, the style and color of his clothing was left to interpretation. At times he was shown to be walking instead of riding in a sleigh. These various Santas were depicted in postcards and advertisements well into the 20th century, some even bearing a striking resemblance to St. Nicholas and Sinterklass.

The Santa we know and recognize today came about in 1931 when artist Haddon Sundblom was commissioned by the Coca Cola Company to create illustrations for upcoming Christmas advertisements. Contrary to popular belief, Sundblom wasn't the first to show Santa wearing red.

When St. Nicholas died, he was initially buried in Myra, but was disinterred in 1087 AD when his remains were stolen and brought to Bari, Italy, where they "mostly" remain today. However, reputed fragments of the saint's bones are scattered throughout the world, including a piece of a pelvic bone kept at St. Martha of Bethany Church in Morton Grove, Illinois. Should you ever visit the church, you can pay respects to the real Santa Claus.

Merry Christmas!



Bishop Nikolaos

Village Paws is pleased to announce that once again they will be a collection site for:



If interested in participating, please bring your new unwrapped gift by prior to December 20th.

**Location: 615 Putnam Pike Greenville, RI
Telephone Number: 401 949 5000**



Greenville Public Library

573 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI 02828
Contact: Cassie Patterson • 401-949-3630 ext 117
greenvilleasstdirector@gmail.com • greenvillelibraryri.org



Friends of the Library Holiday Raffle

Tickets on sale Monday, November 21 – Saturday
December 10

An Afternoon of Fun with Santa

Saturday, December 10 at 1:00 pm

Children's Events

American Girl Book Club

Tuesday, December 6 at 4:15 pm

PAWS to Read

Monday, December 12 at 6:00 pm

After School Sensory Storytime

Thursday, December 15 at 4:00 pm

School Vacation Activities

Dancin' with Hoops Family Program

Tuesday, December 27 at 2:00 pm

Apple Valley Rock and Minerals Children's Program

Thursday, December 29 at 11:00 am

Teen Events

Vote for the Greenville Library's YA Hall of Fame!

Vote for your favorite YA books, authors, and characters to be included in the Greenville Library's new YA Hall of Fame. Submit your vote in the YA section or through an online form on our website. Voting will take place from December 1-23. Winners will be announced at a special event on Thursday, December 29.

Unplugged Hour of Code: Color by Pixel (Grades 6-12)

Monday, December 5, 6:00-7:00 pm

Young Writers Workshop|

(Grades 6-12)

Saturday, December 10, from 10:00-11:00 am

Waffle Lotta Fun Book Group

(Grades 6-12)

Monday, December 12, 6:00-7:00 pm

Cozy Craft Café

(Grades 6-12)

Thursday, December 15, 3:30-4:30 pm

Magic: The Gathering

(Grades 6-12)

Monday, December 19, 6:00-8:00 pm

Safe Sitter

(Grades 6-8)

Wednesday, December 28, 9:00 am-2:30 pm

YA Hall of Fame Celebration

(Grades 6-12)

Thursday, December 29, 6:00-7:00 pm

Virtual Community Service Hours

(Grades 6-12)

Adult Events

Virtual Book Chat

Thursday, December 1 at 6:00 pm

Bow Making and Gift Wrapping Class

Thursday, December 8 at 6:00 pm

Coffee & Books

Wednesday, December 14 at 10:30 am

Monday Matinee

Monday, December 19 at 2:00 pm



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:

Tiny-Tots Story Time (children 18 months to 3 years old) - Tuesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Preschool Story Time (children ages 3 to 5 years old) - Wednesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Saturday Specials: December 3rd @ 10:00 a.m. – Ornament Craft; and December 17th @ 10:30 a.m. – Family Story Time.

Heritage Ballet: Creative Dance Series – Monday mornings from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Bookworms Book Group – Thursday, December 8th @ 4:30 p.m.

“Books Are Fun!” Book Group – Thursday, December 15th @ 4:30 p.m.

Middle School Book Group – Wednesday, December 21st @ 3:30 p.m.

Arts and Crafts Club – Monday, December 12th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Countdown – Thursday, December 22nd from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

“Grab and Go” Winter Craft – Tuesday, December 27th after 1:00 p.m.

BINGO and Hot Chocolate – Wednesday, December 28th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pajama Story Time – Thursday, December 29th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Young Adult Programming:

Good Cheer and Good Citizenship: It's a Wonderful Life! – December 7th @ 4:00 p.m.

Academic Paper Workshop – Friday, December 9th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Gingerbread House – Wednesday, December 14th at 5:00 p.m.

High School Book Group – Friday, December 16th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Bullet Journal Workshop – Monday, December 19th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Movie Monday - Monday, December 19th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Anime Club – Friday, December 23rd from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Name That Tune – Wednesday, December 28th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Creative Writing Workshop – Friday, December 30th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Adult Programming:

Card Club – Thursday, December 1st @ 5:30 p.m.

Knitting and Crochet Group – Tuesdays – December 6th and 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday Night Book Club – Thursday, December 8th @ 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Frosted Glass Craft – Monday, December 12th @ 5:30 p.m.

Adult Board/Card Game Night – Thursday, December 15th @ 6:30 p.m.

Maker Space: Let's Sublimate! – Thursday, December 15th @ 5:00 p.m.

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

Friends of the Library Events:

December Holiday Bazaar Fundraiser – Friday, December 2nd from Noon–6:00 p.m., Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00-2:00 p.m., and Monday, December 5th from 10:00-Noon.

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

Do You Knit or Crochet? – Looking for donations and volunteers to make items for December Holiday Bazaar.

Little Free Food Pantry – Open during library hours.

Email Contact: friends.east.smithfield.library@gmail.com;
next meeting: October 15th @ 1:00 p.m.



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:

JOCK: This handsome male boy was very popular with the ladies in his day. He had a hard life on the street but has since realized that sleeping on someone's bed is the way to go. Jock would do best in a home with other felines and no dogs or children to help show him the ropes and ease some of his worries!



SNOWBALL: The classic Snowball is snow white, fluffy, and has one blue and one yellow eye that say it all! She is approximately 1-year-old and wants to snuggle every day. Snowball's bags are packed and she is ready to go!



PILGRIM & FROG: Say hello to sister and brother Pilgrim and Frog. These 4-month-old ginger siblings are a bit on the shy side and need the right person or family to come along to help bring out their inner kitten. A little bit of patience, some time, and lots of love is all you need. Is it you who can rescue us?



Success Stories!

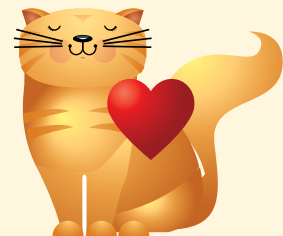
Both **TURLES** and **BLACKIE** have since been adopted. Each of these kitties were featured in the September magazine. **TURTLES**, who found her happily-ever-after forever home shown in the photo with owner Norena.



BLACKIE, who is living his best life shown in the photo with owner Stacey.



In addition, **KIKI** has since been adopted and she was featured in the October edition.



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.

50-years Ago –December 1972

by Jim Ignasher

Airman Charles E. Pelletier of Greenville was serving at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. The Smithfield Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol took part in celebrations honoring the 31st anniversary of the founding of the C.A.P. Membership to the Smithfield squadron was open to all youths between the ages of 13 to 18. Older youth were eligible to become senior members.

On December 7, Apollo 17 launched from Cape Kennedy with three astronauts and five mice aboard. This would be the last manned moon landing conducted by NASA up to the present day.

On December 9, The Smithfield High School Ecology Club held a paper drive. Residents were advised to drop off old newspapers and magazines at the high school to be recycled.

On December 12, the William Winsor Parent Teachers Association held a Christmas Bazaar.

The Smithfield Ice Rink was nearing completion and a contest sponsored by the Smithfield Recreation Department was held to select a design for the center of the floor that would be under the ice. The winner was Mary Natalizia of Georgiaville, who received a \$35 savings bond. Other contestants named Roberta Smith, Greg Hall, and Paula Serapiglia received awards for honorable mention. The awards were presented by the ice rink director, Stanley Lange.

On December 16 the Greenville Grange held a Christmas Bazaar and the Cranford Club of Greenville entertained patients at Zambano Hospital.

Over 1,000 citizens attended the annual Christmas Light Ceremony held at the Town Hall in Georgiaville. Music and carols were provided by the Smithfield Junior High Glee Club and

the Smithfield High School Orchestra. Upstairs in the council chambers, Santa doled out gifts to the children, while adults could partake in coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts.

The following night the annual tree lighting ceremony took place on the Greenville Common, which included a nativity scene and an invocation given by Rev. Alvin Johnson, pastor of the Greenville Baptist Church, and Rev. William Bourdon, pastor of St. Philip's Church. Music was provided by the Apple Valley Chorus, the Greenville Chorus, and Miss Olive Wilkes of St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Mary E. Freeman of Greenville was appointed Chairperson of the Smithfield chapter of the March of Dimes charity.

Members of Brownie Troop 53 of Georgiaville appeared on the local television show "Dialing for Dollars," a show based on random telephone calls to viewers. If the person who answered the phone knew the password that was announced at the beginning of the show, they'd win money.

Five members of Boy Scout Troop 1 of Greenville were elevated to Life and Star Scouts. The troops were Gerald Shirley, Charles Walsh, Timothy Walsh, Robert Ferguson, and Ronald DiNoble.

To encourage the planting of more trees, the Smithfield Conservation Commission was taking orders for free sapling trees to be delivered in April in time for spring planting. The trees included Hemlock, Douglas Fir, White Spruce, and White Pine.

A local business was advertising snow tires for \$18.77 a pair. This did not include tax or installation. A new battery could be had for \$21.86 and windshield de-icer for 87 cents a can.

The Smithfield Neighborhood Association for Progress elected new officers – Elected Chairman- Roy K. Becket; Vice Chair- Blanche Panzarella; Secretary- Beverly Viracco; Treasurer- Rev. William Bourdon.



Citrus Olive Oil Cake

By: Nik Delfino, @bakedpvd - Recipe adapted from Carolina Gelen, Food52

Ingredients:

Candied Citrus

1 cup sugar

1 cup water

Fresh Citrus of choice, 3-4 whole depending on size, thinly sliced * see notes

Olive Oil Cake

2 eggs

2/3 cup sugar

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1/3 cup + 2 tablespoons good quality extra virgin olive oil

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 teaspoons zest from citrus of choice

2 tablespoons fresh juice, squeezed from citrus of choice

1/8 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

3/4 cup + 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour + extra for pan



Method of Preparation:

1. Wash your citrus of choice then cut into thin slices. In a medium sized sauce pan combine the sugar, water and cardamom/herbs (if using) and bring to a boil over medium heat. Once the mixture is boiling, add your citrus slices, lower the heat to medium low and simmer citrus for about 15 minutes. Remove from heat once finished and let citrus sit in the simple syrup as it cools.
2. While the citrus is simmering, pre-heat your oven to 350 degrees F and prepare your pan. Brush an 8 inch cake or springform pan with butter and dust with flour. Line the bottom of your pan with parchment paper.
3. In a medium sized bowl, whisk together the baking powder and flour, set aside.
4. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs, sugar and salt together, either with a whisk by hand, with a hand-held mixer or in a stand mixer using the whisk attachment, until the mixture becomes pale in color and fluffy in appearance.
5. Slowly drizzle the olive oil into the egg mixture while mixing continuously.
6. Add in your extract of choice, citrus zest, citrus juice, cardamom (if using) and baking soda to the mixture. Fold together gently using a rubber spatula.
7. Add dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and gently fold together with the rubber spatula.
8. Using tongs, remove citrus slices from the water/sugar mixture and layer them in the bottom of your cake pan, on top of the parchment paper that's lining it. Once the bottom of the pan is covered with citrus, pour the cake batter into the pan.
 1. If using a springform pan, place your pan on a baking sheet prior to baking to catch any potential syrupy spills.
9. Bake for 30-35 minutes, until a skewer or cake tester comes out clean once inserted into the center of the cake.
10. Once baked, run a sharp knife along the edges of the pan to release the cake from the sides. Allow to cool in the pan for 10 minutes before flipping the cake out onto a plate or cooling rack. Brush cake with extra simple syrup or olive oil while cooling if desired.
11. Serve with fresh whipped cream if desired.

Continued on page 39

The Smithfield Times *Recipe Swap!*

Citrus Olive Oil Cake Continued

* Recipe Notes:

1. Work with your favorite citrus! Oranges, grapefruit, blood oranges, and lemons are all great choices. You can certainly get creative and mix and match. Limes are not recommended.
2. Feel free to add a little extra. If you have cardamom, fresh rosemary or thyme on-hand they are great complementary flavors to citrus. Cardamom can be added directly to the cake batter (1 t.) and/or added when candy-ing the fruit (1-3 whole pods depending on your preferences or 1/4-1/2 t. ground). Fresh herbs can be added to the candy-ing process, adding whole sprigs directly to the mixture.
 1. This creativity can apply to your flavorings as well. Swap vanilla extract directly for an almond or anise extract for added depth. Alternatively lemon or orange extract will help promote citrus flavors throughout the cake.
3. Citrus is a great option for winter, but if you're making this cake in the spring or summer seasons fresh berries are a great alternative. If using berries, skip the candy-ing process and use the fruit fresh in place of the candied citrus.



Your Neighborhood Package Store



For All Your Holiday Celebrations!



Happy Holidays!

Holiday Specials:

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from November – December

*Case of wine is (6) 1.5L or (12) 750 ml bottles, mix and match!

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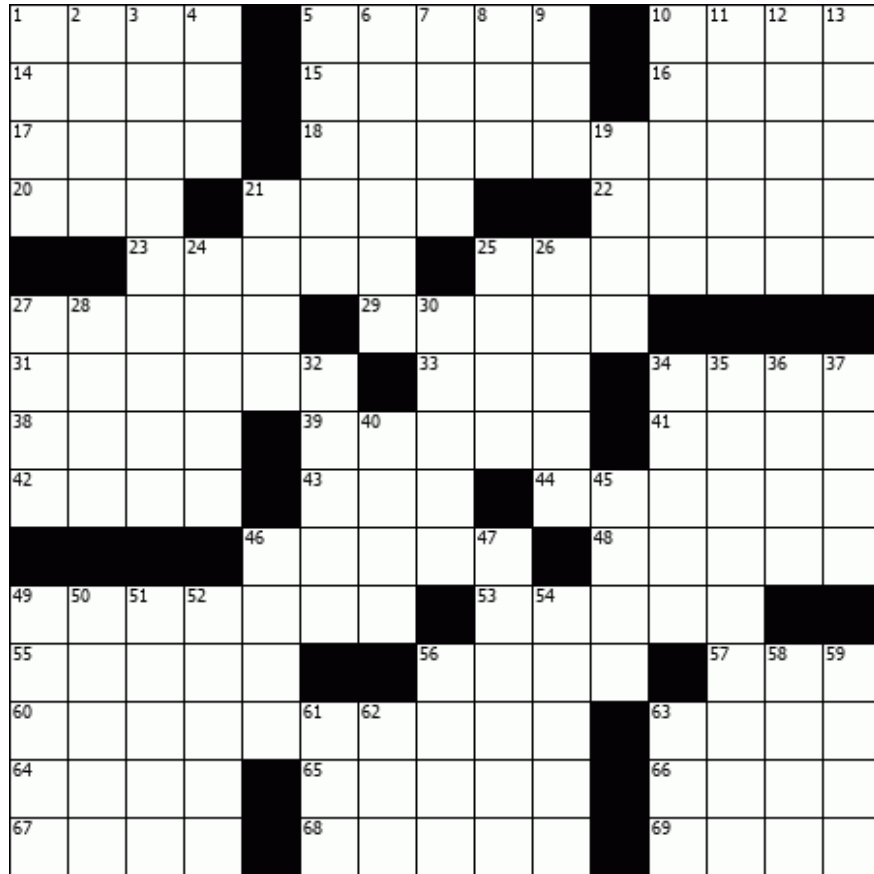
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Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Actor Brad ____
5. Of the eye
10. Snaky swimmers
14. Customer
15. Box
16. Satan's specialty
17. Count (on)
18. Sanctify
20. Grant's enemy
21. Works on a tan
22. Assisted
23. Begin
25. Professions
27. Academy Award
29. October birthstones
31. ____ energy
33. Social insect
34. South American capital
38. Strong cord
39. Main artery
41. Perfume
42. Rushed
43. Baseball stat
44. Most unusual
46. Elk's kin
48. Fender dimples
49. Projectile
53. Incline
55. Stakes
56. Sting
57. "____ Lost You"
60. "Gone with the Wind" setting
63. Like some tea
64. Fat for frying
65. Sort
66. Sudden attack
67. Female sheep
68. Trials
69. Confederate



Down

1. Knitting stitch
2. Psychic's phrase (2 wds.)
3. Astronomer's tool
4. Make a stab at
5. Happen
6. Immediately!
7. Sunbathes
8. ____ a boy!
9. So-so grade
10. Mysterious
11. Escape
12. Metric measure
13. Winter toys
19. Autos
21. Agra attire
24. Made docile
25. Is unable
26. Communion table
27. Boat paddles
28. Street sign
30. France's capital
32. Yuletide tune
34. Actress Sophia ____
35. Like some twins
36. Nearly all
37. Humanities
40. Bassoon's relative
45. First man
46. Fog
47. Accompany
49. Syrup tree
50. Spouse's kin (hyph.)
51. Gape
52. Transmits
54. Country roads
56. Transgressions
58. Bride's headpiece
59. Circular current
61. FBI employee (abbr.)
62. Kickoff device
63. Retiree's acct.



Answers to puzzle on page 46



A View From the Cheap Seats

Dan Pieroni

Boston Bruins Cut Ties With Controversial Prospect, But Why Did They Sign Him?

On the surface, the Bruins' case for signing Miller was quite compelling. Miller was a highly touted defenseman who was a top prospect and a potential star. Miller was also a rare defenseman with a deft offensive touch. Last season he scored thirty-nine goals in 60 games for the Tri-City Storm of the United States hockey league. Given those platitudes, I cannot really say I blame Bruins General Manager Don Sweeney and President Cam Neely for their choice to sign Miller as a free agent.

The Bruins have always valued hard-nosed offensive-minded defensemen like Bobby Orr and Ray Bourque. Why not give the fans something to be excited about by signing a player that has the capabilities to follow in that great defensive lineage the Bruins pride so much?

Unfortunately, decisions that Miller made in his youth shadow his professional talents. In 2015, Miller and a classmate were found delinquent in an Ohio juvenile court on assault and received a violation of the Ohio Safe Schools Act. The damning evidence proved that Miller and his friend forced a developmentally disabled African American classmate eat a piece of candy that they had wiped in a urinal. Further evidence accused the pair of repeated usage of racial slurs against the boy, and a surveillance camera caught the perpetrators kicking and punching the victim. Contrite

Miller's actions were criminal in nature and clearly intended to humiliate his classmate. No amount of remorse will ever erase the amount of pain and suffering the victim and his family

experienced. I firmly believe we all have the ability to learn, grow, and change as a result of past transgressions, but the magnitude of what Miller did deserves more than an apology.

Upon his drafting, Miller apologized to all league teams but not to the victim or his family themselves. That's not remorse, that guilt over being caught, and an easy way to protect one's reputation and future interests.

I also find it hard to believe that the Bruins were that misinformed about Miller's past when the team has scores of scouts, coaches, and personnel at their disposal. It's hard to believe that no one brought Mitchell's horrendous behavior to light. It was only after the Bruins' organization received blowback from both the team and the league that they cut ties with Mitchell.



Tim Jones – Cartoonist

WE WISH YOU A
Merry Christmas



Payne's Picks

By Sarah Payne

December 2022

Movie Releases

Babylon – December 22

This period comedy-drama about “outsized ambition and outrageous excess” in early Hollywood seems like it could be fun – especially for movie lovers (after all, it stars Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, and Tobey Maguire). It’s written and directed by Damien Chazelle, who also wrote and directed 2016’s *La La Land*. That film won a record-tying 14 Academy Award nominations. At the time I remember wondering, “Why does everyone love this movie so much?” It seemed like a film made for actors, not everyday people. In *Babylon*, Chazelle explores the transition from silent movies to “talkies.” He told Yahoo: “Comparing some of the last silent films to some of the first sound films, you see right away just how brutal the shift was – that suddenly the open-air freedom and expansiveness and experimentation of silent film gets sandwiched and cloistered onto very confined soundstages where you can barely move.”

White Noise – December 30 (Netflix)

Noah Baumbach, who directed 2019’s *Marriage Story*, is back with an adaptation of Don DeLillo’s 1985 novel. In a recent Deadline article, writer Sean Piccoli describes the book as “a sometimes plotless, abstruse meditation on contemporary America often described as movie-proof.” Sounds like an uphill battle to me! The film stars Greta Gerwig and Adam Driver – who I love. But you can see just from the trailer this is one of those indie films that’s trying so hard to be restrained and artistic that it’s painful to watch. But who knows? I’ve been wrong before.

TV Review

The White Lotus - Season 2 (HBO)

If you’re wondering what all the fuss is about the second season of *The White Lotus* but you haven’t seen the first season, don’t worry. The series is about a chain of luxury resorts and each season features an (almost) entirely different cast of characters. Season one was set in Hawaii and this season is set in Italy (now I totally want to plan a trip there). As with the first season, we learn in the first episode that

there’s a death at the resort. And now it’s time to see who’s miserable in this gorgeous place (basically everyone) and who could possibly end up dead (basically anyone, except the woman who found the body). I love how the show keeps you guessing as to what everyone’s motive is and how each episode becomes a bit more stressful. Also, Aubrey Plaza is by far my favorite character this season. She plays an unamused lawyer on vacation with her husband and another couple that’s all about PDA. I live for her dead-pan looks and eye rolls.

Movie Reviews

All Quiet on the Western Front (Netflix)

Here’s a German epic anti-war film set in the final days of World War I that I am genuinely (but pleasantly) surprised is streaming on Netflix. In August, *All Quiet on the Western Front* was announced as Germany’s submission for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film. I would be shocked if it doesn’t win. It’s a heart-breaking, gut-wrenching story about an eager 17-year-old who enlists in the Imperial German Army, only to be quickly faced with the brutal reality of war in the trenches. There are many scenes in this film that will haunt you. One that stuck with me is when the Germans are attacked by tanks and flamethrowers. Though it’s incredibly depressing, it’s a moment in history we should not soon forget.



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Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 4 p.m.

- **Enjoy a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus**
- **Hot Chocolate**
- **Singing Christmas Carols and Christmas Cheer!**

The parade begins at Smithfield High School and ends at the Village Green for the lighting of the tree.

Seeking talented folks involved in marching bands and choir groups.

Visit www.smithfieldri.com and complete your application today!

Anyone interested in participating should contact:

Tom Winfield: (401) 864-3356 - twinfield.tw@gmail.com or

Randy Rossi: (401) 233-1010 - rrossi@smithfieldri.com



The Ghost Of Hopkins Mill

By Thomas D'Agostino

www.tomdagostino.com

There comes a time in many people's lives when they have a paranormal experience that either makes them question the existence of ghosts, or become staunch believers. That moment became solidified for me when I witnessed my first full body apparition at 12-years-old while fishing with my father at Hopkins Mill Pond Fishing Area in Foster, Rhode Island.

There is a pool just under the bridge of Old Danielson Pike (now a walking bridge) in Dolly Cole Brook that flows out of Hopkins Mill Pond. It was at this pool where we decided to try our luck. My father meandered down a bit, crossed the brook, and disappeared down an overgrown path. I tossed my line in the pool just north of the bridge.

A few moments later, a barefoot woman dressed in a shabby long white "sack" dress came from the opposite direction on the path and stood across from me at the pool. She seemed oblivious to my presence as she leaned over with an old wooden bucket to fetch some water from the flowing current. My first impression was that I was somehow looking back in time at this woman. I remember thinking how eerie the whole incident felt. Why would someone be drawing water from the stream and why was she dressed so plain and primitive? She also had a strange aura about her, almost as if she was an image being projected onto the scene. This did not register so much in my mind at the time, as I was taken

aback by the looks of such a person in the modern age. She then rose from her mission and glided silently down the path she first appeared on.



Historic Cemetery in Foster, RI.

My father emerged from the brush moments later and I asked him if he had seen that peculiar woman pass by him, but much to my astonishment, he had seen no one. There was no way she could have gone off the path, as the brier and brush were much too thick to cut through.

One year later I was reading a local newspaper and one of the Halloween stories recounted the ghost of Dolly Cole. Cole allegedly drowned in the brook in the 1800s and has haunted the area ever since. That was when I realized that I had seen a ghost. In later years, I returned to the site numerous times in hopes of seeing the spirit again, and was fortunate to witness her one more time. This time I could see her almost floating along the path, passing through solid objects along the way. The brush was too thick to follow

her successfully and I soon lost sight of the ghost of Hopkins Mill.

I heard many accounts by people who resided in the area of how the ghost of Dolly Cole wandered the edge of the brook, or how she was often spied near the bridge that bears her name. The local folk still tell tales of her ghost appearing by the watercourse that runs through what was once Dolly and Hugh Cole's property. Many, like myself, have seen her near the pool with her ethereal wooden bucket in hand.

Research would soon lead to the true identity of the ghost. It is not Dolly Cole that eternally wanders the brook, but instead,

a woman named Betsey Grayson. Foster records indicate that Grayson drowned in 1860 when she dipped her wooden bucket into the water and the swift current pulled her in. Margery Matthews recollected the tragic event in her booklet, *Peleg's Last Word*.

People have heard voices near the pool, yet there is no other human being around to produce them. Photos have shown strange anomalies in the area that may be connected to the woman in white.

The ghost of Hopkins Mill District is one of the most celebrated otherworldly accounts from the area. My first sighting of the eerie ghost stands out as one of my greatest moments in my paranormal history. It remains as vivid in my mind today as it was so many years ago because, after all, you never forget your first ... ghost.

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together, but that also means a greater risk for fire. Follow these tips to ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season!

Holiday Decorating

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with

worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.

- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

Holiday Entertaining

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in

a locked cabinet.


- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.


*On behalf of the men and women of the Smithfield Fire Department,
Happy Holidays to you and your family!*

Did you know?




More than **1 in every 5** Christmas tree fires were caused by a heat source too close to the tree.




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



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet** away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators and space heaters.

Did you know?



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

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



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



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





Obituaries



Diane (Muir) Miller
October 30, 2022
www.robbsfuneralhome.com



David E. Williams
November 6, 2022
www.thequinnfuneralhome.com



Adele G. Beaulieu
November 08, 2022
www.andersonwinfield.net



Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 40.

P	I	T	T		O	P	T	I	C		E	E	L	S
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The Smithfield Times

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