

COMPLIMENTARY

MAY 2023

The Smithfield Times



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Happy
Mother's
day!

Bianca DiLorenzo and Zara.
Story on page 4.
Photo by Mark B. Carrier

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Letter from the Editor



Brittni Henderson
Editor

Dear treasured Smithfield Times readers,

May is the month we celebrate mothers – Those who raised us, those who continue to inspire us, and those who we may have lost along the way. We honor their hard work, determination, excitement, and love they showered us with all our lives. We also acknowledge that motherhood comes in many ways, shapes, and forms. Mothers and mother-figures also come from many areas of life. Cheers to mothers and their abundant strength and ongoing love for us all!

A special Happy Mother's Day to my mom, Karen!

This month, you'll meet a new mom who is weaving her own motherhood web one string at a time. You'll read about a group of awesome female athletes who became state champs, and you'll get a behind-the-scenes look into the annual Senior Oratorical competition (congrats, Ellorie!). On the topic of SHS, you'll learn how they are anti-bullying. There are so many awesome pieces in this issue, so I won't spoil it.

Thanks for tagging along this month! Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @thesmithfieldtimesri!

Warmest regards,

Brittni Henderson

PS - How cute is this cat who totally photobombed our cover shoot? Her name is Tigger. If anyone knows her owners, let them know she's officially a star!



Happy Mother's Day

From all of us at

The
Smithfield Times





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

Because of the ever increasing cost of long term nursing home

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

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

Review Your Trust Annually To Protect Your Assets



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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An Ode to Motherhood and The Ongoing Journey

By Brittni Henderson

The chance of becoming a mother blossomed from dream to reality for Bianca DiLorenzo, 34, when she gave birth to her first child Zara in October 2021. From an early age, Bianca knew she wanted to be a mother one day. To her, being a mother would be the most important job in the world.

On this Mother's Day, her second as a first-time mom, she reflects on the journey that brought her here, the experiences she's had thus far, and the plans (or lack thereof) she has for her daughter's future.

Growing up, Bianca had two majorly influential female figures in her life. Her mother and maternal grandmother were her role models from day one. Her mother always put her first, no matter what the situation. She could always go to her grandmother for anything, knowing that she would never pass judgement.

"My mother and grandmother are both monumental influences in my life," Bianca says. "I wouldn't be half the mother I am today without them. They taught me how to be a true, loving, and caring mother."

Bianca's excitement for motherhood was always apparent, but she learned that nothing completely prepares you for it when it comes. Like other mothers around the world, she had ideas, thoughts, and expectations of what her experience would be like – but she admits she was completely humbled by the reality of motherhood once Zara was born.

"There are a lot of things to 'learn as

you go,'" she shares. "A lot is intuition, too! I remember my husband looking at me in the hospital and asking, 'how did you know to do that?' You just do. It's that simple."

The motherly instinct wasn't the only thing that Bianca used for support. In addition to her family, she found a mother-owned business called Well Nested RI (@wellnested_ri on Instagram) that provides events, guidance, and encouragement for moms of all types. Bianca was invited to a "Support and Stroll" even by Well Nested owner Jan Iacobucci last spring – and she is eternally grateful for that first meeting.

"I was so nervous and truly wondered if a new community would be the right thing for me," Bianca says. "I am so glad I went that day. It has been the best thing to happen to me postpartum and as a new mom. It has opened many doors and I have gained so many new friends, and with that, so much insight."

Bianca feels grateful and blessed for the lessons she's learned so far, but her postpartum journey wasn't always smooth sailing. Postpartum was exceedingly difficult for her, especially in the early stages. Zara was born during a major peak in the pandemic, so tensions were high and limitations were abundant.

"It was a truly scary time because there was so much unknown," she says. "I would go through childbirth 100 times before choosing postpartum. Your



Bianca DiLorenzo, Zara and Tigger

hormones are all over the place, you are sleep deprived, you are uncomfortable, and you are just trying to be the best mother and partner you can be. There is truly no time to heal, both physically and emotionally. The feelings of overwhelm never truly cease but knowing that you are not truly alone helps immensely."

With over a year under her motherhood belt, Bianca doesn't claim to know it all, but hopes she can help other new moms who might feel like they are going through a challenging time. She is a mental health advocate who prides herself in sharing the real, raw, and true parts of being a mom on her social media. She prides herself on being accessible to any mom, both in real life and online. She tries to accurately portray motherhood (in her world) in all its different moments.

"These days, social media posts seem to

See Ode to Motherhood, page 5

be all about the highlight reel,” Bianca shares. “I am guilty of this too, but I also want to show the real behind the scenes parts. Like in the early stages where your eyes are so tired from sleep deprivation, or picky eating in toddlerhood – like when you spend an hour making a healthy meal only for them to gag on it like you just served them roadkill.”

If there is one true characteristic of Bianca, it’s that she will find comedy in everything, even after a toddler (or mommy) meltdown. Her nurturing and caring demeanor shines through even the briefest of conversations. She is also self-aware enough to know that she needs to take care of herself just as much as she does her daughter. Her husband is great at giving her “me” time, and even sometimes dabbles in

some reality tea drama by her side. “We make a really great team, which allows me to take care of myself both physically and mentally,” she says.

When asked about the future, Bianca admits that she has some “letting go” to do when it comes to expectations. What she truly knows is that Zara needs is a mother who is there for her, loves her, and allows her to be herself. That means taking time for herself and filling her own cup.

“I can’t be everything to everyone, if I am nothing to myself.” Bianca shares. “Sometimes, everything else can wait.”

Follow Bianca and learn more about her ongoing postpartum journey and see all of Zara’s adorable outfits on Instagram @bianroe



Zara

Happy Mother's Day



Senator David P. Tikoian

Paid for by David Tikoian

If You See Something, Say Something



By Gabrielle Libutti

On April 5th, 2023, I had the opportunity to attend an anti-bullying presentation at Smithfield High School, led by Kaya Gaffney and Reese Rossi, members of the Youth Council and freshmen at SHS. Not only did fellow students attend, but there were numerous parents, representatives from the school district, and members of the town council. The presentation was very informative and engaging. They shed an important light on the topic of bullying within the school system and the importance of communication as a preventative method.

With a combination of a well-designed powerpoint and thorough research, Gaffney and Rossi answered the question of what defines bullying

in accordance with the Smithfield Public School Policy. They discussed the effects on both the victim and the perpetrator, and the importance of reaching out to both parties. They also informed the attendees how to anonymously report bullying incidents online through the high school's website, which is an important resource for both students and parents. The girls included recent data from polls that were sent out to the student body and parents regarding their experiences with bullying at school or online.

Another poll asked the students if they were to be in that situation, would they feel comfortable turning to a parent for help, how often do they communicate with a parent about bullying at school,

and what would the student like for the parent to do in the instance of bullying.

After the powerpoint, the floor was opened to SHS Principal Daniel Kelly, SHS Vice Principal Dr. Allison Amodie, Gallagher Middle School Assistant Principal John Burns, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sara Monaco. Each took a turn discussing their experiences with bullying within the schools and what they have done and continue to do each day to work towards the goal of ultimately eliminating it. They emphasized that a majority of bullying that they have come across is in the form of cyber bullying.

See Bullying, page 7

Unfortunately that means most incidents occur outside school hours which in turn makes it more difficult to resolve. With the ability to hide behind a screen, bullies have found it easier to be mean to peers. One member of the district noted that students can no longer let their guard down once they leave the building because there is a constant connection between the students and while this has its benefits, is also a huge downfall.

At the middle school, a new policy has been enacted. Phones are collected before social events such as dances and are placed in individual envelopes for each student. This raised a few eyebrows from surrounding parents, but Burns assured us that he has never seen an event where the students were able to let loose without the fear of being recorded or made fun of before the most recent eighth grade dance. A majority of their panel, questions, and comments from the crowd of parents and council members were in regards to cell phones and the irrefutable damage they can cause to the child. Someone in the crowd noted that kids aren't grown up when they enter high school. They still need parents to provide guidance and support more than friendship at this stage in their life. It's a tough job and we thank these members of the school district who tirelessly work to reduce bullying.

Gaffney and Rossi stressed the importance of parents' involvement in the prevention of bullying and its harmful effects. Communication is key. Often it's difficult for kids to open up to parents about tough topics. Assuring them that they are free to talk without fear of retaliation, a lecture, or dismissal is crucial. According to the results of one poll, a majority of students wished their parents were there to be a listening ear, someone to help them navigate through situations as they arise.

Parents – be sure to listen, take a step back, and gather more information before acting. Be a support system for your child and help them navigate a tough time in their lives.

I'm so glad I was able to attend the presentation. I learned so much about bullying, its effects, and all the hard work that goes into its prevention. Gaffney and Rossi did an amazing job and should be proud of the work they're doing. Make sure to check out Smithfield Youth Council's Facebook page for a recap of the presentation, and to be notified of upcoming events.

Finally, remember. If you see something, say something. It may just save a life.



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In Our **Community**

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Smithfield Deputy Chief of Police Graduates from FBI National Academy

Paul Lonardo

Smithfield Deputy Chief of Police Eric Dolan is one of the department's longest-serving officers. He is a Smithfield native, attending public schools before earning his bachelor's degree from Rhode Island College. Upon graduation, with a goal of becoming a police officer in town, he put his application in and while he was waiting, he worked as a dispatcher for the department. A year later, in 1994, he was sworn in as a full-time officer, and he is still at it today, with a passion and enthusiasm for serving his community that has never faltered.

"It's a great department, a great community," Deputy Chief Dolan says. "I'm very fortunate."

In the thirty years since he broke in, he has spent time working at every position, from patrol and D.A.R.E. officer to detective, patrol supervisor and detective supervisor. He served as the project coordinator for the new building before being promoted to Deputy Chief in 2018. This past March, he graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, an experience, and an achievement that he is extremely proud of. Just getting there was a bit of a journey.

"It was just before Covid, when Chief St. Sauveur asked me if I wanted to attend," Dolan says. "I knew about the academy and what it was all about. It is prestigious, and an honor just to be asked. And I was fortunate enough to be selected to go to Virginia this year."

After a vetting process, he waited for a spot to open for him. The FBI hosts four academies each year, and only three Rhode Island officers are selected

among them all annually.

The focus of the courses at the FBI National Academy change with time, so the topics are always relevant, and deal with the top concerns of law enforcement, and today such courses include Breaking Barriers, Enhanced Community Relations, Conflict Management, and Wellness and Law Enforcement.

There were also some physical challenges presented that required a separate set of skills. While they may not have been unexpected, because Dolan had to qualify beforehand to show his preparedness, it did not make the rigors any easier. Most officers, including Dolan, came in with over twenty years of experience, so age in this instance was a hurdle to overcome.

One of the challenges, called the Yellow Brick Road, pits the participant against a daunting 6.3-mile U.S. Marine obstacle course. Successfully completing this challenge earns the competitor a symbolic and highly coveted yellow brick, which may not sound like much, but it is what it represents that gives it such value. Deputy Chief Dolan was among those who went home with this prize in hand when he left Virginia in March.

Another challenge



Eric Dolan

was a 34-mile swim, that few of the 247 academy graduates attempted, and even few completed. Deputy Chief Dolan succeeded in that as well,

See Chief Graduates FBI, page 11



FBI Director Christopher Wray and Eric Dolan

receiving a blue brick for the endeavor, and becoming the first Smithfield Police Officer to achieve that honor.

There were representatives from many agencies, including DEA agents and U.S. Marines, and people from all over the world taking part in the academy. In all, some 28 countries were represented, four military branches, and five federal civilian organizations.

Some of what Deputy Chief Dolan learned in Quantico, he has already initiated on the job in Smithfield.

“I learned so much from the instructors,” Dolan says. “The instructors were not only working FBI agents, but University of Virginia professors and other professionals with vast knowledge and experience

in law enforcement. The training and instruction were invaluable to me and everyone who attended the academy.”

One of the courses that really hit home for Dolan was what he learned in the Wellness and Law Enforcement class.

“This is something that tends to get overlooked quite a bit,” Dolan says. “Mental and physical health of a police officer is very important, and although these are issues, we had already been working on as a department, I came out of the academy with some fresh ideas and policy considerations that will improve the programs we implement for our officers.”

Dolan also came away with an even greater appreciation for the town of Smithfield, its citizens, and the

department he had been a part of for three decades.

Now that Deputy Chief Dolan has gone through the FBI National Academy, he is eligible to attend the yearly conference that the agency has around the country, including one upcoming in Boston in 2025. Dolan and other officers can take advantage of additional training and information provided by the FBI National Academy.

“It’s all about making our communities safer and keeping officers prepared to do their jobs effectively,” Dolan says.

That is something we all benefit from.

Congratulations to Deputy Chief Eric Dolan!



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Introducing Smithfield's New Animal Shelter

By Joe Siegel

The new tri-community animal shelter to be shared by North Providence, Johnston, and Smithfield on Smithfield Road is nearly complete and is expected to be open in May.

"I think it looks beautiful," said Town Manager Randy Rossi of the 6500-square-foot facility at 900 Smithfield Road. "It's definitely one of the top animal shelters in the area. I'm very pleased with how everything's turned out and I'm grateful for the group we worked with on making it happen."

According to Rossi, animal control officers from the three towns designed this facility, using information collected from visits to various shelters all over the state.

"I think it was important that the people who know it best helped plan out how it was set up and designed," Rossi added.

The project is expected to cost about \$2.6 million. Ahlberg Construction is completing the project, as animals from the three towns are temporarily being sheltered in Smithfield. The shelter will include a run for dogs and an adoption room for people to meet with prospective pets. There is also ample space for storage and equipment.

Rossi said the old shelter is being evaluated by the town's Department of Public Works. What will happen to the building is currently undetermined.





Smithfield High School – Salisbury-Benoit Senior Oratorical



From left to right- Emma Santos, William Dutcher, Olivia Siegel, Alex Jackvony, Ava Morin, Benjamin Dion, Jakob Blanchette, Adam Fontaine, Ellorie Corcoran, Mia Digregorio, Garrett Moroni, Sophie Owen, Sela Bastajian, Joseph Okeefe.

On April 6, 2023, Smithfield High School continued one of its long-standing traditions, the Salisbury-Benoit Senior Oratorical. This year was the 36th year seniors at SHS could compose a speech from a series of topics to present to the school. Topics include: a quote that impacted your life or way of thinking, a person or hero, or advice to underclassmen.

Fourteen students took on the challenge of writing a 3-5 minute speech to present in front of the student body to be scored by a series of judges. Each student was required to pick a teacher to coach them through the writing process and help them practice their speeches. They were then required to attend at least three practices with the teachers that ran the oratorical, Mrs. Dempsey and Mr. Hillery. They provided additional advice and critiques to polish up the students' speeches.

While even deciding to speak in front of a 900-person student body and be judged is a great feat, it became much more of a nerve-wracking day. Even with initial jitters, the 14 students

were told they would not know the order of presenters. They were called from the chorus room when it was their time to speak, which made it even more stressful.

I was one of the students who participated in the oratorical and I had an amazing experience. I chose to write a piece of advice to underclassmen – it is okay to fail. Music Teacher Mrs. Katherine Young was my chosen mentor who coached me for the first three weeks in polishing up my initial drafts. I was the last one to speak, and I sat in the chorus room anxiously anticipating my turn to speak.

While I spoke about the ability to fail or lack thereof, other students talked about trying new things, their familial heroes, learning to love, suicide, being yourself, how your words affect others, and happiness. It was a very impactful morning, and with a high number of participants, many students felt connections to at least one speech.

After the scores were tabulated, they

announced the top three presenters. I placed third, Ava Morin placed second with a speech on accepting the parts of yourself you cannot change, and Jakob Blanchette placed first with a speech about how seemingly harmless jokes can affect a person.

It was a wonderful morning, students laughed and cried, and participants could celebrate the victory by simply getting on the stage to speak in front of such a large group of people. The Senior Oratorical has always been a consistent, long-standing tradition at SHS, even during Covid. It is one thing many seniors look forward to every year, not just to speak, but also to hear from their classmates who they may not know very well, or know in a different capacity, share various parts of themselves.

If you are interested in watching it yourself, the oratorical was live-streamed and can be found on the SHS website.

Congratulations to all who participated for working up the courage to speak in front of over 900 people!



A Sparkly Place for Children and Adolescents

By Diane L. Marolla, LICSW, CFRC

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 1 in 6 adolescents will experience a mental health condition in any given time. NAMI also reports that 50% of all lifetime mental health conditions begin before the age of 14 and 75% start before the age of 24.

The Centers of Disease Control (CDC) describes mental health disorders among children as “serious changes in the way children typically learn, behave, or handle their emotions, which cause distress and problems getting through the day. Many children occasionally experience fears and worries or display disruptive behaviors. If symptoms are serious and persistent and interfere with school, home, or play activities, the child may be diagnosed with a mental disorder.”

Parents concerned about their child having a mental health disorder can attest that finding help can be difficult. Nationally, and in Rhode Island, waiting lists for an initial evaluation are long. Our local hospitals have been inundated for years with trying to service parents, school systems, and pediatricians. Simply stated, the demand for services daily consistently exceeds the supply of professionals who can help.

If you speak with any mental health



Shane and Kristen with their son Elijah

provider, they will tell you the shortage of trained and experienced professionals to help children is caused by an ongoing flawed payment system. Working with children and adolescents is demanding and time consuming. Insurance companies and the RI Department of Human Services (DHS) continue to pay poorly for these services. Additionally, they create a bureaucracy whereby providers become

frustrated therefore they make the difficult decision to not accept insurances. Parents end up spending thousands in out-of-pocket expenses to try and help their child.

One provider in Lincoln RI, who has always had a passion for helping children is Kristen Spencer Myers. Kristen, together with her husband Shane, are the owners of Social Sparks.

Social Sparks was created in 2015. Kristen was working in the school system as a social worker when she created Social Sparks. The focus is on group therapy and individual and family counseling. Kristen serves as the Clinical Director, while her husband, Shane, focuses on the operations and business side of the practice. They started out in a smaller location in Lincoln, and quickly outgrew it. They are now located at Lincoln Mall.

In addition to offering mental health services, Social Sparks also offers social clubs for children and adolescents.

“The big driving force for me was to create a place where people feel supported and safe and where they can relate to other people who are going through the same things. They know

See A Sparkly Place, page 15

that they can connect. A place where they feel accepted and understood.” Kristen, in her work as a school social worker, identified gaps for the neuro-diverse community and their difficulty in finding services.

“More people are being diagnosed with Autism and there are not enough services to help them. I struggled with where to refer them. It hit me hard. I saw how isolated these children were and it broke my heart. I wanted to do more, and I wanted to create opportunities for them and make a space for them.”

Kristen also worked for the Autism project.

“I loved working there and the families I worked with.” Kristen’s experience at the Autism Project further enhanced her vision on how to help children and adolescents.

Kristen, like all mental health providers, has noticed a difference with children pre and post COVID.

“I have seen a huge shift. We are seeing more children/adolescents who are dealing with depression and anxiety. I see a need for a lot more

teaching of social skills. I am also seeing an unfortunate increase in suicidal ideation and a greater need for safety planning. They had to deal with something so heavy and at such a young age. We had to figure out what is the best way to help and continue to help.”

During COVID, as Kristen and her team of professionals shifted their services from in person to online, they were also engaging with the community and doing training.

“We partnered with the Youth Advisory Council and created a three-part series called ‘Coping with Covid.’ We taught strategies in connecting with other people and maintaining a healthy routine. This was a great opportunity to connect with our community and the youth of the community. We had to listen to our clients, hear them, and respond. “

In addition to specializing in services for the neuro-diverse community, Social Sparks also works with children and adolescents ages 5 and older with anxiety, depression, OCD, PTSD, and sensory challenges.

Social Sparks offers about 40 groups and clubs a week at their Lincoln

location. The groups offered at Social Sparks are billed and reimbursed by private and state health insurance. There is a therapeutic curriculum and modality that all insurance companies pay for. Clubs are paid out of pocket and are less structured. The clubs are where the children can have fun and practice skills that they learn in groups. The clubs are a social add on.

“We recognize that there are not a lot of positive things for children/adolescents to do. On a Friday night, the energy in the building and watching the children enjoy themselves, for me, this is why we do this.”

If you want to inquire about the services at Social Sparks, you can email them at Info@socialsparksri.com. Currently, there is a waiting list for all services. For immediate help for a child or adolescent with a mental health disorder of concern, please contact Kids' Link RI, call 1-855-543-5465.

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Ask Our Attorney

Terrance N. Turner, Esq.



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Just Leave Me Alone, Will Ya'!

Words have meaning. Words are powerful. After all, they are the form the main source of communication between people. A familiar saying, of course, is “a picture is worth a thousand words.”

Well, to coin a phrase – “one word paints a thousand pictures.”

As a long time (LOL!) member of the “baby boomer” generation, as an aging senior, as a practicing attorney, and finally, as a Probate Court Judge, I have seen the word “guardianship,” just this one single word, paint thousands of pictures for thousands of people.

Guardianships, in a way, come in all kinds of shapes, sizes, colors, and types. However, just the mention of the word “guardian” or “guardianship” can immediately draw attention, curiosity, and even dread. Upon hearing the word(s) guardian(s), many people think, “uh oh, someone’s in deep financial trouble, or they are failing physically, or declining mentally.” The truth is that it is usually, a combination of the above.

Another common response to the whole guardianship concept, especially by the person who is the object of the

guardianship discussion is, “someone’s trying to take over my life or take control of me.”

At the end of the day guardianships are about human relationships, individual autonomy, personal independence, and one’s life path.

Misconceptions and misunderstandings about guardianships abound amongst those unfamiliar with them. One misconception is that guardianships only apply to minors, i.e., those under 18 years of age. As to the converse, that is also prevalent, the idea that guardianships only apply to adults, particularly the elderly and infirm. The reality is that the truth really lies somewhere between these two opposite views.

Natural biological parents are the natural guardians of their offspring. Though this seems to state what should be obvious and simply taken for granted, attorneys such as yours truly who practice mostly in the family court(s) increasingly find that many non-natives, i.e., born elsewhere but now placed here (in the U.S.) litigants, have little understanding of some of the most basic premises underlying the American legal system.

Hence, the topic of guardianships within the context of the Rhode Island Family Court. The size limitations of this magazine article, however, mean we can give it just a brief overview here. When the state’s child protective service agency, known as DCYF, files various legal cases with the Family Court, alleging that a child is either dependent, neglected, or abused, invariably a “guardian” is appointed by the court to be that child’s lawyer. This guardian (GAL) plays a key role in the progress of the court case until it reaches a conclusion, sometimes years down the road. This GAL can make important recommendations to the court about the child(ren), including living arrangements, visitation, medical needs, educational issues and so on. This GAL is involved in the child’s life until the case ends, the child is living with a family somewhere and the court closes the court. On occasion in these DCYF cases, the court will appoint guardian ad litem (“GAL”) for one or both of the child’s adult parents

For the other side of the coin, guardianships in Rhode Island’s Probate Courts, we will take that up in a subsequent article.



Do you have bucket list, dream, or once-in-a-lifetime moment to share?
Submit your own to
brittni@smithfieldtimesri.net.

Submitted by Dan Roy

Check 'Stanley Tucci Stand-In' off My Bucket List!

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, I received an email from the casting company I use out of Boston offering me the opportunity to be a stand-in for the movie *I Wanna Dance with Somebody*. It would be an opportunity to stand-in for Stanley Tucci AND be a part of a Whitney Houston movie. I am such a huge fan – I could not believe it!

This whole experience was OMG—outrageous, out of body, words cannot describe it! I have weeks of memories and the photo of Stanley and me for a lifetime.



SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Tim Jones
Cartoonist

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!



I Have a Hole In My Ceiling!

Did you ever have a problem where you thought you were the only one to have that problem, and then come to find out once you mentioned it to someone, you found out that they had the same problem, and then you found someone else, and then someone else?

This could be related to a lot of things.

While this can be related to many different areas, in home improvement there are endless examples. One issue that we come across frequently is folks find holes in their ceilings.

On the surface, this may not seem very commonplace, but just as a teenager might test the boundaries of common sense, upon further investigation, this is a challenge that more people are working through than you may initially imagine.

Though often ignored as people pretend not to see it and even feeling a bit ashamed that they have this random hole in their ceiling, as they gradually begin to start to mention it in conversation, they may surprisingly begin to find out that they are not alone.

So, where the heck does this hole come from?

Although there are several possibilities, the one we usually run into is a slow leak stemming from a bathroom above the ceiling.

Often, though not always, related to the plumbing, over time the water gradually

does its damage, as it finds its lowest resting point on the backside of the ceiling and starts to eat away at the ceiling itself over a period until a hole is formed.

When the hole is formed, it may or may not be noticeable at first.

There may not even be any "dripping water" that accompanies the hole, though it is common for 'yellowish' water staining to take place around the hole and its nearby vicinity.

A delay in addressing the hole may be nothing more than pure procrastination or it may be related to the fear of correcting the problem that created the hole, as well as fixing the hole itself, may end up costing.

The challenge in kicking the can down

the road is that mold could obviously begin to form and even in circumstances where the hole is small, airborne mold spores can begin to make their way into the living space below.

Getting to the root of the problem as quick as possible is beneficial and as difficult as it may be to believe in the moment, a hole in the ceiling is quite common, and the situation can often be worked through easily. Sometimes homeowner's insurance can help in covering the cost of the repairs.

Whether you are the type of person to jump on a discovered home improvement issue right away or the type that would let the hole expand until when glancing at the ceiling you are staring at the bottom of your bathtub, the sooner the hole is addressed, the better off you will be.

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!



Tales From Beyond - Dudleytown Part II

By Thomas D'Agostino

www.tomdagostino.com

The Carter family left Dudleytown for the wilderness of Binghampton, New York. The Dudleytown curse followed them to their new home. Not long after they settled into Binghampton, Indians slaughtered the entire family.

Ed and Lorraine Warren mentioned the village in their 1989 book "Ghost Hunters." The Warrens wrote about accounts from the 1930s where local youths would drive up the old roads to the hill's highest point to make out. The deserted village was also the perfect place to scare their dates. One story pertains to a certain football captain who took his girlfriend up to the ghost town and began to tell her stories of ghosts and demons. He got so into the story he spooked himself and ran from the vehicle, leaving the girl behind. Was it a prank, did he really see something, or did his imagination overwhelm him?

Much of the stories regarding the early days of the town, its people, haunts and creatures began circulating around the 1930s. The town is mentioned in 1939, but again, not so much regarding the horrors, but in the famous people who founded it. In 1960, Fessenden Blanchard wrote about Dudleytown and mentioned the curse as it was related to him. He described the vanished settlement as "a few crumbling cellars, massive stone walls and overgrown footpaths," which were formerly roads.

The tales of monsters and cursed ground in Dudleytown have drawn people from far and wide, and unfortunately, not all of them were harmless ghost hunters. Satanic rituals became a common

problem in the woods, and many are certain this may have released negative energy into the air that still lingers to this day. If Dudleytown was never haunted, it most certainly may be now.

In 1971, Joseph Owens wrote about the history of Dudleytown. It was mostly a recount of the events that plagued the villagers through the years, and once again, the curse was to blame.

In 1983 a film crew decided to do a story on the ghost town. Their accounts only helped cement the legend when the reporter got violently ill while trying to tell the story, and the equipment refused to work while in the confines of the village.

I was very fortunate to be able to visit Dudleytown many years ago before it was forbidden and illegal to enter. The trails, during our visit, were thinly defined in most cases, with Dudleytown Road and Dark Entry Road meeting in the center of the old town a few miles from their origins. Any evidence of a once-thriving village was either long gone or covered by the overgrowth of time. The woods were eerily quiet and void of wildlife, yet there was a certain serenity about them. It felt as if the trees and remains of stone walls and foundations were eager to speak of the history that made the place so famous.

Arlene and I were invited to Dudleytown with a few other paranormal investigators in 2014 to investigate the old trading post, which is now a private residence and very haunted. We captured a few ghost

voices on our recorder and everyone felt the presence of something in one of the upstairs rooms that was definitely watching us as we went about our investigation.

There are plenty of tales to peruse of the place and plenty of people who swear the stories are true, whether they have experienced the town for themselves or have only read about the history and haunts.

The area of Dudleytown is privately owned and has been for some time. Anyone caught within the boundaries of what was once Dudleytown will be arrested for trespassing. The town has gone as far as to rename the roads in order to confuse and thwart thrill seekers from going up there in the first place. Why Dudleytown? Is it the story of the ill-fated Dudley family coming to New England to settle?

Is it the stories of cloven-hoof beasts that drove residents to the brink of their sanity? Was it the mysterious, overly publicized ill luck of the townsfolk? Was it any of these or all?

Abandoned ghost towns create the perfect backdrop for the creation of scary stories and myths. The tales of ghosts, demons, curses, satanic rituals, and tragedy have made many swear that Dudleytown is the most haunted place in the United States. Even if the place is now forbidden from the eyes, one may read about its history, using imagination to paint their own picture in deep corners of the mind.



Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

The Department Store

It was a big day on my small town's retail scene in the early 1960s. JJ Newberry's, located right next to Woolworth's (fondly known as the 5 and dime), had just installed the town's first escalator. While the moving stairs only took you from floor one to floor two, the event was dramatic enough to rank front page coverage in the local newspaper, complete with cautions about getting your feet caught and disappearing into the abyss if you didn't jump on and off properly. It's safe to say the public approached the new convenience with hesitation. Some never ventured on to the contraption and continued to use the stairs. Seriously!

Ogdensburg did have a genuine "department store" on the same main street – the only one in town that unfortunately did not survive urban renewal, the construction of a strip mall on the edge of town and the arrival of the one size fits all K-Mart. Called the "Surprise" and owned by a local family, the department store consisted of one level, creaky wooden floors, and four departments that opened onto one another through large rectangular openings. The high-tech machinery used by the Surprise was a pneumatic system where your cash and slip were placed in a little metal tube that was sucked to the second floor to be processed by four women who

overlooked the scene. The same tube returned your receipt and change. (No charge cards in sight!)



The most famous and oldest department store, Harrods, was founded in 1834. The department store concept in America can also be traced to about the same year. Arnold Constable founded a small dry goods store in New York City in 1825. His was one of the first stores to issue

monthly bills to its customers, rather than the common practice of sending bills out twice a year.

The real innovator in the American department store lore was Alexander T. Stewart who established what became known as the Marble Palace on Broadway in 1846. Among his contributions to the evolution of the department store was an eight-floor store with large display windows that could be changed to reflect the season, fixed prices (no haggling), and return and cash refund policies. However, his most important contribution was his policy of providing "free entrance" to ALL customers – a practice not widely

See The Department Store, page 21



in place at the time. It was indeed a moment that changed culture. According to the WSJ (Dec. 10-11, 2022), thanks to Stewart, “by the 1920s American shoppers were affirming a new kind of equality – the democratization of (access to) luxury.”

It was F.W. Woolworth who took this concept to the next level, establishing a national chain that until the 1930s charged no more than a dime for any item, allowed customers to serve themselves and take their items to a central check-out counter. The direct result of his model was to make items available to all levels of society, including those that had few resources. And that included me. I distinctly remember shopping for an anniversary present for my parents at age 9 or 10 (of course we could walk “downtown” alone at that age!). I went into Woolworth’s basement and bought a lemonade pitcher and four glasses with a distinctive black and yellow art-deco design. That set lost a glass somewhere along the way, but for over 50 years it was religiously packed and moved by three generations. It cost one dollar.

There were other noteworthy moments in department history that date to the 19th century. Marshall Field and Company opened in Chicago with high level customer service, a first European buying office, and a bridal registry. Not only was it the first department store to introduce personal shoppers, BUT, most importantly to this article, was the first to install – you guessed it – escalators! Wanamaker’s in Pennsylvania predated Woolworth’s in offering fixed prices marked on every item, electric lights, the telephone, and SURPRISE—the first pneumatic tubes to conduct sales.

All of this makes my hometown only about 100 years behind!

The industrial revolution triggered mass production, distribution, and marketing. Standardized goods for everyone. As Andy Warhol so elegantly stated, “You can be watching TV, see Coca-Cola, and you know the President drinks Coke and Liz Taylor drinks Coke and ... you can drink Coke too. A Coke is a Coke, and no amount of money can get you a better Coke than the one (the guy) on the corner is drinking.” (WSJ, Dec. 10-11, 2022)

And despite credit cards, Amazon and online shopping, this holds true – unless, of course, if you go to the Dollar Tree, where a Coke is \$1.25!

Author’s notes:

- Look around and you will see that Americans did not heed the observation of editor J.L. Harbison who in 1899 observed that shopping is “an endless hunt for the unattainable with (the) result of not wanting it when secured.” According to the National Retail Federation, almost 197 Americans shopped in person or online in the five days after Thanksgiving. (This represents about 60 percent of the population.)
- Full disclosure. I am addicted to Amazon Prime, and almost never enter a department store. In fact, a major distribution center just opened down the street. My husband now believes that I will get it before I even order it!
- Totally unrelated to this article or anything, my favorite gift this Christmas was a sign from my daughter that said – “changing the toilet paper does not cause brain damage.”



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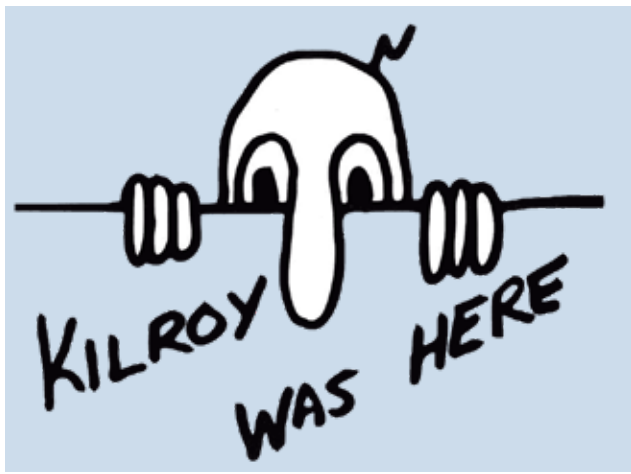
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By Jim Ignasher

Kilroy was here. In fact, during World War II, Kilroy was literally everywhere, on every continent, and in every theatre of operations. The proof was in the graffiti depicting a bald character peering over a wall, with the words “Kilroy was here,” which appeared in the most random of places: the cargo holds of Liberty Ships; ammo cases on the battlefield, the walls of bombed out cities – just to name a few. Evidently Kilroy got around, but who was he? Where did he come from? And how did he become such an iconic character of the war? Was he a real person, or the figment of someone’s imagination? Even President Roosevelt and his top military leaders didn’t know the answers.

There were of course some theories about Kilroy. Some said it was a gag started by an AWOL serviceman who enjoyed taunting the military police.

Another story went that “Kilroy” was a G. I. who hid from his company commander during the assignment of work details, leading him to shout, “Where the H-E-double-hockey sticks is Kilroy!?” (Or words to that effect.)

A running joke at many military bases was an official looking notice posted on bulletin boards stating, “Kilroy, report to your captain.”

One of the more plausible theories

related to an army air corps sergeant named Kilroy who while attending radio school in Florida became ill and had to be hospitalized. As a prank, a friend began posting notices such as, “Five more days until Kilroy is here,” then “Four more days until Kilroy is here,” and so on, and upon his return posted, “Kilroy is here!”

In any case, when U. S. troops began arriving overseas, they discovered that Kilroy, whoever he was, had already arrived before them. Before long, Kilroy had also been to England, Italy, North Africa, and Australia, and eventually made it to Berlin and Japan.

One story told of a pilot shot down over Nazi territory who reportedly wrote, “Kilroy was here” on sidewalks and walls along his escape route just to taunt the enemy.

Another story tells of an American infantryman who would tease his air force counterparts by scrawling “Kilroy was here” on the walls of newly established air bases as a way of indicating that the infantry got here first.

The air force however had their own version of this tale that involved an aviator who scrawled “Kilroy was here” in places that would later be occupied by the infantry.

“Kilroy’s” identity and origin remained elusive throughout the war and into peacetime. Then in 1946 an effort was made to solve the mystery once and for all. The American Transit Association held a radio contest on a program titled “Speak to America,” asking that the real Kilroy, or his creator, come forward. As an inducement, the company offered as a prize – a 20-ton trolley car! This sounds odd today, but in 1946, there was

a housing shortage due to the millions of returning U. S. service personnel, and sometimes imagination was needed when it came to finding accommodations.

About forty men stepped up to claim the prize, but only one could produce proof, and that was James J. Kilroy of Halifax, Massachusetts: an inspector at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to inspect and count the rivets holding the steel plates of ships together. Riveters were paid by the rivet, and some would erase Kilroy’s inspection marks after he went off duty so the next inspector would count them twice. Therefore, James began writing in big letters, “Kilroy was here” in grease pencil, which was harder to erase, proving the rivets had been counted. With a war on, ship interiors went unpainted, so “Kilroy was here” remained visible to all who sailed on them.

James Kilroy claimed his prize, and it was delivered to his home where it became a playroom for his nine children.

In October of 1946, students at the University of Minneapolis held a mock funeral for “Kilroy,” who, according to the university newspaper, had been trampled by “a horde of co-eds.” His tombstone read, “Kilroy is here.”

Two days later pranksters “stole” Kilroy’s body, leaving behind a note that read, “Kilroy, Jr. was here.”

In 1947 Monogram Pictures released a movie titled, *Kilroy Was Here* starring Jackie Cooper and Jackie Coogan. It was a comedy about the tribulations of an ex-GI named Kilroy going to college on the GI Bill.

James Kilroy passed away in 1962 at age 60, and is buried in Central Cemetery in Halifax, MA. Although he never served in the military, his name was seen by millions, and if one were to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and know where to look, they will find two Kilroy inscriptions engraved into the granite monuments.



State Champions!

Paul Lonardo

Smithfield Co-op Girls' Hockey Team Wins Second Title in As Many Years



The girls' co-op hockey team comprised of three high schools—Smithfield, Coventry, and Moses Brown—became state champions in March by defeating LaSalle 3-2 in a thrilling double overtime game. Junior Quinn Faria scored the game-winning goal in OT to clinch it for Smithfield, the host school in the co-op.

The team finished in second place this year, suffering only two losses, one to LaSalle Academy and the other to the Burrillville/Ponaganset/Bay View co-op team. They avenged their regular season losses to these teams by beating

them both when it counted, in the playoffs.

Coach Kerri Nadeau has been at the helm for five years now, and the recent success her teams have enjoyed was not something that came easily.

Like any great journey, it was a challenge to reach this pinnacle. Five years ago, Nadeau's first season as head coach, there were only fifteen girls on the roster, and for some of them, just skating was a challenge. Overcoming these challenges in just a few short seasons and beating some perennial

powerhouse schools along the way made the achievement of becoming state champions this year that much sweeter.

This year's team featured twenty-two girls, many of whom have been playing since they were seven or eight years old.

"Our talent has certainly increased over the last couple years, along with our numbers," Nadeau says.

See Smithfield Girl's Hockey, page 25

Last year, the team got a taste of success when they finished the regular season undefeated while going on to win the Division II championship. In 2022, the RIIL divided eight girls' hockey into two divisions, with four teams in each division. This year, however, the RIIL went back to just one division, which made things more challenging. Smithfield would have to play and beat the best teams repeatedly.

Nadeau said that the girls were very excited to play against a perennial Division I team in LaSalle, who went undefeated for a second season in a row. For Smithfield to hand them their only loss of this year, and become state champions the way they did, was nothing short of awe-inspiring.

"They put in the extra effort all night," Nadeau says. "They never gave up, and

never stopped believing in themselves. They were determined and they deserved to win. I'm very proud of them."

Because this is a young team with a lot of talent, with many of the same girls returning to play next year, they should be competitive as they look to threepeat.

"We didn't lose a lot of seniors last year," Nadeau says. "We also had big freshman classes come in the last two years, so that really helps. So, we will be pretty much the same team the next two seasons." She adds, "We'll be looking forward to defending our title in 2024."

Unsurprisingly, Nadeau comes from a strong hockey background herself, skating for Burrillville/Ponaganset as a

high schooler before going on to play at Nichols College. With the experience and the knowledge, she gained playing for so many years and on a collegiate level, she was able to help the girls play to their highest capability and achieve something special.

"I give all the credit to the girls," Nadeau says. "They're the ones that put in the work, showing up every day and practicing hard."

For a couple of our seniors who played all four years, and were part of the building process, experiencing seasons where the team only won a few games, it was extra rewarding for them to win a state championship in their final year.

***Congratulations girls on a fantastic season and good luck in 2023-2024!
We'll be rooting for you.***



Team players being recognized by the Smithfield Town Council



A View From the Cheap Seats

Dan Pieroni

Ocean State Future Stars Hockey Academy Camps Stress Player Development, Collaboration, and Fun

Coach Frank Varrecchione doesn't coach for glory or fame. He coaches to teach kids the fundamentals of hockey, and the camaraderie and fun players gain through participation in athletics.

A Gallagher Middle School social studies teacher by day and passionate youth hockey impresario by night and weekend, Varrecchione has had plenty of opportunities to hone his knowledge of the game he loves. His experiences as the former coach of the Smithfield High School Girl's Hockey team coupled with the Providence Hockey Club have now led to a series of youth camps he runs in conjunction with the Ocean State Future Stars Hockey Academy, the Mount Saint Charles Junior Mounties, and the Rhode Island Saints youth hockey team.

With such a pedigree, one would think that only the best and strongest players are encouraged to apply. This could not be further than the truth. Everyone player will be helped by coaches who put the "fun" in fundamentals and believe in personal growth over winning and personal glory.

When he coaches, Varrecchione carries the belief that personal ego should be checked at the door and the kids should take priority. Such is the overarching principle of the Ocean State Future Stars Academy.

Yes, a player can develop advanced skills that are essential to hockey like stickhandling and forechecking, but Varrecchione emphasizes a love of hockey and fun over the development of advanced skills.

"We are a skate first, hockey second organization" he says.

The skate first, play second ethos manifests itself within the scope and sequence of the hockey camps offered. The Learn to Skate/Play program is designed for beginners. Each camper is developed on an individual basis and learning how to skate works in tandem with the development of fundamental hockey skills. This philosophy helps the person grow as an individual.

Help and encouragement are always available. The Learn to Play and Skate Camps have a low player to coach ratio of seven players to one coach. Best of all, players are always made to feel included and valued within the entire process.

"We make them [the players] feel like a million bucks" Coach Varrecchione says. "Once they have established both the necessary skills and awareness of the game, they don't want to leave."

Further enticing players to embrace the camps is that they continually meet with the coaches to discuss individual progress and what they can do to become proficient in a specific skill related to hockey or team.

If the player chooses to move on to a more advanced camp, they can take part in a house league program that provides a more formal game atmosphere while still emphasizing personal development, individual creativity, and fun.

Games are initially structured under a continuous play model. There are no whistles to stop play and no goalies to

stop pucks. In a culture that prides high fives and encouragement over individual accolades and future success at the high school or college levels, it is important to highlight this style of play to show players that fun is more important than winning.

Eventually, games take the form of a more traditional approach, but players are given more opportunity to develop their individual skills through station-based practices that stress hard work and team unity over individual accolades.

Varrecchione believes that once someone sees hockey, they learn to love it through skills acquisition and fun. However, the camps do run year-round, and he is more than willing to be flexible with parents and kids who have other athletic or personal commitments that conflict with his camps.

When I asked him to share a story of a camper who achieved personal growth and love of hockey through the camp, he cited the story of "Brendan" who came to his learn to skate and was reluctant to leave the coach's side at first.

Over time, Brendan developed a sense of self-confidence and hockey skills where he became one of the best players on his mite team, and later went on to a successful high school career.

If you want to have fun, play hockey, and learn the power of teamwork and self-confidence, then the Ocean State Future Stars Hockey Academy Camps are wonderful places to go.

For more information on the youth hockey camps visit www.risaints.com

R.C. LaPerche School – Wall of Graduates!

R.C. LaPerche Elementary recognizes past student-graduates in a fun way by decorating their hallways with old class photos! So far this wall of graduates has brought smiles to the faces of both current and former LaPerche students. Great job, LaPerche!



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Senior Center Painting Class with Sylvia



Photos from Facebook

Grace Note Farm's 3rd Chamber Music Festival An Unbelievable Deal



By Harry Anderson

You sit on antique chairs in the added on great room of a 1728 cottage with ceiling-to-floor windows that overlook a forest, a pond, and paddocks where horses, a donkey, and geese graze. You chat with the friendliest of people from down the street to as far away as Boston. For two hours you dazzle to the music of the world's greatest composers – living and deceased – performed by impassioned musicians.

But that's not all you get for your \$30.00 ticket. Then, Virginia Sindelar (owner of Grace Note Farm and its artistic director) lines her kitchen counter with gourmet sweets of her own making: cheesecake, puddings, cookies, pies. Help yourself!

Virginia in her own right is a flutist, having a degree from Julliard and stellar credentials such as performing at Tanglewood and abroad, and teaching. When she retired, she searched all of New England for the perfect spot to fulfill her wish to be at peace with Nature, antiquity, and, most of all, to help young musicians launch their careers. It took her three years before finding it: an abandoned ten acre spread in Pascoag, three miles down Jackson Schoolhouse Road from Putnam Pike.

In the five seasons that she has produced Music at the Farm concerts (a season runs monthly on the second Sunday, excepting January), she has used her connections with music schools such as the Manhattan School of Music and the New England Conservatory to assemble a cadre of nine artists in

residence who presently include: David Rivera Bozon (tenor), Yunwen Chen (cello), Xiyn Deng (piano), Nina Bernat (double bass), Jiarong Li (piano), Emma Robertson (soprano), Anthony Trionfo (flute), Elias Dagher (piano), and David Bernat (violin).

All are young, all are either studying for advanced degrees at notable schools of music or have recently graduated, and all are eager to get a foot hold in the highly competitive field of music-making. Above all else, all possess extraordinary skill that extends well beyond their youth. Their eagerness gives rise to the passion that infuses their playing and that brings an audience to its feet.

In reply to the question put to him, "How does performing at the Farm help you?" Elias Dagher, whose wizardry at the keyboard is electrifying, says, "Performing at the Farm is about a lot more than getting a paycheck or 'furthering my career.' It is about becoming a better musician and having a place of friendship and mutual trust to keep returning to."

With as much sincerity as he puts into his playing, he adds, "All members of the Farm community, from Virginia to the musicians to the regular audience members, have fostered this atmosphere of intense music-making. It is a precious thing, a spirit that floats through the air of the Farm."

Coming up on the first two weekends in June is the third annual Grace Note

Farm's Chamber Music Festival. Virginia has chosen violinist David Bernat to be its Artistic Director while she remains its Executive Director. Together they have enlisted eleven superb musicians to perform compositions of the world's greatest composers, including Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, and Ravel. It will be an exhausting week or so for this eighty-year-old woman; for these musicians will be lodging with her. She'll be serving them three meals a day, carrying on as a surrogate mother, and overseeing the logistics of the four concerts. All the while she'll be superintending the grooming of her ten acres and the feeding of her animals.

The woods of Pascoag will be alive with the sound of music. And we North County folk need not travel to the big cities to take it all in. For a \$30.00 ticket per concert, Google gracenotefarmmusicfestival.com or telephone 401.567.0354.

Look for a 3'x3' white wooden sign at the top of a gravel driveway with the words "CONCERT TODAY" crudely painted in black on it as you drive north on Jackson Schoolhouse Road. A neighbor wearing overalls should have it in place by one o'clock.



First-time Author, Smithfield Resident Debuts Children's Book *Tasha Made a Friend*

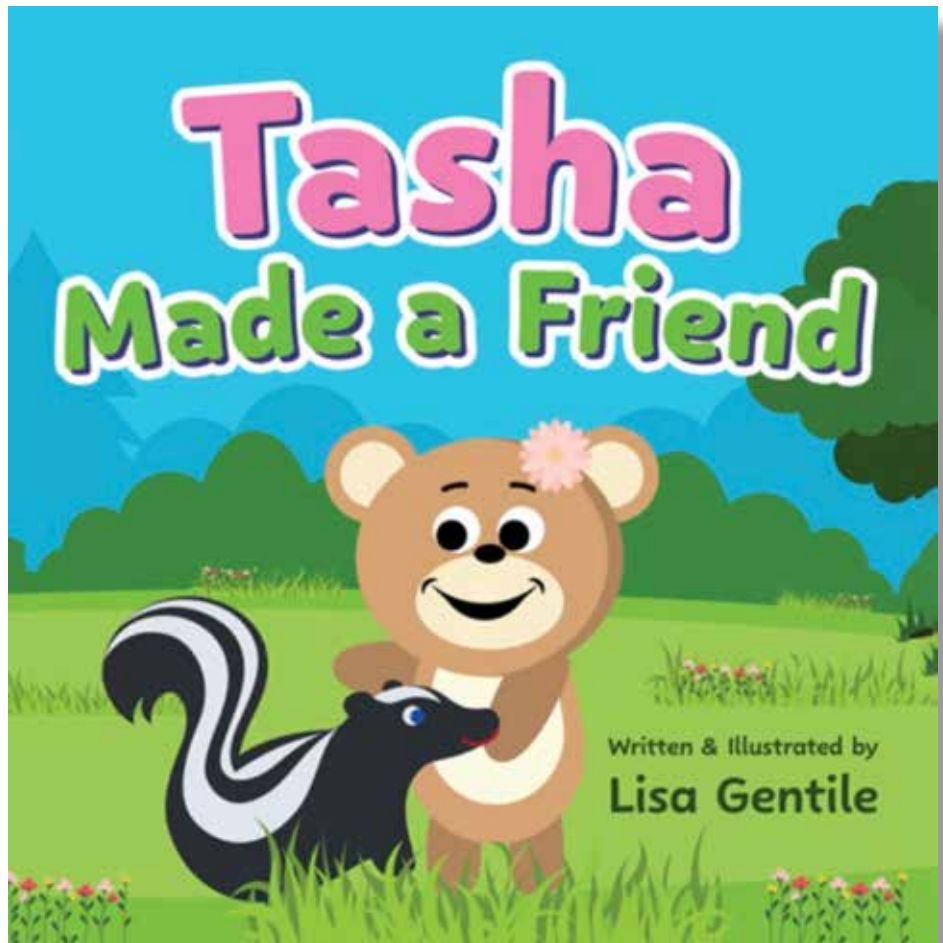
By Brittni Henderson

Debut children's author, longtime Smithfield resident, and Smithfield High School graduate Lisa Gentile is proud to present her whimsical and fun-loving story *Tasha Made a Friend*. Gentile's dream of publishing Tasha finally came to fruition on April 14, 2023, years after it was originally written. She wrote the story of Tasha and her travels while she was in a children's literature class at the Community College of Rhode Island. Publishing the book was a struggle at that time, so she shelved the story for years.

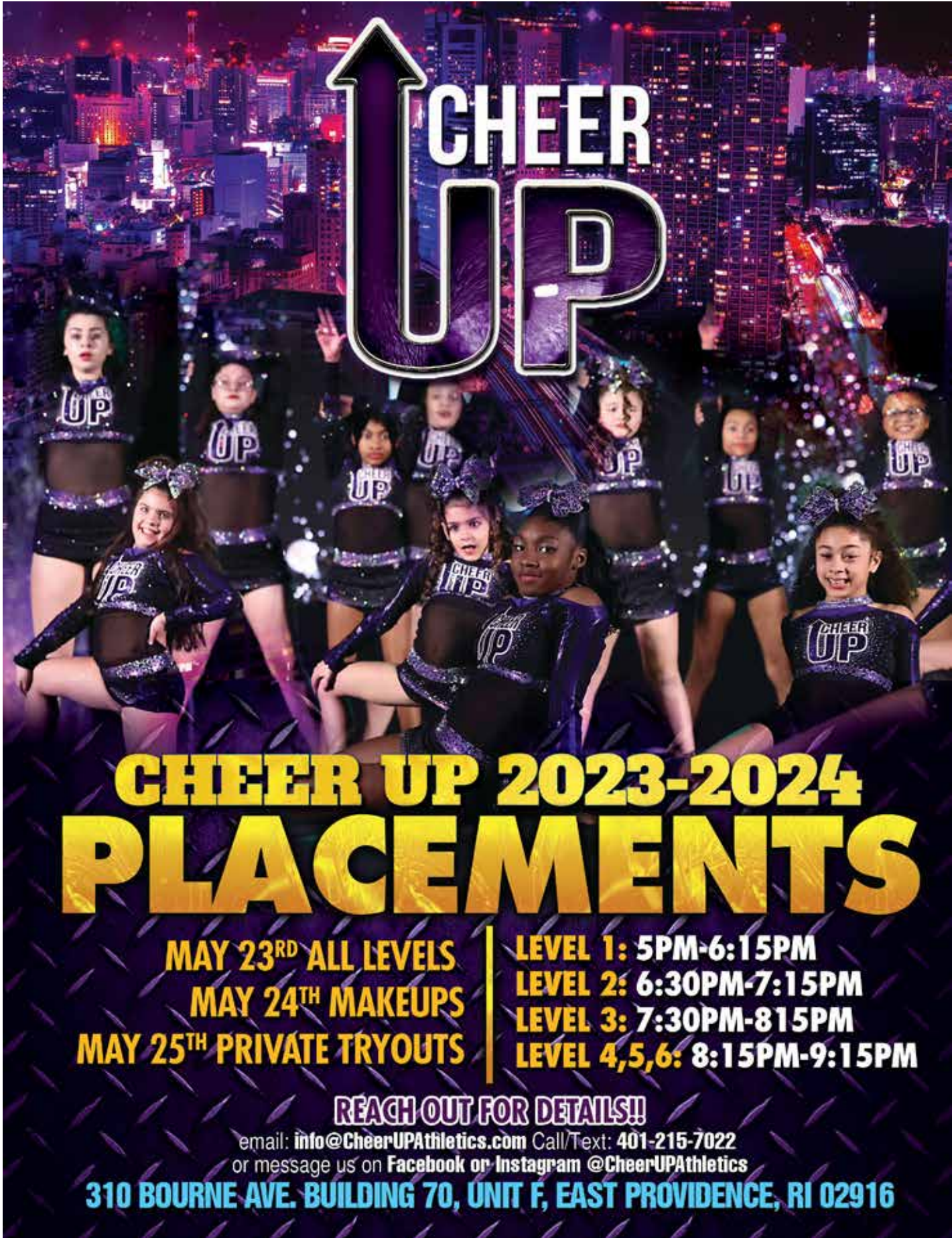
Recently, friends of Gentile encouraged her to give it another try. She took Tasha off the shelf, gave it some updates, and pressed forward with publishing, this time with much success! Gentile finds solace and peace writing children's books and she is excited to continue this on this journey.

Tasha Made a Friend is about a young bear who befriends an unlikely pal. Despite warnings from her family, Tasha realizes that friendship can come in all shapes, sizes, and creatures.

Tasha Made a Friend is available for purchase at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.



Lisa Gentile



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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:

NOOFER

Meet Noofer – he is magnificent! This big, beautiful boy is 12 years young, and he is just shy of 20 pounds of pure love. Needless to say, Mr. Noofer is on a diet! Noofer came to the CCC when his owner sadly passed away. Noofer has lived in a home his whole life and seems to be adjusting well to his new friends and family here at the cat center. This gentle giant loves to be pet, talked to, and brushed. Noofer has a very calm and chill personality. From what we've observed at the cat center, he seems curious about the other cats. Won't you consider this sweet, friendly boy as your next companion?



GREYSON

Can you say hunk? Introducing Greyson, a handsome hunk-of-a-kitty searching for a happy home to spend his carefree days. Greyson is a light grey tiger with the most distinguished and commanding presence about him. This affectionate, gentle boy enjoys cat naps by the window and hanging out with his peeps. Greyson thoroughly loves to be pet and he is even known to take some great selfies with volunteers here at the cat center. If you think this kitty might be the "Mr. Right" for you, fill out an application and come meet him for yourself!



SHEBA ALPINE

Hello gorgeous! The stunning black and white beauty known as Sheba Alpine is an absolute delight to be around. Approximately 3 years old, Sheba Alpine can hold her own when it comes to conversation! She loves to meow, and she seeks attention. To say she is a "talker" is an understatement. Sheba Alpine is curious, playful, enjoys being pet and is a social butterfly. This lovely lady is looking for a forever home to call her own and she would enjoy nothing more than a lap to curl up next to.



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.



Bauer

This is Bauer. He is 9 but still runs around like a puppy. He loves his yard and being chased. His favorite thing to do is snuggle on the couch between mom and dad.♥

We LOVE pets at The Smithfield Times. Let's celebrate our furry, squirmy, or scaly friends every month. Submit a brief description to and photo brittni@smithfieldtimesri.net to be featured in the June issue of the magazine. Submissions might also be used on our Instagram.



Memorial Day 2023

The members of Smithfield's American Legion, Balfour-Cole Post 64, will be conducting a Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Deerfield Park.

The ceremony will begin at 11:00 AM on Monday, May 29. Members of our community are invited to join us as we honor and remember those who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach our children that our country's freedom and privileges have not been achieved without a cost.





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:

Bookworms Book Group: Thursday, May 4th @ 4:30 p.m.

Playdough Fun: Saturday, May 6th @ 10:30 a.m.

Tiny-Tots Story Time (children 1 to 2 ½ years old)

Tuesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Preschool Story Time (children ages 2 ½ to 5 years old):

Wednesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Arts and Crafts Club:

Monday, May 8th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

“Books are Fun!” Book Group:

Thursday, May 11th at 4:30 p.m.

Yoga for Kids: Monday, May 15th @ 10:30 a.m.

Middle School Book Group:

Wednesday, May 17th @ 3:30 p.m.

Kindergarten Countdown:

Thursday, May 18th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

RI Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Story:

Time – Friday, May 19th @ 10:30 a.m.

Family Story Hour: Saturday, May 20th @ 10:30 a.m.

Young Adult Programming:

Trivia Night – Star Wars: Monday, May 1st @ 6:00

Introduction to Boxels: Monday, May 8th @ 6:30 p.m.

Crafternoon – Collaging: Tuesday, May 9th @ 4:00 p.m.

3Doodler – Learning How to Draw in 3D:

Wednesday, May 10th, May 24th, and 31st @ 3:30 p.m.

Creative Writing: Wednesday, May 10th @ 4:00 p.m.

High School Book Club: Monday, May 15th @ 4:30 p.m.

Fantasy Map Building: Tuesday, May 16th @ 4:00 p.m.

Introduction to Sphero Edu

Tuesday, May 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Little Bits: Tuesday, May 23rd @ 5:00 p.m.

Video Game Tournament:

Saturday, May 27th @ 12:30 p.m.

Craft: Pressed Flower Lanterns

Tuesday, May 30th @ 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday,

May 31st @ 11:00 a.m.

Adult Programming:

Matinee Movie: Wednesday, May 3rd @ 1:00 p.m.

Card Club: Thursday, May 4th @ 5:30 p.m.

Laser Engraved Bookmarks Fridays, May 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th @ 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 13th and 20th @ 1:00 p.m.

Introduction to the Cricut Maker 3: Heat Transfer

Vinyl: Saturday, May 6th @ 1:00 p.m.

Adult Craft – Marble Gem Sun Catchers: Monday, May 8th @ 5:30.

Tri-County Community Health Workshop:

Friday, May 12th @ 12:00 Noon

Introduction to the Cricut Maker 3: Basic Vinyl Vinyl:

Thursday, May 11th @ 5:00 p.m.

Introduction to 3-D Printing: Monday, May 15th and Monday, May 22nd @ 6:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting: Tuesday, May 16th @ 6:00 p.m.

Cricut Club: Thursday, May 18th @ 5:00 p.m.

Tabletop Game Night: Thursday, May 18th @ 6:00 p.m.

Living Dead in R.I.: Tuesday, May 23rd @ 6:30 p.m.

Thursday Night Book Club:

Thursday, May 25th @ 6:00 p.m.

Fantasy Book Club – The Accidental Apprentice:

Monday, May 22nd @ 6:00 p.m.

Drop-in Tech Help: Monday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

Virtual Game Night: Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m.

Walk & Talk Book Club:

Thursday, May 4th and May 18th @ 11:00 a.m.

Friends of the Library Events:

Friends of the Library (FOL) Meeting:

Saturday, May 13th @ 1:00 p.m.

Coffee, Cake & Conversation Book Group:

Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Save the Date: Fundraising Jewelry Sale will be held on June 23rd and 24.

The FOL can be reached via email at friends.east.smithfield.library@gmail.com or leave a message for Catherine Lynn at the Circulation desk.



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 Book Sale

Saturday, May 20 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Children's Events:

Please register for all of the following programs by calling 401-949-3630 or visit the children's room.

American Girl Book Cub: Tuesday, May 2 at 4:15 pm

STEAM with Miss Hailey-Rose:

Wednesday, May 3 at 4:15 pm

PAWS to Read: Monday, May 8 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Collage Workshop: Saturday, May 20 at 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Graphic Novel Book Group: Tuesday, May 23 at 4:15

Drop in programs, no registration required.

May the 4th Be with You: Thursday, May 4th at 2:00 pm

Drop-in Craft Every: Thursday at 4:30 pm

Game Day Every: Friday from 2:30 – 4:30 pm

Kids Reading Across Rhode Island:

Saturday, May 13 from 2:00 – 4:00pm

Teen Events:

Please register on our website:

<https://greenvillelibraryri.org/teens>

Magic: The Gathering (Grades 6-12):

Monday, May 1, 6:00-8:00 pm

Cozy Craft: Gratitude Journals (Grades 6-12):

Thursday, May 4, 3:30-4:30 pm

Teen Advisory Board (Grades 6-12):

Monday, May 8, 6:00-7:00 pm

Board Game Hangout (Grades 6-12):

Thursday, May 11, 3:30-4:30 pm

Comic Book Collage (Grades 6-12):

Monday, May 15, 6:00-7:00 pm

Therapy Dog Hangout (Grades 6-12):

Wednesday, May 17, 6:00-7:00 pm

Cozy Craft: Stained Glass Art (Grades 6-12):

Thursday, May 18, 3:30-4:30 pm

The Middles: Bwana Iguana Reptile Adventure (Grades 4-6):

Monday, May 22, 6:00-7:00 pm

Virtual Community Service Hours (Grades 6-12)

Adult Events

Please register online on our event calendar at greenvillelibraryri.org or by calling 401-949-3630.

Virtual Book Chat: Thursday, May 4 & 18 at 6:00 pm

Coffee & Books: Wednesday, May 10 at 10:30 am

Monday Matinee: Monday, May 15 at 2:00 pm

Knitting MAVens: Every Tuesday at 6:00 pm

Mystery Book Club: Tuesday, May 2 at 1:30 pm

Picnic Table Reads Book Club: Thursday, May 18 at 1:00 pm

Home Sweet Home Book Club: Monday, May 22 at 6:30 pm

Bone Builders: Every Monday at 11:00 am

Every Friday at 1:30 pm – Drop-in, no registration required!

The Evolution of American Music – Musical

Performance with Dean Plowman and LeWayne Fisher:

Monday, May 15 at 6:00 pm

I Wanna Dance with Somebody – Screening & Meet &

Greet: Wednesday, May 15 at 5:00 pm

Decorative Bee Skep Workshop: Wednesday, May 31
6:00 pm

Exhibits: Giles Cloutier – Through May 2023

Local artist Giles Cloutier will exhibit his paintings at the Greenville Public Library through the months of April and May. Cloutier's exhibit will include a selection of oil, acrylic, and watercolor paintings.

A former Greenville resident, Cloutier has exhibited at numerous locations in Rhode Island including the Cranston, Cumberland, Warwick, and Woonsocket public libraries. He is a member of the Wickford Art Association and exhibits annually at the Wickford Art Festival. He has also exhibited at the Warwick Center for the Arts.

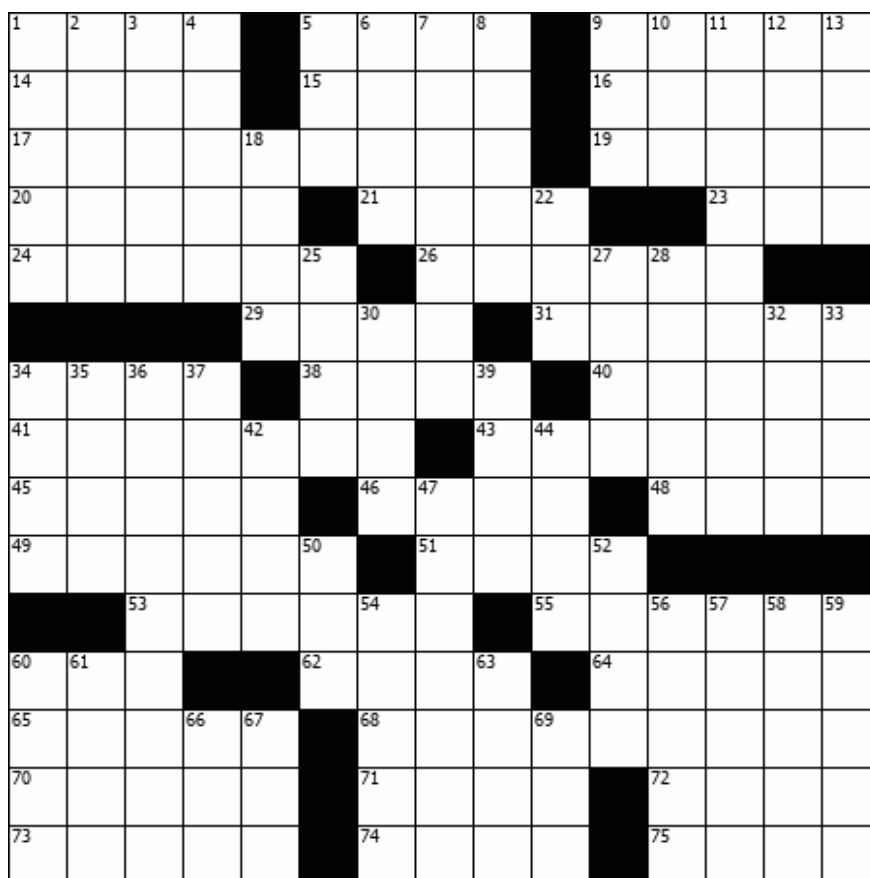
Cloutier's love of art started as a child and he began oil painting in the early 1980s. Following an illustrious career in the national and international tech industry, Cloutier was encouraged to pursue his artistic passions in retirement by his wife. Cloutier believes "there is something spiritual that happens while painting. I am fortunate. I have experienced that many times."

View Cloutier's work on display at the Greenville Public Library, 573 Putnam Pike, Greenville from April 1st through May 31st.

Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Read a bar code
5. Goad
9. Cozy retreats
14. Neck region
15. Vocalist ____ Turner
16. Brief summary
17. Gymnastic
19. Excuse
20. Call up
21. Scored on serve
23. Superlative suffix
24. Perceived
26. Beginning
29. Look intently
31. Building cement
34. Movies, for short
38. Swindles
40. Din
41. Formal speech
43. Knife or fork
45. Country roads
46. 18-wheeler
48. Remain
49. Main dish
51. Nays
53. Shaquille and Tatum
55. Nova ____
60. Racket
62. Sounded a bell
64. In the midst of
65. Best
68. Custodian
70. Sheriff's helpers
71. Periods in history
72. Not there
73. Slumbered
74. Society girls
75. Poker fee



Down

1. Metal fasteners
2. Hidden supply
3. Kitchen garb
4. Broadway lights
5. Depot (abbr.)
6. Pocket bread
7. Horse with a horn
8. Professional speedster
9. Gun lobby (abbr.)
10. Conger
11. Charles Darwin, e.g.
12. File labels
13. Barbecue rod
18. Horn's sound
22. Poorly lit
25. Art ____
27. Departed
28. Presses clothes
30. Ages and ages
32. Korea's locale
33. Count (on)
34. Warsaw native
35. Persia, now
36. Dialect of Chinese
37. Severe
39. Japanese wrestling
42. Understood! (2 wds.)
44. Formal accessories
47. Catch
50. Cup handle
52. Begone!
54. Fastened shoestrings
56. Nebraska city
57. Keepsake
58. Inactive
59. Concur
60. Short swims
61. Revered person
63. Snatch
66. Egyptian cobra
67. Rent
69. Double curve

Answers to puzzle on page 38



French Pastry

Submitted by Sean DeMoranville

My aunt Karen Driscoll got this recipe in a Home-Ec class in the 70's and it's been passed on through my family ever since. My mom Colleen DeMoranville (nee: Driscoll) saved the recipe from oblivion and makes it every year for the holidays! I even shared the recipe with my foreign friends who now make it in their home countries in Europe and the Middle East.

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups flour
2 sticks butter
1 cup sour cream

Mix together and form three balls.
Roll out each ball into a rectangle shape.

Filling:

Cinnamon
Sugar

Mix filling ingredients together and sprinkle on each dough mixture.
Roll up each dough starting with the longest side.

Bake at 375F for about twenty minutes on the bottom rack.

Take out of oven, let cool.

Icing:

Mix together powdered sugar, milk and vanilla until desired consistency
(I tend to do 2 cups powdered sugar, a few table spoons of milk and 1/2tsp or vanilla)

Drizzle over each roll.

Cut and serve!



Do you love to cook or have a favorite recipe?

Send us your favorite recipe for a chance to be featured in the next Smithfield Times issue!

Email submissions to brittni@smithfieldtimesri.net

Obituaries



Kenneth E. "Woody" Wood, Jr.
3/16/23
www.gilmanandvalade.com



Alice L. Deshaies
3/23/23
www.thequinnfuneralhome.com

Alice Deshaies was a Smithfield resident for over 55 years. She lived almost 40 years on Willow Road with her late husband Joe Deshaies, and the remainder of her life on Marmarel Road with her daughter and son-in-law Denise and Kevin Trainor, as well as her two grandchildren, Allison and Kyle. She was an active member at the Smithfield Senior Center who loved playing bingo and high-low-jack every week.



Senator Maryellen Goodwin
4/15/23
www.dignitymemorial.com

Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 36.

S	C	A	N		S	P	U	R		N	E	S	T	S
N	A	P	E		T	I	N	A		R	E	C	A	P
A	C	R	O	B	A	T	I	C		A	L	I	B	I
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P	O	S	S	E		E	R	A	S		H	E	R	E
S	L	E	P	T		D	E	B	S		A	N	T	E

The Smithfield Times

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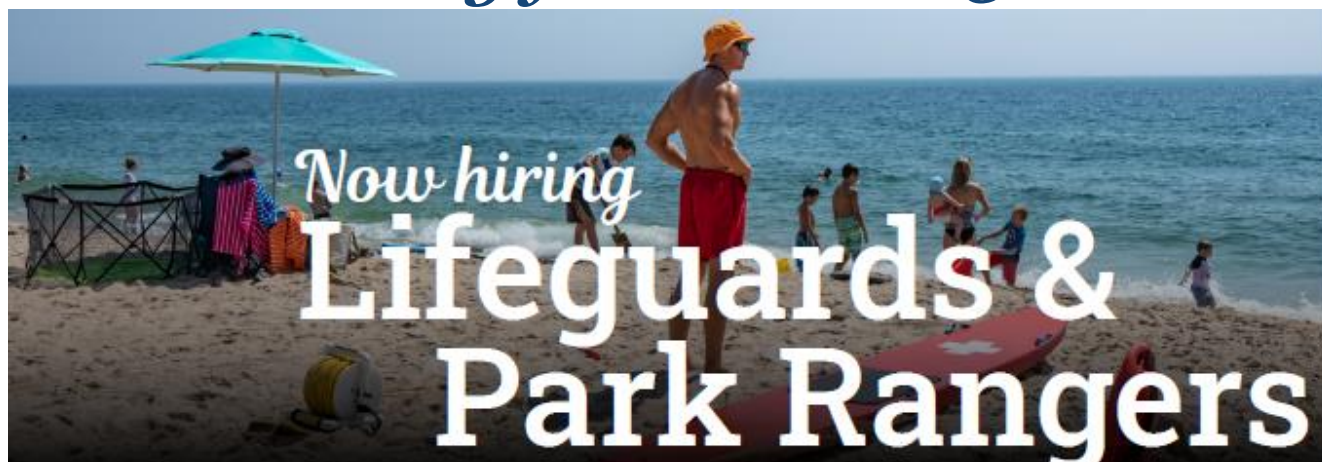
Sandra Achille - Photo and Creative Contributor

Mark Carrier - Photographer

Tim Jones - Cartoonist

The *Smithfield Times* does not assume any financial responsibility for typographical error in advertisements that have received final approval or are submitted camera ready.

We're hiring for the 2023 season!



Looking for a seasonal job? Ready to work outside?

We encourage anyone interested to apply, including college and high school students, senior citizens, and retired military personnel, to help fill open positions at state beaches, parks, and campgrounds. We're hiring for lifeguards for both freshwater and saltwater beaches, as well as beach managers, park rangers and naturalists, recreational area clerks, facilities attendants, campground attendants, and groundskeepers.



Join our team at
riparks.ri.gov/employment

Full-time lifeguard positions are available at all state swimming areas through Monday, September 4. All lifeguard candidates must be at least 16 years old and have successfully completed courses and hold valid cards in lifeguard training, first aid, and CPR including infant, child, and adult. Other seasonal positions are mostly full-time and include weekend and holiday hours. Other seasonal positions include beach managers, park rangers, naturalists, recreational area clerks, facilities attendants, campground attendants, and groundskeepers. Previous experience not required. The State of Rhode Island is an equal opportunity/diversity employer.



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