# Smithfield Times



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## Letter from the Editor



Brittni Henderson Editor

#### Dear Treasured Smithfield Times readers,

As someone who would consider herself a surface-level sports fan, I would never predict that I would ever spend a Friday night watching a Little League baseball game on television. I, alongside the entire Town of Smithfield, tuned in excitedly on August 11 when the Smithfield Little League played their victorious game that paved their way to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.

Over the following weeks, I watched every game these all-stars played in Williamsport. Every game was played with heart, enthusiasm, and skill. I was on the edge of my seat during the first game against Henderson, NV. My heart broke for them after the game versus Nolensville, TN – but I felt that they had it in them to win at least one more game. They showed up and showed out

during their matchup with Media, PA.

All of that led to Tuesday, August 22 against El Segundo, CA, which turned out to be a bittersweet loss for the Metro Region Champs.

The Trap North hosted a viewing party and I attended with our photographer Mark Carrier, who captured the evening in photos. What stuck out to me most were the continuous cheers and claps for the team, despite the outcome of the game. Streaming on multiple TVs throughout the restaurant were the smiling faces of Smithfield in the last inning when they were able to score three runs. It was this never-give-up, keep-doing-your-best mentality that shined brighter than any score could.

It would be very remiss of me to exclude the fact that this team has some of the funniest players in the series. I loved their fun facts, interviews, and when their personalities were on display.

I also observed the Town of Smithfield come together in a way that I've never seen before. From pep rallies to viewing parties – Smithfield banded together for this team and their families. This series is a reminder that when we work together for a common cause, wonderful things can happen.

By the time this issue is in your hands, the Smithfield Little League team will be back in town, gearing up for their celebratory parade on September 3. Thanks to them, we will be left with a fond memory of connection, teamwork, and good-old-fashioned sportsmanship.

THANK YOU to the team, coaches, managers, and community for making the month of August one for the Smithfield history books!

Warmest regards,

Brittni Henderson





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

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

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

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

- George M. Prescott

Courtesy of:

## **George M. Prescott**

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### **Smithfield's Residents of the Month**



## 2023 METRO REGION CHAMPIONS SMITHFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE

**SMITHFIELD, RHODE ISLAND** 

No.	Name	Age	Position(s)	Bat/Throw			
1	John Wozniak	12	OF	R/R			
2	Connor Queenan	12	С	L/R			
3	Brady McShane	12	SS/P	R/R			
8	Gavin Cadoret	12	2B	R/R			
9	Gavin Gibree	12	CF/P	L/L			
10	Cameron Charlemagne	12	OF	R/R			
12	Royce Aglione	12	OF	L/L			
13	Henry Begnoche	12	IF/P	R/R			
14	Mason Dionne	12	IF/P	R/R			
15	Brayden Castellone	12	IF/P/C	L/L R/R			
19	Connor Curtis	12	IB/P	L/L			
21	Franco Lema	12	C/1B	R/R			

Manager	Coaches	District Administrator	League President	Translator
Eric Gibree	Guytano Aglione	Mike Guilfoyle	Shanyn Turner	N/A
	Steve Curtis			



Back (L-R): Mason Dionne, Guytano Aglione (Coach), Eric Gibree (Manager), Steve Curtis (Coach), Connor Curtis Middle (L-R): Henry Begnoche, Franco Lema, Brayden Castellone, Brady McShane, Royce Aglione, Gavin Gibree Front (L-R): John Wozniak, Gavin Cadoret, Connor Queenan, Cameron Charlemagne

The Hometown History Makers



#### By Joe Siegel

No one was less surprised by Smithfield Little League's string of victories than head coach and team manager Eric Gibree. At press time, the team was gearing up to play in the Little League World Series. Coach Gibree feels that destiny had a significant role in this journey.

"This has actually been the plan since these kids were about nine years old," Coach Gibree said. "The coaching staff, we've all been together since they were seven or eight. We knew that we had something pretty good here."

"The kids are having a great time," Coach Gibree said of the team, who were in Williamsport, PA awaiting their debut in the World Series. "This place is like Disneyland. There's no going home after you win the regionals. They take you into a room after you win the game, they explain it, they read you the riot act, and then eight hours later you're on a bus."

"It was a great season so far," said player Gavin Gibree, adding it was always a goal to end up playing

in the World Series.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience," said player Royce Aglione.

The team has persevered through some obstacles.

"We lost our first game in the regional tournament and had to claw our way through," Coach Gibree recalled. "We had the tying home runs, we had goahead home runs, we had two walk-off wins. We had Connor Curtis hit a gametying home run in the sixth inning and then Gavin Gibree hit a walk-off sack fly in the sixth."

"The support from the Smithfield community has been incredible." Coach Gibree said.

The Town Council voted to allocate money to support the team and other organizations and businesses have also pitched in to defray the team's expenses.

Rhode Island State Senator David Tikoian (D) and Town Councilman John Tassoni have also been enthusiastic cheerleaders for the team.

"We always knew that there was going to be a cost associated with getting to play in the World Series," Coach Gibree noted. "But until you see what everything costs, it's pretty crazy. Everyone offering up their time and money to help the team's families get here, it's been pretty incredible."

"I've seen pop-up lemonade stands run by eight-year-old girls which have raised \$250," Gibree continued. "Our director of fundraisers, Shanyn Turner, is absolutely amazing. She does a phenomenal job."

Another fundraising effort was a pep rally held August 14 at Deerfield Park where families, friends, businesses, new stations, and community members showed up to support the team.

According to spokesperson Shanyn Turner, as of August 22, fundraising efforts reached almost \$75,000. The Town of Smithfield truly turned out to support this team and their families!

### **Smithfield Little League Supporters**



The proudest supporters of all: the mothers and families of the team!



Senator David P. Tikoian traveled to Williamsport to support the team.





#### **Message For The Team:**

### From Tony's Pizza:

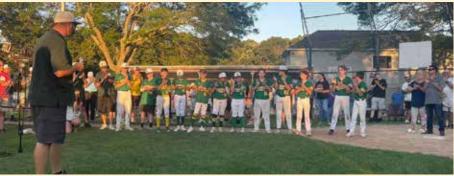
At Tony's, we've had the pleasure of getting to know parents, players, and coaches over the years. The Tony's Pizza family is so happy for the team, coaches, and parents!

Congratulations on this incredible accomplishment and for making all of Smithfield proud!

### From Smithfield All-Stars to Metro Region Champions!



	Little League World Series Metro Region Results									
Wed 16	MTN Mountain Region MTR Metro Region	1 FINAL								
Fri 18	SE Southern Region  MTR Metro Region	<b>8 ∢</b> 1	FINAL							
Sun 20	MA Mid-Atlantic Region	<b>7 ∢</b> 2	FINAL							
Tues 22	W Western Region MTR Metro Region	<b>9 ∢</b> 3	FINAL							



On Sunday, August 13, a group of young Smithfield entrepreneurs set up a lemonade and snack stand in their neighborhood to support the Smithfield Little League team. Milania and Antonella D'Uva; Olivia and John Bishop; and Lucia Lanzieri raised over \$260 for the team and donations continued rolling in even after they closed their table. Their hard work and excitement to help the team were palpable!





### **Amazing Support at the Pep Rally**

On Monday, August 14, the Town of Smithfield held a Pep Rally to fundraise for the

Smithfield Little League's journey to Williamsport, PA for the Little League World Series. The town came together to unify its resources to support the team and build excitement for the team's stellar performance in the tournament thus far. Local businesses, news stations, political leaders, and community members joined forces to raise over \$50,000 for the team. As of August 22, almost \$75,000 has been raised for the team.





















### The Trap North Viewing Party

On Tuesday, August 22, The Trap North hosted a viewing party for the Little League World Series matchup between the Metro and West regions. The Trap donated \$2,000 up front, as well as portion of all pretzel sales throughout the night. Despite the outcome of the game, fans were proudly celebratory of the Smithfield team and continued to raise money by way of t-shirt sales and other fundraising efforts. The Trap North will be hosting a pasta dinner to continue their philanthropic efforts for the team and their families. Stay connected to them on social media for more information!













**Photos by Mark Carrier** 

### Honoring the Life and Legacy of David Cunha

By Gabrielle Libutti

"The mission of the David Louis Cunha Foundation is to positively impact the lives of children living with terminal and life-threatening medical conditions. Whether making the dream of a special life experience a reality, or providing financial assistance to the family to help ease the burden of medical expenses, David's Foundation is committed to these children."

In 2015, Peter and Cheryl Cunha established the David Louis Cunha Foundation in memory of their son. Since then, the two have worked tirelessly to assist children up to the age of 18 who are living with terminal and life-threatening medical conditions. They consider themselves very blessed to be surrounded by the support of loving family and friends who work alongside Peter and Cheryl to help touch as many lives as possible and to honor David's life.

Three years ago, the foundation's summer fundraiser consisted of live music, good food, and even better company. Once Covid reared its ugly head, Peter and Cheryl knew that large group events wouldn't be possible and began to brainstorm. The result?

A calendar raffle, 31 days of prizes. This July marked the third year of this type of fundraiser. Tickets were sold in the form of the calendar. For the first 30 days, there were 30 winners, each drawing took place on Facebook Live. Over time, supporters lovingly nicknamed the streams "The Peter and Cheryl Show." The couple made sure to add lots of banter and laughs, and looked forward to each drawing. On the 31st day of the month, the grand prize of \$1000 was drawn.



Peter and Chervl voiced their appreciation for the support of the community. This year they sold 309 tickets and raised \$22,505. They wanted to express their grateful appreciation to everyone who participated in this year's fundraiser. A special note of thanks to Seacoast Mortgage and Bank RI for their generous support.

While these past few years have been resoundingly successful, Peter and Cheryl are ready to bring back the big summer gathering next year! Though this event is still in the planning stage, it promises to be a night you won't want to miss. But, their work doesn't stop after their big summer fundraiser. When the snow covers the ground and the bells ring in Christmas, David's Foundation offers assistance to families who are struggling around this time. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved.

In addition to the assistance David's Foundation offers to children and their families, it also awards two \$1000 scholarships to two seniors who excel in community service and who exemplifies David's kindness and generosity. Seniors are encouraged to submit essays describing their efforts to contribute to and improve their community. Luigia Solda, Librarian/

Media Specialist for Smithfield High School heads the panel which reviews the entries and selects the two seniors who demonstrate outstanding efforts to make their corner of the world a little brighter. Peter and Cheryl are happy to have the opportunity to remember David and his willingness to go out of his way to make an impact in the lives of those around him. They hope through the scholarship, to encourage these amazing young adults to keep their generous heart and kindness of spirit alive as they move onto the next chapter in their lives.

But it truly takes a village. If you're interested in learning more about David's Foundation, or want to volunteer your time and help with future events, you can reach out to Peter and Cheryl directly through email, a phone call, or text. Their contact information can be found on their website, https:// davidlouiscunhafoundation.org.

Finally, Peter and Cheryl want to help as many children as possible and they ask that if you, or someone you know, knows a family that could use the assistance David's Foundation offers, don't hesitate to reach out to them. They recognize that while they do help many children, there are so many more that they could help but don't know of and hope members of the community feel comfortable contacting them. Peter and Cheryl are so grateful for all that they can accomplish through David's Foundation with the support of everyone in their life. The David Louis Cunha Foundation is such an amazing way to help children and their families and to remember David and the impact he had on everyone he met.

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## 3 Friends Purchase Iconic Service Station on Route 7

#### Paul Lonardo



stop Michael from asking owner Frank Sleboda about the possibility of selling the family-run business one day about a year ago when Kenny was there getting gas.

To the surprise and delight of the three men, the Sleboda's expressed interest and a deal was struck.

"We moved quickly," Jessies says. "As soon as they said they were interested we got busy making plans to revitalize this landmark Smithfield business and open it to the public."

The goal was to keep the feel of the nostalgia of the original station, while revitalizing the building and adding some aesthetic improvements and conveniences, and they succeeded on all counts.

The men are not novices when it comes to business. Michael is the owner of Rego's Auto Body in

Providence, and Jessie and Kenny own a commercial security company, Security Solutions. The friends have also worked on a number of real estate projects together. They also plan on developing the land they just purchased this year next to Coffee Connection. What was also unique about Chester's is that it had always been a full-service gas station. Under

the new owners, now called 3 on 7 Fuel and Convenience, the station will remain that way. For people in the vicinity who don't like to pump their own gas, they will continue to have this convenience.

"There are some other full-service stations out there, but we're a true full-service," Jessie emphasizes. "If you come up and ask to have your oil checked, air pressure, windshield washer fluid added, we'll do it."



The station has been completely revitalized. The gas pumps have been updated, the paving was redone, and additional landscaping was added.

The interior is all new as well.

"We have a full convenient store,"
Jessie says. "We have everything
that you can imagine, including ice
cream, hot dogs, soft drinks, coffee,
cigarettes, vape products, lottery and
scratch tickets, you name it."

The service focus increases the number of employees required to run the business, so 3 on 7 Fuel and

See Service Station, page 13

Jessie Jacavone, Kenneth Marandola, Jr., and Michael Rego all live in Smithfield, and besides being longtime friends, they are also business partners. They recently bought Chester's Service station, located at 351 Douglas Pike, on the corner of Whipple Road.

Everyone in town knows Chester's, which has been in operation since 1948. Over the years, the history of the establishment has attracted many individuals and companies seeking to purchase the service station. Jessie, Kenny, and Michael, who live nearby, were well aware of the interest others had in Chester's. The reluctance that seemed to exist in a change of ownership of Chester's didn't



Convenience will have up to 15 people working for them, giving local high school students an opportunity to earn money when they don't have class.

Make sure to stop in the revitalized gas station and be on the lookout for various promotions that management will be offering



customers who come in for gas or refreshments. If you've been to Chester's in the past, you'll love the service provided at the pump at 3 on 7, and if you've never been, you'll appreciate the convenience and all that is offered at the updated service station. Come by and give them a look. You'll be glad you did.

3 on 7 Fuel and Convenience is located at 351 Douglas Pike at the corner of Whipple Road.

#### **Photos by Mark Carrier**



Hannah Tuetken, who recently completed her 5th grade year at Laperche Elementary School, proudly presented her painted depiction of the school to principal Julie Dorsey. The framed work of art will be hung in the school's main office for all to see.



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## Unified Day, CPR, and Santa – What's Going On With SSELAC This Year



#### By Gabrielle Libutti

As swimsuits and sunscreen are traded in for notebooks and number two pencils, it can only mean one thing - September is here. Not only does the month bring a new school year, but it is also full of exciting events and opportunities to connect and get involved. The women behind Smithfield's Special Education Local Advisory Committee (SSELAC), Chair Kristen Ricciardelli, Co-Chair Amanda Fafard, and Secretary Dyana Leblanc are ready to tackle the 2023-2024 school year head on. All three women have been working tirelessly since SSELAC's Color Run back in May to organize events and spread positivity throughout the community. I had the opportunity to meet with Kristen, Dyana, and Amanda who were excited to spread the word on the upcoming events.

The school year ended with a bang and the recipient of June's Positivity Showcase was Special Educator, Julie Reddy, from Pleasant View Elementary School. The showcase encourages parents and students to nominate someone within the school district who spreads positivity to the

students in an outstanding way. The SSELAC board selects a winner and surprises them with a celebration. The goal of the showcase is to recognize the chosen hard working individual for their dedication to offering a positive environment for students. While this event takes place during the school year only, September begins a new year of the Positivity Showcase. If you can think of someone who you'd like to nominate, please complete a form found through their QR Code or through their social media.

On Saturday, September 9th, sensory time and arts & crafts starts back up for the school year. Join other members of the community at the East Smithfield Public Library from 10:30am to 12pm. New this year, SSELAC Playdates make a debut on Sunday October 22nd. Make your way to the Greenville Public Library from 1:30 to 3pm. There you and your family can focus on having fun and being yourself in a safe environment. Check out their calendar which can be found through their QR code and on their social media pages.

On Friday, September 29th, don your greenest apparel and join students, faculty, and staff



of Smithfield's school district in celebrating Unified Day. Kristen, Dyana, and Amanda agree that it's important to show that unity occurs outside the classroom, so the members of SSELAC encourage businesses around Smithfield to partake in Unified Day and wear green that day, too. And while wearing green would be great to show support for the group and the students, I would be remiss not to recognize last year's contribution by Next Level Nutrition, a small business in the heart of Greenville. They went above and beyond during Unity Day by not only wearing green, but also dedicating a drink to the students. If any business around town would be interested in handing out brochures about the organization, feel free to reach out

See Unified Day, page 15

to the group and they'd be more than happy to drop some off to you. The women are appreciative of any support and look forward to seeing green throughout Smithfield.

If you're age 13 and up and have been thinking about taking a CPR/First Aid Class, now's your chance! On Sunday, October 15th at 9:00am, a CPR/First Aid class will be held in the Smithfield Police Community Room. Seating is capped to 24 people, so registration is mandatory. That being said, if the class is at capacity, continue to register because there will be future classes offered based on interest in the class. It's a great way to prepare for a first job or to be prepared in case of an emergency.

Santa and Mrs. Clause will mae a reappearance on December 2nd from 9:30 to 12:30 in the Smithfield High School cafeteria. Come get your children's picture with the jolly pair. complete a fun arts and crafts activity together, and even write a letter to Santa that will be mailed right to Santa's Workshop. Make sure to keep your eyes peeled for a response straight from the North Pole. You won't want to miss it!

Kristen, Dyana, and Amanda decided to hold two different types of meetings this school year. The first is open to all who are interested in learning about what is going on. This will be held in the High School Media room and be streamed on Zoom. These meetings will take place on September 27th and November 29th and will begin at 6:30pm. The second meeting is open to only parents and guardians of children who are receiving special education services only. They will be held in

the Greenville Library Lower Level Conference Room and will not be available via zoom. The first date for this meeting will take place on October 18th. Any updates or new meeting dates can be found on their digital calendar.

Please check out SSELAC's social media pages and scan their OR code to learn more information on their upcoming events. The women will be attending the open houses of the district schools to connect with the community so if you attend one, swing by their table and meet these wonderful women. Kristen, Amanda, and Dyana work hard to increase awareness and acceptance of those with disabilities and to break the stigma of special education by providing a positive and safe atmosphere for parents and kids alike in and beyond the classroom.



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### Senator Tikoian Working to Curb Rash of Building and Car Crashes

Paul Lonardo

In the summer months, people get out of their homes and travel more often. enjoying the warm weather and the wealth of outdoor recreation activities available to them close to home. Naturally, the roadways can become congested, and with that the number of car crashes increases. However, this summer began with several crashes involving a vehicle and a building structure.

A recent uptick of motor vehicle crashes into buildings has left Smithfield residents asking what can be done to deter these types of crashes, and Senator David P. Tikojan is one local official who has acted quickly, determined to do what he can to ensure that life and property in town is protected.

In early June, a pickup truck drove into the side of a home on Esmond Street. Fortunately, no one was in the room at the time of the accident, and there were no injuries reported.

A few weeks later, a car went off the road on Putnam Pike and struck a building occupied by the Music Complex. Despite the amount of damage to the storefront, no one was injured.

Both these incidents came on the heels of a deadly crash in which one person was killed and five were injured when a car drove into a Subway sandwich shop in the Apple Valley Plaza.

Enough is enough for State Senator,

David P. Tikoian, who is supporting the idea of an enhanced building code that would protect new construction and existing properties from vehicular damage in the future, while protecting the lives of occupants at the same time.

"It really troubles me to see those tragic things happen, particularly here in Smithfield." he told the news media after the third crash. "Understanding that accidents

do occur and given the three recent building crashes in our community, it is worthy of a discussion to examine state and local building codes for a mechanism that may provide a level of protection to the public when frequenting establishments and businesses located adjacent busy parking lots."

Public safety is something that has long been a high priority for Senator



Senator David P. Tikojan

Tikoian, a former Major on the Rhode Island State Police, and former North Providence Police Chief. Now representing Smithfield, Lincoln, and North Providence, Senator Tikojan acknowledges that such a measure wouldn't happen overnight, but he believes that a conversation about the use of safety barriers in front of public buildings is worthy of consideration. He is currently working with his

See Senator Tikoian, page 17

colleagues in the State House, some of whom have previously worked on similar legislation regarding safety barriers in front of businesses.

Senator Tikoian says, "I am working collaboratively with the Smithfield Town Council, specifically Councilman John Tassoni, and Solicitor Anthony Galone to review our building codes, and potentially draft an ordinance to address safety measures surrounding this issue."

He has also been in communication with State Representative Bob Phillips from Woonsocket, who has previously introduced legislation in the House regarding safety regulations for new commercial construction or major renovations.

"The intent of any potential ordinance or state legislation surrounding this issue is public safety," Senator Tikoian says, "specifically to prevent a motor vehicle from crashing into restaurants, shops and businesses located adjacent to vehicular traffic such as a parking lot."

Similar safety measures were taken in recent years during the pandemic, when outside eateries had to be protected from the street traffic. Building codes and municipalities required the placement of protective bollards, barriers, or esthetic planters to protect patrons in that space.

"From my perspective, we are discussing the issue at this point," Senator Tikoian says. "There are many factors to consider; including architectural, engineering and financial implications to new construction as well as building esthetics that strike a balance with public safety in mind."

Landlords and building owners are free to take a proactive approach on this issue. One local landlord already has done so, to protect employees and patrons, at an All State Insurance broker in Smithfield. The landlord has placed safety bollards in front of their office located on Douglas Pike.

"As I have said many times, I love Smithfield, my hometown," Senator Tikoian says. "Moving forward I am committed to working alongside local leaders, offering any assistance I can on a state level to explore if more can be done to deter these types of crashes."





### 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!



### How Do I Keep Birds from Hanging Around My Home?

Many years ago, I was approached by a client with a bit of a dilemma. They had several birds that liked to hang around their property. While they may have been pleasant to look at and sweet to listen to, the stuff that they left behind was not as pleasant and certainly was not sweet smelling.

Short of doing something detrimental to the birds, the client was a bit stumped as to what they could do to keep the birds away.

Enter "Birdguard."

Birdguard is made up of metal spikes that are strategically attached to areas homeowners would like to remain bird-free. Because of the height that is involved in the process of installing the Birdguard product, as well as the fact that the edges of the spikes are razor sharp, the average homeowner should hire a professional to install the product. A qualified contractor who is experienced in working with heights as well as the Birdguard product may be the preferred approach.

Once the strips are properly anchored in place and the spikes are set up, no bird in their right mind would aim to return to the area where they are placed. One of the challenges is setting up the spikes in such a way that there



is no room for the birds to sneak behind them and continue to hang out.

While Birdguard may look archaic or perhaps even barbaric, it is extraordinarily effective and actually quite humane. The metal strips are stainless steel so they will not rust or corrode. They are not overly visible, unless of course you are intentionally trying to see if you can see them. The best part about them is the naturally innate savviness of the birds who want nothing to do with these spikes.

In fact, after one install, I happened to glance up and catch a glimpse of a

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 televi-sion 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!

bird that slammed on the brakes in mid-air, flapping its wings quickly to do so. It quickly flew off to someplace else where it would find a much more comfortbale landing area.

There are few things more frustrating to a property owner who takes pride in their property than dealing with bomb-dropping birds congregating on and around their home daily as if it were the most popular watering hole in town. Fortunately for these types of overly annoying circumstances, there are solutions that are long lasting, aesthetically non-intrusive, and super successful with their intent!



### Yoga in Deerfield Park Select Sundays at 2 p.m. Beginners and children 7+ welcome! Melissa M. Carvalho, M.A., RY7 Yoga Teacher/Holistic Life Purpose and Career Coach melissamcarvalho.com

### **Helping Those in Our Community**



Moriah Roy of Smithfield was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019

and underwent surgery for treatment while pregnant with her youngest daughter. The cancer returned in 2022 and this past month was told it spread to her lungs, leaving her with little to no treatment options except for an experimental treatment plan in Tampa, FL costing about \$6,000 a week. They are expected to have to participate for 8-10 weeks.

In August, Moriah, her husband, Mike, and their two girls Aviana and Laliya packed up the car and are making their way to Tampa with hopes this treatment helps save Moriah's life. Moriah's family and friends are raising money to help support not only the expensive treatment plan, but a place to stay, necessities, and to help them continue to pay their mortgage on their home in Smithfield while they are away.

To support Moriah and her family, please consider donating here:

https://gofund.me/c374387d

### **Selling Beer for Rhode Island Veterans**

#### By Joe Siegel

A local business was among many which teamed up with a Pennsylvaniabased brewery for a good cause.

North Smithfield Liquor Warehouse joined forces with the Yuengling Brewery in May and June and raised \$1,374 for Rhode Island Veterans and their families through their "Lagers for Heroes" in store fundraising campaign. One hundred percent of the donations raised will go directly to help local Veterans via a partnership

with the RI Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Foundation.

The program has been running in Massachusetts for the last six years, according to Jim Lowe, Rhode Island and Massachusetts District Manager for Yuengling Brewery.

\$5,200 was raised statewide, \$34,000 was raised in the two states combined, and over \$116,000 has been raised since the program started.

"We're really supportive of our veterans and all that they've done and their families," Lowe said, noting the program is open to all veterans, not just the ones who have served during wartime.

"What the VFW does is it helps really cut through a lot of the red tape in any assistance programs anyone needs or working with the Veterans Administration to get any kind of assistance services, such as the need for a service dog program," Lowe noted. "The generosity was

overwhelming."

North Smithfield Liquor Warehouse as the top fundraising store in the state. Patrons could purchase any beverage they wanted to help veterans.

The fundraiser was so successful that Lowe expects it continue.

"We hope to build out and grow for many more years to come," Lowe added.



### Let's Create Something! Craft Tips and Ideas

#### By Lisa Gentile

Sometimes one person's trash is another person's craft! If you're looking for an afternoon activity or to create handmade gift for someone, here's one way you can repurpose and create something new with tools you probably already have at home. Always check the stash before buying, but if there is an item needed for any craft, the Dollar Tree will most likely have it.

#### **Coaster/Trinket Dish**

These are made in a set of four. They can be used as drink coasters or trinket dishes for jewelry or change. Great in a child's bedroom for small toys or collectibles, too!

#### **Supplies:**

Mod podge (it's a type of glue)
Craft paint brush
Any color craft paint
Scissors
Marker
Any fabric or decorative paper
4-inch terra cotta dish

#### Instruction:

Make sure your fabric has the nonprinted side facing up, place your dish on the fabric and trace the circle.

Cut the traced circle out of the fabric.

Paint the outside of the dish with any color craft paint, dry, then paint the inside of the dish, dry. (The flat part does not need to be painted unless the fabric is white, then paint it white first)



Paint the mod podge glue on the flat part of the coaster/dish and press your cut piece down and smooth out any creases and bubbles.

### A "Storied" Ending For Local Dance Team



It was the stuff of great movie endings.

The young ladies who make up Beyond the Barre Dance Academy's elite competition team, the Yellow Jackets, shocked audiences, fellow competitors and themselves, when they pulled off a stunning comeback at Elite Dance Challenge's National Dance Competition held in Cape Cod. The team of 11 dancers, ranging in age from 15 to 18, managed to bring to fruition a vision that studio owner, Shaina Furia, had presented them with at the start of the season.

One dance in particular stood out

among the others; a dance called *The Story*. Performed to Brandi Carlile's stirring song of the same name, *The Story* features all 11 members of the team. Competing in the notoriously difficult "competitive large group dance" category, *The Story* was well received at many of the regional competitions in which the team danced; audiences and judges alike moved by the team's passionate execution of the dance's unique choreography.

Held July 11 through 16 in Hyannis, the EDC National Finals attracted extraordinary talent from all over, none more so than in the competitive large group dance category. Up against fierce competition, *The Story* lost to some jaw dropping performances from other studios, placing 5th in the category. And while the dance earned studio own Shaina Furia and teacher Karli Fullerton a Choreographer's Award, the team and their families thought the season and *The Story* had reached its end.

An unexpected surprise came that evening when the team learned they were invited back to perform *The Story* at the invitation-only finals,

See Dance Team, page 23

#### Dance Team, from page 22

entered in as a "wild card," something reserved for dances that did not place in the top three, but were still considered formidable performances by the judges. At the finals the team competed for the Grand Prize against the highest scoring dances of the entire competition, in front of a whole new panel of judges, a tactic EDC employs to ensure a fresh, unbiased reaction.

From the first quiet notes to the multiple stirring crescendos, the dancers moved through the motions flawlessly and beautifully, and with an emotion so raw and real, onlookers with no connection to the studio began to weep. The intensity and passion of the dance and of the young women dancing it, was palpable in the air that hung expectantly around the hundreds seated motionless in the packed dance hall.

The applause following their performance was deafening, as the team exited the stage. Even the Yellow Jackets who tend to keep their emotions guarded, were awash in pure emotion, each of them cognizant that they had indeed "gone full out" as they say in dance. In other words, the girls had achieved what every group of performers tries to do; to give everything that have on that stage, and

to hold nothing back - from themselves

or their audience.

Then in a moment that changed everything, A Blessing from the Prairie was given the third-place spot, and the Yellow Jackets were left standing on stage alongside the one remaining dance team in the competition. Both teams wished the other good luck, a notable gesture of sportsmanship in the highly competitive dance world, and then told to wait for the song from the winning dance to play over the sound system. No sooner had the first notes of *The Story* begun, than the stage and audience erupted, the Yellow Jackets having achieved the unimaginable.

They had just won Nationals.

Even some of the dads were crying, as the parents and teachers rushed toward the stage, embracing one another through tears. A team member's grandmother embraced another team member's eleven-yearold sister. In that moment, everyone attached to Beyond the Barre was part of one big family. It was something to behold, all that love, all that pride, all that tremendous joy.

"Nothing prepares you for that moment you are announced as national champions" says Furia of the win, "and there is no other group of incredible, passionate, talented dancers I would want to be at the top with," And to the dancers, she adds, "You all have my heart and this will easily go down as one of the greatest memories in BTB (Beyond the Barre) history. One Team. One dream."

"This is one of those moments that we will remember in perfect detail for the rest of our lives," remarked one tearful parent above the ocean's roar.

The perfect ending to a unique and yet universal story.





## Living with Celiac Disease

#### By Diane L. Marolla, LICSW, CFRC

When I first met Ann Messier, I invited her to my home as she agreed to work on an activities committee with me. Knowing she, and another neighbor of mine were coming in the morning, I went to the bakery so that as we talked, I was able to offer something to eat and drink. Ann declined the pastry that I offered stating to me, "I can only eat things that are Gluten Free." What I didn't know about Ann at that time is that Ann has Celiac Disease and that she is the local resource representative for the National Celiac Association.

#### What is Celiac Disease?

Celiac Disease is a genetically predisposed autoimmune deficiency. Simply stated, this means this is a gene that someone is born with. According to the Celiac Disease Foundation, it affects 1 in every 100 people worldwide. Unfortunately, it is only accurately diagnosed about 30% of the time. It can develop at any age, and it can lead to other health problems, some which can be serious.

### Ann's Journey with her Diagnosis

"It's so nice to feel healthy."

As a result of her diagnosis, Ann has made it her passion to try and help others. Currently, she is the local representative for the National Celiac Association. She goes to the annual conference every year. She is assigned projects and works with individuals all over the country. "I learn something all the time." Prior to volunteering for this role, Ann spent many years working in the health insurance industry. Ann's background is in early childhood education, but she had a career in healthcare. She worked in the Appeals and Grievance area at a local health plan. It was working for that health plan where Ann became familiar with comfortable with resolving issues.

Ann does follow a strict diet. "I have to plan ahead for everything." Ann will often carry food with her. When she goes out to eat, she carefully reviews the restaurant menu prior to going to the restaurant. She also uses an application on her smart phone called Gluten Dude that helps her find gluten free restaurants. "The world is easier now with all the technology" Ann says.

I asked Ann what one should do if they suspect they have an issue with gluten. She recommends the following:

- 1. Keep a food diary.
- 2. Eliminate various foods to see if by not eating them there is a difference.
- 3. Go to your doctor; talk to them about testing you for Celiac. It is a simple blood test.
- 4. Meet with a GI doctor.
- 5. Do your research on the internet.
- 6. Go prepared with questions for your doctor.

If you have any questions after reading this article, Ann welcomes you to contact her. "If I can help one person, I'm happy."

If you would like to speak with Ann, you can reach her at: 401-225-2661 a.messier@cox.net



## How to Stage Your Home to Sell Quickly This Fall



#### By Jessica Gemma

It is no secret that the housing market has been extremely competitive over the past year. Most homes are selling quickly with sellers receiving multiple over asking price offers. According to Redfin data, homes are selling on an average of 11 days on the market, as compared to 12 days last year, with the average median sales price at about \$469,900.00. If you are planning to sell your home this fall, here are a few tips on how to stage your home to make it most appealing to potential buyers.

- 1. Maintain curb appeal: Continue to maintain your lawn and shrubbery. This will be one of the first things potential buyers notice about your home and this is their first impression of your home. Make it a good one!
- 2. Allow adequate lighting into the home: Open window treatments and doors to allow as much natural light into the home as possible.
- 3. Play up the fireplace (if you have one): If it is a chilly day, consider running the fireplace during open houses/private showings, making visitors feel warm and comfortable.
- **4. Seasonal/cozy accents:** Consider decorating with some inexpensive fall decorations or lighted candles. Switching out throw pillows or adding a wall hanging can change

the look and feel of a room.

- 5. Minimal
  décor: Avoid
  clutter and
  try removing
  any personal
  family pictures/
  items. You
  want potential
  buyers to be
  able to envision
  themselves in
  the space.
- 6. Find a trusted local real estate agent:

In a competitive housing market, it is crucial to have an agent familiar with the local real estate market on your side. Do your research, interview multiple agents, and choose someone who will have your best interest in mind.

Jessica Gemma is a realtor with the Slocum Home Team, a thirdgeneration family company, based in Warwick, Rhode Island. She services all of Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

As a mom of two young children and a former teacher, she loves being able to still work with and serve families.



Jessica Gemma

Jessica is a resident of Smithfield and loves the close-knit community this town has to offer. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, dancing, playing tennis, reading, and writing children's books.



### The Chief's Corner

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

### Can We See Your House Number?

The most important factor in an emergency response to a home or a business is the ability to get to such in a timely manner. Unfortunately, a quick response may be offset by homes and businesses that are not properly numbered with the street address. This is a real problem, and it happens all the time! In order for us to serve you, you need to make it easy to find your home or business.

Please make sure you have an adequate street address on your home and/or business using the following tips:

#### Tip #1: Know Your 9-1-1 Address

Your 9-1-1 address is used by first responders to locate you during an emergency. If you recently built a new home, live in a rural area, or are unsure of your 9-1-1 address, contact the Rhode Island E-9-1-1 Call Center (401.459.0911) to obtain it and to ensure your home/business is on the map.

#### Tip #2: Be Visible from Both **Directions**

Posting your address number on your mailbox makes it easier for responders to find you, but remember, numbers should be posted on both sides of the mailbox. Emergency vehicles may not arrive from the same direction as your mail carrier. In addition to posting numbers on your mailbox, the entry to your driveway should be marked with your 9-1-1 address numbers if the mailbox sits across the road from your house.

And don't forget to place numbers on your house.

#### Tip #3: Be Visible in the Dark

Responders may need to find you at night. Illuminate any numbers on your house at nighttime. Numbers on a mailbox or post at the end of your driveway should be reflective and on a highly contrasting background to ensure they're easy to see at night.

#### Tip #4: Use Large Numbers

When creating 9-1-1 address number signs, use numbers that are at least 3 inches high.

#### Tip #5: Locate Near the Road

If your house is not visible from the road, it is important that you post numbers on a sign, post, or pole so they can be clearly seen from the road. If your house is hidden from view at the beginning of the driveway, only posting numbers on your home does not help responders recognize where you live as they are driving by. It is not recommended that you post the number on a gate or fence at the driveway because those numbers aren't visible when the gate is open.

#### Tip #6: Post Twice on Long or **Shared Driveways**

If your driveway leads to more than one address, post all numbers at the end of the driveway. Then post the correct number on each house or building.

#### **Tip #7: Uncover the Numbers**

Remember to frequently trim any bushes, weeds, flowers, or grass away from your signs so that all numbers are clearly visible. If you have hanging flowers, flags, or other items on your porch that block your 9-1-1 address numbers from being seen quickly by responders, move them.

#### Tip #8: Shared Mailbox Area

If your mailbox is located on a community post with other mailboxes. it is extremely important that you also post your address at the end of your driveway. It is difficult for an emergency responder to know which house is yours when there are shared mailboxes in an area and no signage on your driveway to identify your home.

#### Tip #9: Buy or Make Your Signs

Remember, in an emergency, seconds can make a life-saving difference. Make sure your 9-1-1 address numbers are posted on your house or business and are also posted where they are easy to see from the road. You can purchase street numbers and 9-1-1 address sign kits at most hardware stores, department stores, and online. If you decide to make your own sign, remember to use reflective numbers so they can be seen at night, as well as during the day.

#### Tip #10: Test It Out

Finally, drive the road to your house in both directions during the day and at night. Pretend you've never been to your home before and see how quickly you can spot your 9-1-1 address numbers as you approach your driveway and then your home.



### Tales from the Beyond The Phantom Dog of Fort Wetherill

By Thomas D'Agostino

www.tomdagostino.com

A demon dog is known to wander among the ruins of Fort Wetherill in Iamestown, RI. Witnesses have seen the wraith approaching them with its glowing red eyes and white fangs protruding from its gaping mouth. Often, these spectral canines are a forebearer of tragedy for those who lay eyes upon them. The origin of the dog is not clear but can be traced back to the time when the English controlled the fort during the American Revolution.

Accounts of these hideous creatures are abundant in Great Britain. One such animal is called the "Moothe Doog" and is known through history to haunt the Castle Peel on the Isle of Man. The very sight of the dog was a harbinger of death. A guard once saw the dog in a corridor and was so frightened by the sight, he died a few days later, never recovering from his ordeal. Another guard entered an office within the castle and saw the same dog on a chair grimacing at him. The apparition was so horrifying that he succumbed to death moments after his shrieks reverberated through the castle. Sentries of the castle now know to avert their eyes when they see the shadow of the phantom in view, or they turn and head in the opposite direction for fear of the same fate that has been bestowed upon many of their comrades.



Another such omen of death resides in areas of Norfolk, Essex, and Suffolk along the hills and coastlines of the United Kingdom. He is also known to roam graveyards and country roads. Villagers have for centuries who gazed upon the ghostly canine known as "Black Shuck" have never lived long to talk about their encounter with the deadly demon.

When the British took control of the Jamestown Hill during the American Revolution, it was known as Dumpling Rock. Colonists had made crude earthwork ramparts on the rocky hill to control the eastern passageway into Newport. They occupied the fort until July 30, 1778, when the French gained control of the harbor. The British fled and destroyed the fort before taking it over again a month later. It staved under their control until October 25, 1779, when they hastily abandoned the fort without explanation. Whether or not the phantom dog had anything

to do with it is not written. but something other than armed forces made them hastily retreat that position. A better fortress was then erected and called Fort Dumpling or Fort Louis as some referred to it in honor of the king of France. That fort was also abandoned unexpectedly.

It was not until 1899, over 100 years later that the **United States Government** 

expanded the fort adding disappearing rifles into cement emplacements and renamed Fort Wetherill. It was then put on caretaker status until World War II, but once again, it was mysteriously abandoned.

The state acquired the property for public use on August 16, 1972. Now the only permanent dweller of the fort is the black dog that roams the area looking for those who will gaze into his fiery eyes.

Barking has been heard from inside the walls of the fort yet investigations always prove the structure is empty of any living creature. The spectral pooch is also seen walking through walls and sealed doors of the fortress as if they did not exist during his original tenure at the hill. The phantom dog is nomadic and chooses his victims at random. Those who unexpectedly run into it feel sure they will experience the worst of fates.



### Diaries of a College Student

#### by Ellorie Corcoran

The summer before freshman year of college is supposed to be one of working, spending time with friends and family, relaxing, and making final memories before the next chapter of life. There is one thing that I didn't plan for – dorm room shopping. It turns out that this is one of the most stressful pre-college tasks that few people talk about.

Up until now, we've lived in the "Back to School" section at Target, going from buying notebooks with cats and dogs on them to plain colored college ruled notebooks, pens, and pencils. We used to pick out what backpack design we liked and whether we needed gel pens for the school year.

This year, that wasn't the case. Instead, I spent my time at Target in the homeware sections trying to figure out if I had enough storage, how many plates and bowls to bring, and if I really needed *another* decorative pillow for my dorm room.

I've spent the past two weeks scouring stores and websites trying to figure out what I really needed. Now that I've gone through the shopping and stocking up, I'm going to share my tips and tricks for other people in my position.

#### **Stores:**

Target has fantastic, cheap, and basic items for a dorm room. They also currently have a promotion that gives college students 20% off one purchase through the app if they show proof of enrollment. My best purchase from Target for my dorm? A microwave

that was on sale for \$45 on their website.

I will always suggest HomeGoods and TJ Maxx for any bedding needs because they have plenty of Twin XL sheets and comforter sets. They also have a broad selection of affordable towels, with some sets under \$10. My best HomeGoods purchase? A six-piece comforter set, including a decorative pillow, for \$60.

The Dollar Tree has all your cleaning needs. As someone who is shopping for cleaning supplies for a dorm room *and* a bathroom, I discovered that The Dollar Tree has quality cleaning products affordable enough for a college student budget. My best purchase from the Dollar Tree? A set of 3 Tupperware to save dining hall food for \$1.25.

Amazon has a lot of essentials. With a lot of cost comparison, especially with the other stores mentioned, it's easy to not spend as much on Amazon. My best purchase from Amazon? A 30 pack of different sized command strips to hang things in my dorm room for \$15.

College dorm shopping is stressful, but with a lot of research, it can be a little less stressful for you. At the end of the day, we aren't shopping for pretty backpacks and notebooks anymore, we're shopping to fill a room we'll live in for nine months. It can be overwhelming and at times it might feel like too much. It's a lot, but even if you forget things, you can always order them to your dorm, or go out shopping for them later. Not

having everything at once is not the end all be all, but for Type A planners and over packers like me, it sure is helpful.

Have any other tips for dorm room shopping? Send them to our social media so we can help all those freshmen moving in, or the high school students already planning their dorm rooms and planning their move in process!



**Ellorie Corcoran** 





### A View From the **Cheap Seats**

#### Dan Pieroni

### Bye-Bye Bunky: A Tribute to Bill Reynolds

What is the human condition?

Kevin McNamara posed this question to his radio audience on July 13th hours after legendary *Providence* Journal sports columnist Bill Reynolds passed away at the age of 77.

The query made me think of many definitions for the human condition. Perhaps, it is a deep understanding of what makes a person unique, or it could be the personification of empathy in that you understand someone's feelings and motivations and can accurately reflect them through conversations or in writing.

However, the human condition is accurately defined, McNamara employed his question to make a larger point; Bill Reynolds defined the human condition better than any other writer he ever read.

I wholeheartedly second that opinion.

To my generation, Bill Reynolds represented both a throwback to a kinder, gentler style of journalism and someone who could easily pontificate on societal issues as easily as sports.

This was most evident in his popular long-running Saturday column "For What It's Worth," a weekly collection of non-sequiturs that combined wit, whimsy, and commentary on a variety of topics.

While sports were always at the forefront of the column, it was common for Reynolds to lightly jab the Rhode Island General Assembly for their perceived incompetence, recommend

a movie he had recently seen, or offer his condolences in writing to someone he admired who had recently passed

"For What It's Worth" was visual proof that Bill Reynolds was a curious and insightful man, and those qualities served him well as a writer.

What set Reynolds apart from his contemporaries was his ability to craft stories that used sports as a prism to illustrate the magnitude of a larger issue.

Reynolds' 1994 masterwork Fall *Rivers Dreams* is perhaps the best illustration of this talent. Reynolds was aware that those who appreciate high school sports, especially basketball, would chomp at the bit to obtain an insider's view of the 1992-1993 men's basketball team at Durfee High School.

However, Reynolds understood that there had to be more to the story than just basketball to make it compelling. Thus, the book is more about urban decay, dreams, aspirations, and the temptations that can destroy such hopes such as drugs and alcohol than basketball.

One of the members of that team was a youngster named Chris Herren, the quintessential figure of Bill Reynolds' uncanny ability to understand the human condition.

In Herren's 2011 memoir, Basketball *Junkie*, which Reynold's co-wrote, Reynolds paints a harrowing yet redemptive portrait of the trajectory of their relationship in the prologue.

When they first crossed paths, Herren was the next big thing, destined to follow in the footsteps of his uncles and brother who had been stars at Durfee.

But the pressure of living up to expectations got to Herren. While he did end up leaving Durfee as its all-time leading scorer, he became a victim of underage drinking and drug use which sadly derailed a promising basketball career.

That didn't matter to Reynolds. He viewed Herren as a person first and a commodity second. Over time, Herren began to view Reynolds as a trusted adult in a social circle few were able to penetrate.

The bond of trust grew so strong between them that Reynolds went so far as to bail Herren out of jail after he was caught with an empty bag of heroin in his car.

If that does not illustrate love and compassion for your fellow man, I don't know what does.

I was a recipient of Bill Reynolds selflessness and compassion. Through family connections at the Journal, he graciously agreed to an interview about his career with me for a class I took in college. He later accepted an invitation to speak at a public forum on campus on my recommendation.

At the end of the night, I approached him to thank him for coming. He could not have been more gracious and grateful for the opportunity. He also

See A View, page 31



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.

### I Fear We've Awoken a Sleeping Giant

So spoke Imperial Japan's Admiral Yamamoto after the attack on Pearl Harbor. One view by historians is that Yamamoto made this statement right at the time of the attack, which he then recorded later in his life when he wrote his memoir(s). Why did he say this? What was he referring to? What did he mean by this historic statement?

One view is that, when Yamamoto was informed that the American aircraft carriers were not docked at Pearl Harbor, he realized that his navy was going to have its work cut out for it in attempting to defeat the American navy. An argument can be made that the allies, led by the United States, won WWII for one reason and one reason alone: America's ability to outproduce the enemy. In a manner of speaking, for every bullet Italy produced, we made 10. Millions of Americans worked long days in the factories to supply soldiers overseas with the armaments they needed to secure peace.

"What a difference a day makes," or more accurately, what a difference several decades makes. In 2023. the United States' industrial manufacturing ability is but a shadow of its former self. Nevertheless. whether we make them here in the United States or whether we import them from overseas, we are awash in consumer goods and products of all kinds. Couple this with the fact that we are the most litigious culture on Earth, and you wind up with one of the most common and constant areas of litigation in everyday America: products liability.

I would venture to guess that for about every consumer product in everyday life, there has been a lawsuit filed by a user of that product. These lawsuits are usually based upon an allegation by the user of the product of personal injury or property damage, or a combination of the two. Think, for example, of a rear-seat car passenger who tries to light a cigarette with a cigarette lighter. The lighter explodes,

burning the passenger and setting fire to the inside of the vehicle. Can you spell lawyer?

The right to sue someone is sometimes referred to as "an action" or a "cause of action." Suffice it to say, in modern day litigious America, we have more causes of action since the founding of our nation than ever before. Further, once a cause of action becomes embedded in the legal system, ingrained in our collective cultural mindset and part of the fabric of everyday life, it's here to stay. Good luck to anyone who thinks he can get the legislative process or the court process to do away with a right to sue someone that currently exists; you can take it to the bank that you won't see it happen. All the causes of action we have today, some of which were unheard of in our historical past, are akin to the Frankenstein monster who's escaped from the lab, never to be put back in.

To be continued ...

#### A View, from page 30

took time to compliment the beauty of our small campus, and the fact that I had cared enough to give him the opportunity to speak to an audience that was unfamiliar with his work.

That is who Bill Reynolds was. A no fuss guy who was humble enough to make his subjects the star and savvy enough to understand that athletes are real people with feelings who have faults just like us and should not be

condemned because they're famous and reside in a different tax bracket.

So, what is the human condition? If you looked it up the definition would read see Reynolds, Bill.



### Inside The Brown Bag | By Peg Brown

#### The Pink Tsunami

There have been warning signs for months. Hints that our world was about to become drenched with something other than hail stones and thunderstorms. Yet, when the bomb finally exploded on July 21, 2023, most of us were unprepared. Suddenly everywhere we turned, every product we saw, and not just in the toy aisle, was suddenly, unequivocally PINK. When Flo and her gang of Progressive salespersons started marketing insurance for the Barbie Mansion and classic Corvette and Chevrolet ads featured a pink Corvette traveling at unlawful speeds, there could be no doubt that Barbie mania had invaded most facets of our lives. The release of the Warner Brothers movie Barbie, initially grossing over \$795 million in its first three weeks, released a shower of pink confetti that threatens to dominate our culture for months to come.

The stereotypical Barbie, introduced during a commercial on Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse Club in 1959 set off decades of controversy regarding her unrealistic body image, an unacceptable role model for young girls, and her image of a society insensitive to diversity. In fact, when Ruth Handler, Barbie's creator, brought a prototype of what would become the American Barbie back from Germany, it had been a doll that had been sold as a gag gift in Germany for bachelor parties.

Mattel was not insensitive to ongoing criticisms and in response has produced Barbies representing many diverse cultures, has slightly altered her body form, and has created a hero

line including Barbie in such roles as an astronaut, with a pink rocket of course.

But what is most interesting in this discussion is the role of pink and how its meaning and use have changed over the centuries, bringing us to this point where it represents glamour and femininity. That concept belongs exclusively to the 20th century.

Pink dyes have been found in relics from as early as 3000 BC, but it was not until almost 4,000 years later, during the Middle Ages, that pink began to play a larger role in both art and cultural symbolism. The elite in Japan, for example, wore pink inspired by the color of cherry blossoms, to reflect emotions like sadness as the blossoms faded, symbolizing the cycle of life. European Renaissance artists often used pink in their paintings depicting Christian religious scenes, including angels in robes of pink and the Christ child dressed in pink, a color associated with the body of Christ. There is even a portrait painted by an Italian artist, entitled "The Gentleman in Pink," depicting a noble person dressed head to toe in salmon-colored garments.

But it was the French courts of the mid-1700s who used pink in everything from wallpaper to dishware, helping to transform pink into representing luxury, excess, sensuous loving, and a "throw caution to the wind" living style.

It may still surprise you that pink was not associated closely with femininity for another 150 years. In 19th century England, pink ribbons or other accessories were often worn by boys to associate them with their fathers who often wore red

uniforms. Even Oueen Victoria had a portrait painted of her son Prince Arthur in a pink and white dress.

Well into the 20th century, a **British Ladies** Home Journal published in 1918 advocated for dressing their little boys in pink "a more decided and stronger color" and their little girls in blue "which is

more delicate

and daintier." The transition to the association of pink with the female sensibility took a large step forward when the infamous designer Elsa Schiaparelli decided to market her new perfume in a bright pink box and the bottle in the shape of a woman's torso.

See Inside Brown Bag, page 33

But the true credit for a complete shift in our choice of pink as a symbol of the feminine was cemented when Mamie Eisenhower (representing the quiet and somewhat more traditional model of a supportive wife of the 1950s) wore pink to the inauguration and then proceeded to redecorate the White House with so much of that hue that staffers came to refer to the President's residence as "The Pink Palace."

A decade before Barbie, despite the appearance of pink dress shirts for men, pink had solidified its hold on the American image of what was a "girl's color." And, if you think I have overstated the presence of pink, check out Amazon. You can buy a pink toaster, a Kitchen Aid Mixer, Barbie wine glasses, kitchen utensil sets, a Mini Keurig, retro microwave ovens, and for a mere \$10 a set of Barbie salt and pepper shakers – all in pink. And, in case you missed it, every newscaster on every major network wore something pink on the day of the movie's release.



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## Smithfield Times

Please contact Grace at grace@smithfieldtimesri.net for more information.

### **Sunday School Open House**

Georgiaville Baptist Church at 100 Farnum Pike in Smithfield will be having a Sunday School Open House on **September 10** from **9:30-10:30**.

There will be fun and games for kids of all ages with the theme "Bible Detective." Adults are welcome to join the regular church service or stay with their child. At 10:30, there will be refreshments and fellowship where you can meet and converse with members of the church. If you are seeking a relationship with God for yourself and your children, please come and meet us.



### **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:



**VIENNA:** Feast your eyes on the magnificent Vienna! Words cannot do this kitty justice. Vienna is a striking looking girl who found her way to our doors when a kind person realized she was left behind after people in her neighborhood moved away. A little over two years old, Vienna is large in stature with a mix of light golden brown and black tiger-striped fur. She has an "exotic cat" look to her that is quite unique and very impressive. Vienna is awfully smart, and she absolutely adores playtime too. Throw some catnip toys or get a feather wand and this girl will be entertained. She also likes to be pet and being brushed. Vienna would do best as an only cat, and she is patiently waiting to find her forever home.



**GIO:** Meet Gio. He's got it all including good looks and a fun personality wrapped up in one purr-fect package! Gio is an FIV positive boy who is super playful and extremely social. Gio is a little over two years old and he has a soft white coat with patches of black and a black tail.

Gio loooooves cat treats. He is also a very smart and talkative kitty who thoroughly enjoys letting you know what's on his mind. GIO likes to explore, receive pets and find a nice cozy, comfy spot to curl up for a cat nap. GIO would make an ideal companion and might be the right match for you.



**DESPERADO:** Life on the streets was not too kind to Desperado. When he arrived at our center, his eyes, face and scars had a story to tell. With proper care, medical attention, some time and lots of love ... the turnaround this handsome kitty made has been nothing short

of remarkable. Desperado is approximately 3-4 years old and he is FIV positive. This big hunk may come off shy at first, but he is a softy and a mush at heart. Desperado needs a loving home to call his own where he can feel safe and receive all the love in the world that he rightfully deserves.

#### ALL CATS ADOPTED FROM THE COMMUNITY CAT CENTER HAVE BEEN SPAYED/NEUTERED, VACCINATED, TESTED FOR FELV/FIV 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://pawswatch.org/adoptions/

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

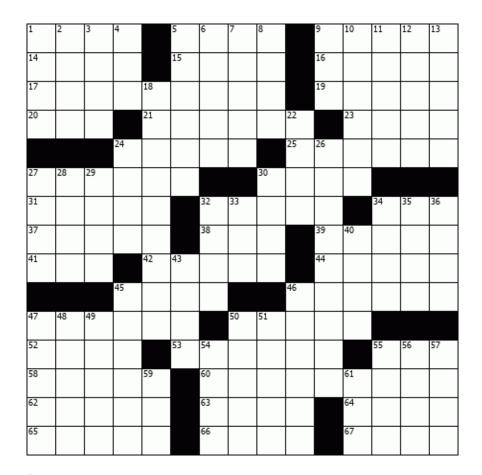
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### Crossword Puzzle

#### **Across**

- 1. In the center of
- 5. Prayer response
- 9. Canvas covers
- 14. Roman tyrant
- 15. Sensitive
- 16. Snooze
- **17**. Carry
- **19**. bear
- 20. Poetic contraction
- 21. Mother
- 23. Employ
- **24**. Sped
- 25. George Harrison, e.g.
- **27**. Agree
- 30. Florida islands
- 31. Lettuce dish
- 32. Upper crust
- 34. Wooden fastener
- **37**. Scent
- 38. Lab animal
- 39. Basketball's Shaquille
- 41. Porker
- 42. Elevate
- 44. Old hat
- 45. Rim
- 46. Distant
- 47. Military command (2 wds.)
- 50. Long-legged bird
- **52**. Actor \_\_\_\_ Dillon
- **53**. Elf
- 55. Mule's kin
- 58. Fireplace residue
- 60. Deep respect
- 62. Gaze steadily
- **63**. Impersonator
- 64. Nibble
- 65. Taste or smell
- 66. Citi Field players
- 67. Precious stones



#### Down

- 1. Poker fee
- 2. Slight
- 3. Modern Persia
- 4. Put on
- 5. Facet
- **6**. Actor Roger
- **7**. Made mistakes
- **8**. Clears as profit
- **9**. Recipe abbr.
- **10**. Oahu greetings
- 11. Kindled again
- 12. Oyster's treasure
- 13. Shopping frenzy
- 18. Conventions

- **22**. Egg on
- 24. Paper quantity
- **26**. Shocking revelation (2 wds.)
- 27. Kin of PDQ
- 28. Calcutta dress
- 29. Walk heavily
- **30**. Flying toy
- 32. Toledo's lake
- 33. Vegas
- 34. Acapulco coin
- 35. Orient
- 36. Mirth
- **40**. Title
- 43. Epochs

- 45. Diner patrons 46. Evaluators
- **47**. Pile up
- **48**. Sample food
- **49**. Revolutionary
- Allen
- 50. Thin pancake
- **51**. Metal bolt
- **54**. British baby buggy
- **55**. Prince Charles's sister
- 56. Fraudulent scheme
- 57. Bastes
- **59**. Notice
- 61. Hen's creation



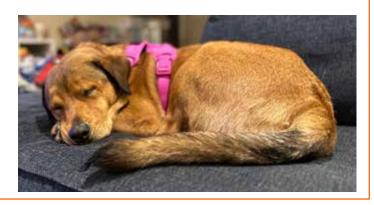


#### **Sadie Shafer**



This is Sadie Shafer! She is approximately 3-years old and is a real southern gal from Louisana. We rescued her last year and she has been a perfect addition to our busy home. She

is such a sweet pup and we can't wait to celebrate her first gotcha day next month!



### Rascal



This little boy is the enjoyment of our house. Rascal

is 7-years old now and smart as a whip. When daddy is home, he follows him everywhere. When mom is around, he won't leave her side. He goes for rides shopping with dad on the weekends looking for houseplants and visiting mom at work at Home Depot too. He is a pure joy!



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



#### Greenville Public Library

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



#### **Children's Events**

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

#### **Fall Storytime**

Registration Week of 9/11-9/16 Fall Session Week of 9/18-10/30

Turtle Time: Mondays 10:30 am - 1 ½ - 2 ½ years of age **Toddler:** Tuesdays 10:30 am & 11:30 am - 2 ½ - 3 years of age

**Preschool:** Thursdays 10:30 am - 3 - 5 years of age

#### **Programs**

Crafternoon for Kids: Wednesday, September 6 at 4:15 am

Ages 5-10. Make a fun craft with library friends!

Free Play Fridays: September 8, 15, 22, 29 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm - Pretend play with a new theme each week!

Celebrate Road Dahl's Birthday Make it Take it Craft

Saturday, September 9 from 10:00 am -12:00 pm Ages 4-10. Check out some books written by Roald Dahl and create a wacky craft!

**American Girl Book Club:** Tuesday, September 12 from 4:15 - 5:00 pm

**Children's Matinee Movie:** Thursday, September 14 at 5:00 pm. Ages 5-10. Join in the fun while we watch a movie and enjoy snacks!

#### Talk Like A Pirate Day:

Tuesday, September 19 from 4:15 – 5:00 pm. Grades K-5. Children are invited to listen to pirate stories, enjoy pirate activities and of course have fun talking like a pirate!

#### Magic Tree House Book Club:

Wednesday, September 20 at 4:15 pm. Grades 2-5 **Sensory Storytime:** Drop in anytime from 1:00 – 2:00pm Saturday, September 23. Ages 2-10. Stories, bubbles and sensory play!

**Brain Builder Backpacks:** Check out our latest addition to our growing collection of educational backpacks! Brain Builder backpacks are filled with science books, activities and amazing materials to explore.

#### **Teen Events**

Upcycled Stickers & Magnets: (Grades 6-12) Thursday, September 7, 3:30-4:30 pm. Create your own stickers and magnets using upcycled magazines and comics.

Magic: The Gathering: (Grades 6-12) Mondays, September 11 & October 2, 6:00-8:00 pm. Play the fantasy trading card game at the library.

**Teen Take & Make: Friendship Bracelets:** (Grades 6-12) Kits Available on Wednesday, September 13. Make an easy friendship bracelet with this fun take-and-make kit.

**Teen Advisory Board:** (Grades 6-12)

Monday, September 18, 6:00-7:00 pm. Earn volunteer hours by sharing your time and opinions with the YA librarian!

Cozy Craft: Yarn Painting: (Grades 6-12) Thursday, September 21, 3:30-4:30 pm. "Paint" a picture using yarn and

glue. All materials will be provided.

Banana Bread in a Mug: (Grades 6-12) Saturday, September 23, 9:30-10:30 am. Make your own mini banana bread in a mug! **The Middles: Audubon Avian Ambassador:** (Grades 4-6)

Monday, September 25, 6:00-7:00 pm

Breakfast (Book) Club: (Grades 6-12) Saturday, September

30, 9:30-10:30 am

#### **Adult Events** Please register ahead of time

**Drawing Series:** Register for a 6-week drawing series instructed by local artist, Bill Gallagher.

Save the Date: Vocal Recital Sunday, October 8 at 2:00 pm Soprano Vanessa Naghdi performs songs that inspired her career in classical music. Accompanied by Smithfield resident and pianist Pamela McClain.

Coffee & Books: Wednesday, September 6 at 10:30 am Come and chat about what you are currently reading over coffee or tea at our informal book discussion.

Mystery Book Club: Tuesday, September 5 at 1:30 pm The Mystery Book Club will be discussing The Family Upstairs by Lisa Jewell.

**Picnic Table Reads Book Club:** Thursday, September 21 at 1:00 pm. This month the Picnic Table Reads Book Club will be reading The Gown by Jennifer Robson.

Home Sweet Home Book Club: Monday, September 25 at 6:30 pm. Join us from home for our Zoom book club.

**Monday Matinee:** Monday, September 11 at 2:00 pm

Join us for a film screening and snacks!

Bone Builders: Every Monday at 11:00 am. Every Friday at 1:30 pm. Drop-in, no registration required!

**Knitting Mavens:** Every Tuesday at 6:00 pm. Knitting group open to all. Crocheters and others welcome, too!

Community Puzzle Table: Next time you visit the Library, stop to work on our community puzzle.

#### **Exhibits:**

Lee Chabot | September 2023 | Main Gallery Bonnie MacDonald | September 2023 | Friends Wall



#### 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**

Family Story Time: Saturday, September 2nd @ 10:30 a.m. Middle School Book Group: Wednesday, September 13th from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pajama Story Time: Thursday, September 21st @ 6:30 p.m. Playdough Fun: Saturday, September 26th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

**Preschool Story Time:** (children ages 3 to 5 years old) – Wednesday mornings: from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Tiny-Tots Story Time: (children 18 months to 3 years) -Tuesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

#### **Young Adult Programming**

Bloxel's Arcade: Monday, September 25th @ 3:30 p.m. Creative Writing Workshop: Wednesday, September 27th at 5:00 p.m.

**Doodle Day:** Monday, September 18th @ 5:00 p.m. High School Book Club - Tuesday, September 12th at 4:30 p.m. Little Bits: Tuesday, September 5th and 19th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Personal Postcard: Monday, September 25th @ 4:00 p.m. **Procreate:** Digital Drawing with the Apple Pencil – Wednesday, September 13th and 27th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Study and Snack: Tuesday, September 5th @ 4:30 p.m. 3Doodler: Learning How to Draw in 3D!: Wednesday, September 6th and 20th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. 3-D Print Studio: Tuesday, September 12th & 26th @ 6:30 p.m.

#### **Adult Programming**

**Adult Craft:** Monday, September 18th @ 5:30 p.m. **Cricut Club:** Friday, September 15th @ 4:00 p.m.

Craft - Magical Potions: Tuesday, September 26th @ 6:00 p.m. or Wednesday, September 27th @ 11:00 a.m.

**Credit Workshop:** Thursday, September 28th @ 6:30 p.m.

**Drop In Tech Help:** Every Monday at 11:00 a.m. except September 4th and 18th.

Fantasy Book Club - Once Upon a Broken Heart: Monday, September 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Free Yoga for Adults: Monday, September 11th and 25th @ 6:30 p.m.

**Introduction to the Cricut Maker 3: Heat Transfer Vinyl:** Friday, September 1st at 4:00 p.m.

Introduction to the Cricut Maker 3: Basic Vinyl: Thursday, September 14th from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Introduction to the Cricut Maker 3: Infusible Ink:** Thursday, September 21st from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Jewelry Making Open Studio: Saturday, September 9th @ 12:00 p.m.

**Learn in the Makerspace:** Monday, September 11th from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Let's Sublimate:** Friday, September 22nd @ 4:00 p.m. **Matinee Movie:** Wednesday, September 6th at 1:00 p.m. Meet Our Laser Machine: Saturday, September 2nd @ 12:00 p.m., Friday, September 8th @ 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, September 16th @ 1:00 p.m.

Solar Eclipse Presentation: Monday, September 18th @ 6:30 p.m. **Tabletop Game Night:** Thursday, September 21st @ 6:00 p.m. Thursday Night Book Club: Thursday, September 28th @ 6:00 p.m.

Virtual Game Tournament: Saturday, September 23rd from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Walk & Talk Chat: Thursday mornings @ 11:00 a.m.

#### **Holiday Bazaar**

It's that time of year again when the "Friends" start planning for the annual library Holiday fundraiser. We are now accepting donations of new gift items for use in raffle baskets. So, check your closets and storage spaces for unused items and help support the library. We are also seeking volunteers to crochet and knit items such as scarfs, mittens, baby booties, headbands, and afghans. (Especially in demand last year were ski type hats with a pompom.) If you are in need of yarn for the projects, just leave a message at the library desk or email the Friends to arrange pick up.

Used Book Sale - Save the Date: Used Book Sale on October 27, 28 and 30. Further details will be forthcoming. Little Free Food Pantry: Please consider making a food or monetary donation to the library pantry. In demand are canned protein items such as tuna, chicken, salmon, and peanut butter.

**Coffee, Cake & Conversation Book Group**: Continues to meet every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. New members are always welcome. Come join us, meet new friends, and talk about any book, newspaper article, or magazine you have been reading.

The FOL can be reached via email at friends.east.smithfield. library@gmail.com or you can leave a message for Catherine Lynn at the Circulation Desk. The next FOL meeting will be held on September 9th @ 1:00 p.m.

#### **Summer Corn and Green Beans**

Submitted by Nicholle Bonollo @justlikemomsmeals

#### Ingredients:

- ½ lb fresh green beans or yellow wax beans
- 4 ears fresh corn, shucked
- 5 tablespoons butter (salted or unsalted is fine)
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 cup various fresh herbs, finely chopped, such as basil, chives, thyme, rosemary, tarragon, marjoram and parsley



#### How to:

Bring a large pot of water up to a boil, then add a generous amount of salt. Drop in the green beans and cook until they're tender-crisp, about 2 minutes, then transfer to a bowl of ice water. Remove once totally cooled, then drain and set aside.

Place the corn in the boiling water, then turn off the heat, and cook for about 5 minutes. Transfer to a bowl of ice water and remove once they're cool enough to handle. Place a small bowl upside down in a large bowl and prop a corn cob on top. Run your knife down the side of the cob to remove the kernels, then repeat with the remaining cobs.

Melt the butter in a large sauté pan, then add the corn and green beans. Season with salt and pepper, then toss the vegetables around until just warmed through.

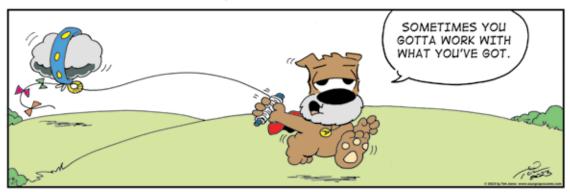
Right before serving, sprinkle the herbs over the vegetables, then toss to evenly incorporate.

#### 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



by Tim Jones





**Tim Jones** Cartoonist

#### Meet Tim at Comic Con!

Tim will be a guest artist at Granite Con in New Hampshire September 15-17.

For more details, visit: www.granitecon.com



The Smithfield Times magazine loves honoring, sharing, and promoting the residents of this beloved town. As a new monthly feature, we'd like to highlight an individual (or group of individuals) who are shining stars in the community. We want to hear their stories, share their photos, and give them some extra love in the magazine. To do this, we'll need your help!

Please send any nominations and a brief description to Brittni at brittni@ smithfieldtimesri.net!



A	Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 36.											6.		
Α	М	I	D		Α	М	Ε	N		Т	Α	R	P	s
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