

# The Smithfield Times



smithfieldtimesri.net



Player: Claire Barrett  
Photo by: Mark Carrier  
Story on page 4

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# Letter from the Editor



**Brittni Henderson**  
Editor

*Dear Smithfield Times readers,*

Local softball player Claire Barrett shows us that she is ready for anything life throws her way – especially on the softball field. She works hard to hone her skills at a recently opened training center here in Smithfield. Paul Lonardo spoke to the owners/operators and Mark Carrier shot photos of the facility that is sure to be a *hit* to all softball and baseball players in our community. Meet some members, as well the friends behind the operation, in this month's issue.

Speaking of activities, Paul also spoke to our friends at the Smithfield Senior Center who are excited to announce the inaugural summer games set to take place in June. Read about the upcoming event and see if you'd be interested in signing up to participate in the fun!

Joe Siegel has the recap of the faceoff between Smithfield's first responders this month. Smithfield Fire Department and Smithfield Police Department played a friendly game of hoops in March to raise money for a local cause. The second annual charity event brought many townspeople together for a great cause.

Lastly, *Smithfield Times* high school correspondent Sydney Briggs covers the Smithfield/Coventry/Moses Brown girls' hockey championship win that took place earlier this year. Congratulations to these talented student athletes!

Happy Mother's Day to my mom Karen, and every mother and mother figure in town. We love you!

Warmest regards,

Brittni Henderson



## Thanks, Mom.

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Happy Mother's Day!



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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

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

Courtesy of:

# George M. Prescott

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# For the Love of the Game: H.I.T. Center of RI Open for Softball/Baseball Training

by: Paul Lonardo

Joe Roumelis and Jeff Pallotta have known each other since they were in high school, growing up with a love of baseball and later playing softball together. They remained friends as they had families of their own and got involved in the sports that their children played, including coaching their daughters' softball teams.

"Jeff and I have been coaching our teams for a while, and every offseason we would work out at different indoor facilities around our area."

As softball coaches, one of the facilities they used was Serious Softball, owned by local businessperson Fran Clark, which operated at 3 Industrial Drive in Smithfield, practically in Joe's backyard. When the owner approached him in 2022 that he was looking to move on from the business, he asked Joe if he would be interested in taking over. He didn't have to ask twice.

Long before entering this stage in their lives, Joe and Jeff had both dreamed about opening an indoor baseball and softball training facility of their own.

"It was something that I had wanted to do for the better part of 20 years, but the timing and opportunities were never quite right until Fran called me that day," Joe says. "I knew that if I didn't pull the trigger on it right there, I never would."

Joe let his friend Jeff know about the opportunity of having their own place, and they jumped at it.

"I'm from Smithfield," Joe says proudly. "I grew up here, and the town never had anything like this when I was younger. I knew the softball community well, but I thought baseball could also

be used in something like this in town. Jeff and I looked at it together and came to the same conclusion that the timing was right for the both of us to do this, and we thought there would be a market in both sports for what we had envisioned."

The friends became business partners, taking over the space in April 2022. Anthony DeFusco, a third partner, friend, and softball enthusiast, was brought aboard, and the H.I.T. Center of RI was born.

Like most business dreams, it took a fair amount of hard work, sweat, and money to turn the facility into everything they imagined it would be, adding new elements to the space every year.

"It needed a complete refresh," Joe says, "so we put a lot of effort into renovations. We spent that whole first summer upgrading the facility before opening live in August 2022."

They started by adding and upgrading the lighting with brand-new LED lights.

"An indoor facility is nothing if it doesn't have proper lighting," added Joe. They also added commercial air conditioning units to keep the place cool during the hot summer months.

"Nobody really likes to train indoors in the summer, but we knew if we could keep the air temperature comfortable, we could encourage more training inside as players and teams escape the heat. Our facility is unique in that way, most indoor facilities our size don't have air conditioning. We have found players love hitting inside when it's 90 plus degrees out."

The partners then brought in all new training tools and technology, a security camera system, a key fob entry for members, and an app-based cage booking system. They added TVs, comfortable seating in an open lobby, device charging stations, an online pro shop, and renovated separate men's and women's bathrooms.

"I wanted to make sure we had the best lighting, best air quality, and the cleanest environment, so when people walk inside it's extremely comfortable not only for the instructors, the teams, and the players, but the parents as well. We have the facility professionally cleaned twice a week. Jeff, Anthony, and I take a lot of pride in H.I.T. Center's presentation."

H.I.T. Center of RI at its core is a softball training facility, but also supports baseball organizations, such as the Smithfield and Burrillville Little Leagues, which utilized the space for clinics over the winter. "What those two organizations did over the winter for their recreation leagues was amazing," said Joe, "I enjoyed watching it. The boys loved it."

"Being softball coaches ourselves, we will always make sure our softball athletes feel like they have a place to call their own, but we realized that the area needed an option for baseball," Joe adds.

Regional AAU programs, such as the Rhode Island Reds, L&M baseball, and the Pout Pond Gamecocks, now use the indoor facility over the winter for their training.

H.I.T. Center of RI is building a

*See H.I.T. Center, page 5*

*H.I.T. Center, from page 4*

reputable as well as affordable, clean, well-lit, and most importantly safe facility to train.

“One of our core principles is training here has to be affordable,” Joe says. “The tools and technology that we offer, from advanced to rec programs, must be available to everyone. These are things that elsewhere you typically would have to pay up for, we don’t do that. We offer every team, no matter the skill level, the same top-of-the-line equipment from the start. As coaches ourselves, we understand what teams want in their practice. And if we don’t have it, we’ll go out and get it.”

H.I.T. Center offers analytics and utilizes Hit Trax, which is a great evaluation tool that kids love. There are 11 experienced softball and baseball instructors on staff to work with the players on skill development, depending on the season, and that number continues to grow. The business model is membership-based to control foot traffic, so they don’t cater to an individual walk-in clientele.

“We are primarily a softball membership facility,” Joe says, “where players can purchase an annual membership at a low price and train all year during members hours. For baseball players, we offer individual cage rental packages. Families can

reserve a specialty cage with a pitching machine at a set time for either 8 or 12 weeks, just email us to set up a schedule. It works out great so there’s rarely an overcrowding issue.”

For more information or to ask about rentals, contact H.I.T. Center of RI by phone at 401.618.5025 or email [info@hitcenterofri.com](mailto:info@hitcenterofri.com) (preferred). You can look them up online at [www.hitcenterofri.com](http://www.hitcenterofri.com). Their hours of operation are Monday-Friday 2:30pm-9:00pm, Saturday and Sunday 8:00am-9:00pm.

The H.I.T. Center is located at 3 Industrial Drive in Smithfield.



Photos by: Mark Carrier

# Host Families Needed for Foreign Students

by: Joe Siegel

Former Smithfield Town Councilwoman Suzy Alba and her family have been serving as a host family for a foreign exchange student.

Last summer, the family hosted Gabriel, a 14-year-old boy from Spain, for a month. He attended soccer camp at Rhode Island College.

“We helped to develop his English language skills,” Alba said. “(Gabriel) learned about American culture.”

The family showed Gabriel around the state, taking him to Block Island and Newport, as well as special events like WaterFire in Providence and the July 4th Parade in Bristol.

Alba found out about Nacel Open Door (NOD), a Minneapolis-based organization that arranges stays from exchange students with American families. Gabriel was part of NOD’s short-term program, which last four or five weeks.

The Albas are hosting Wen, a 17-year-old boy from China, as part of the Academic Year program. Wen arrived last August along with four other students, who are staying with other host families in Rhode Island. He is attending Mount St. Charles Academy in Woonsocket until his graduation in June.

“I’m so grateful to my host family for giving me a place to call home during



Adam, Suzy, Sawyer, and Wen

my stay in the U.S.,” said Wen. “I feel like part of their family. What I have learned this year is developing my English skills and independence. I have grown to be very independent which will help me when I continue my education in college here in America.”

Wen has formed a close bond with the Albas.

“He calls us Mom and Dad,” said Alba’s husband Adam Stanley. “He considers our (8-year-old) son as his brother.”

Wen is returning to China but will return in the fall. He has already been accepted to colleges across the country. This is Wen’s first time in

the United States.

“We’ve tried our best to show him all of New England,” Alba noted. Wen misses his family very much. He has kept in contact with them through the WeChat app. The Stanley family treat him like their own son. “It’s a huge sacrifice,” Alba continued. “We remind him of how brave he is.”

Any family that plans to host a student must provide them with their own bedroom. In addition, the student’s meals have to be provided. Host families do receive a stipend from NOD to provide for other expenses such as transportation.

Alba acknowledges how challenging it can be to try to navigate the cultural and language barriers faced by hosting a foreign student.

There are three or four young women from Spain who are planning to stay in the country for a month this summer. Alba encourages families to apply for a hosting opportunity through Nacel Open Door.

“If people are able to open their hearts and their homes, it’s a wonderful experience,” she added.

*For more information, visit [www.nacelopendoor.org](http://www.nacelopendoor.org).*

**Photo by: Brittany LaFountain**

# Happy Mother's Day



Senator David P. Tikoian

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# Side Bar

Side bar (noun): a short article in a newspaper or magazine, placed alongside a main article, and containing additional or explanatory material.

As a side bar to each month's issue, we'd like to introduce you to someone who works behind the scenes at *The Smithfield Times*. You'll get a chance to meet the team behind creating this magazine. You'll not only learn their roles here at *The Times*, but also what they love to do in life. We'll show you their passions and pastimes; introduce you to their family and friends; and most importantly - you'll put a face to the hard work that goes into this magazine each month.



**Dan Pieroni – Writer**

**by: Joe Siegel**

Dan Pieroni has been writing about sports for *The Smithfield Times* since 2020. Pieroni, who is turning 40, has lived in Smithfield for almost his entire life.

Pieroni said Smithfield is the “perfect mesh of country and city.”

“You get the best of both worlds here,” he continued. “I really like the community.”

Pieroni is employed as a substitute teacher at Smithfield High School. Pieroni attended Curry College in Massachusetts, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications Studies. He also attended University of Rhode Island, where he obtained a Master of Arts degree in Communications.

Pieroni had a change in his career path and attended Providence College, where he obtained a Master of Education degree in Guidance Counseling. He is a certified school counselor.

Pieroni lost his job when the public schools went to virtual learning in 2020. He was only a substitute at the time. With no source of income, he was looking for employment.

“Mark Atkinson, who was the Physical Education Department Chair (at the high

school), heard through the grapevine that *The Smithfield Times* was looking for a sports columnist,” Pieroni recalled.

Pieroni went for an interview with John Tassoni, who was the Publisher of the paper at the time. He was a little bit hesitant at first.

“(Tassoni) said: ‘I just want you to write about sports. If you’re good enough for Mark Atkinson, you’re good enough for me. Give me 800 words on how the pandemic is affecting sports and we’ll take it from there.’”

Pieroni had written for the *Bleachers Report*, which gave him the ability to see how readers responded to his writing. He also had his own blog for awhile.

“I like giving a fan’s perspective of the game,” Pieroni said. “I’m passionate about sports. I like having a forum to give my opinion about what’s going on in the sports world.”

Pieroni enjoys many sports, but he favors baseball and football the most.

“I realized that not everyone who reads *The Smithfield Times* is a sports fan,” he noted. “So, I kind of look at societal issues through the prism of sports so everybody can understand that. I think that’s the key to my writing in that you don’t necessarily have to follow the sports to understand them. I focus on the human condition. People, not events.”

Pieroni has won a lot of acclaim from his journalistic peers.

In 2021, Pieroni was nominated for the Sportswriter of the Year award by the *Rhode Island Press Association*.

“I came in third place but it was a thrill to be in the same category as people from the *Providence Journal*, the *Woonsocket Call*,” Pieroni said. “It’s really gratifying.”



# Solar Eclipse

On Monday, April 8, *Smithfield Times* photographer Mark Carrier traveled to Jay Peak in Vermont to experience the total solar eclipse. Mark, along with many others across North America (and Smithfield!) viewed this celestial milestone together, whether it was through the lens of a camera or the lenses of special eclipse glasses.

Mark shares, "The solar eclipse was an incredibly surreal experience! Many people talk about the awe-inspiring nature of a total eclipse, but few have experienced it from a mountaintop, such as Jay Peak, Vermont (15 minutes from the Canadian border). Not only did we have a distinct vantage point compared to others in the path of totality, but we were lucky enough to have perfect weather. Just before totality we saw something unique to our location, a 360-degree sunset and sunrise! Imagine a sunset occurring directly overhead, rather than at the horizon, and you see the beautiful colors of a sunset in all directions instead of just in the west. This happened before and after totality! As we crossed into totality, birds chirped, dogs barked, and the crowd around me began cheering, which was perfectly complemented by a live band playing Pink Floyd. It was an incredible experience I will never forget. Looking ahead, Spain, Iceland, and Greenland will experience a total eclipse in 2026, and I am considering a special trip to witness it again."



Photo by: Mark Carrier



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# A Passion for Change



by: Gabrielle Finch

Put your hands together for Leo Chabot. A 15-year-old Smithfield High School student who was recently recognized for all his hard work, academic achievements, leadership skills, and passion for environmental science and conservation studies.

Leo received an invitation to represent Smithfield as a National Student Delegate at this year's Washington Youth Summit on the Environment, which will be hosted at George Mason University. From June 23 to June 28, he will join 100 other select students from across the country and will have the opportunity to learn about different paths within the industry that he can pursue in the future.

The goal of the Summit is to “develop and encourage future leaders in the important field of environmental science and conservation studies in the 21st Century... Delegates gain an insider look at environmental science, policy, and conservation issues.”

Leo is excited to “meet other smart kids from all over the country, and talk about our interests, goals, and dreams.” He’s so grateful for the chance to learn new things and make new friends who share his passion for making a difference in the world. He plans to use this opportunity to grow as a person and a leader and hopes to meet notable personnel who can help guide him.

When he’s not trying to make the world a better place, Leo can be found on the field. He’s part of the Smithfield High football team, as well as a member of the wrestling team. He loves both sports, and finds that they teach him to work hard, work as a team, and to never give up. He is also part of the National Junior Honor Society, which is a group of students who are recognized for their academic success and partake in community service projects. Leo has support coming from all angles, but his biggest supporters are his parents and two dogs, who are always cheering him on!

Congratulations and good luck Leo! We can’t wait to see all that you do.

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# Wishing my mother and all mothers a very ...



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## ★ R.C. LaPerche School ★



Smithfield Public Schools recently had a friendly competition for the attendance matters initiative. Each school tracked attendance by percentage of students at each school from Monday through Friday during the week of March 4th. The school with the highest percentage of students in school was awarded a school-wide benefit of a smoothie day coordinated with Chartwells on April 11.

The school with the highest percentage of students for that week was LaPerche Elementary School and the school enjoyed smoothies together with the entire school and received special district recognition.





Photos by: Mark Carrier



# Town Enhances Public Safety With Fifth AED Unit

by: Paul Lonardo

Last month, State Senator David P. Tikoian donated an outdoor, community AED cabinet to the town of Smithfield.

AED stands for automated external defibrillator, sometimes automatic electronic defibrillator. Most people may be familiar with a defibrillator as a medical device, having seen them used in movies and in emergency and hospital television dramas. They are a critical piece of equipment used to help restart a heart during a cardiac arrest emergency.

According to the CDC, more than 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests are reported annually in the United States. An estimated 70% to 90% of people experiencing such cardiac arrests die before reaching the hospital. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) within minutes of such cardiac arrests can dramatically raise survival rates.

“Inside (buildings) is where you’d most often see an automatic external defibrillator,” explains Todd Manni, the Director of Emergency Management.

This type of outdoor AED unit is relatively new, becoming readily available over the last couple of years. The one recently donated by Senator Tikoian and installed at Smithfield High School was mounted on the scoreboard between the baseball and softball fields. Inside a weather tight cabinet is a lifesaving AED, and it’s available for use every hour of every day. The cabinet is locked and can only be opened by dialing 9-1-1 using



Todd Manni and Senator David P. Tikoian

the phone supplied with the unit. A caller will immediately be connected to a dispatcher who will provide a code that can be used to open the cabinet to access the defibrillator, which could then be removed and taken to the person in need of medical aid. Just by making this phone connection, the emergency is automatically reported, and a rescue will be dispatched to the location.

“AEDs are an invaluable tool during a sudden cardiac arrest,” Manni says. “Quickly beginning chest compressions at a rate of, 100 to 120 per minute, and early defibrillation for a person who suffered a cardiac arrest is critical to increasing their chances of survival.”

“From my perspective, part of keeping a community safe and prepared for a medical emergency requires the ability of lifesaving equipment to be deployed swiftly,” Tikoian says.

While safe and proper use of a defibrillator is fairly simple and can be taught to anyone, Manni encourages the public to take a hands-on CPR class so that they know how to administer CPR.

“You have to, first, be able to recognize sudden cardiac arrest and act quickly,” Manni stresses. “That’s the most important thing, early recognition. Then act by starting chest compressions, dialing 9-1-1 to get medical help on the way, and continuing compressions until rescue gets there. Ideally, have another bystander grab the AED. With the help of another person, have them attach the AED, turn it on if it doesn’t do so when you open the cover of the AED and follow the voice instructions that come from the AED. These lifesaving actions can greatly increase the chance of survival.”

Most people may not be aware that this is not the only location in Smithfield where you can find an outdoor AED cabinet. There are four other locations besides the new one at Smithfield High School. There is one at the Little League field at Deerfield Park, one at the soccer field at Deerfield Park, one mounted to the concession stand at Whipple Field, and one at Pleasant View Elementary School basketball court.

“Positioning outdoor, community AED cabinets in recreational and athletic venues across town is a safety and lifesaving initiative I was eager to partner with the Smithfield Emergency Management Agency and their Director, Todd Manni,” Tikoian

*See Public Safety, page 15*

says. "Upon completion of the Boyle Athletic Complex, it's my intention to donate another outdoor, community AED cabinet to the town so it may be installed within the confines of the complex."

Manni says, "People look at AEDs and think they are only utilized in situations where someone goes into cardiac arrest because of a heart attack, but the reality is people go into sudden cardiac arrest because of trauma as well. So, it's not just a medical emergency that brings on sudden cardiac arrest, it could be some type of trauma, as well."

A line-drive in baseball or softball, a tackle in football, or any other hard impact to the chest, could potentially put someone into cardiac arrest, and that's why these outdoor units have been placed in locations where children are involved in sports. Hopefully, they never get used, but if a defibrillator is ever needed, they are now there for use in such an emergency.

We saw what happened to Buffalo Bills' safety Damar Hamlin on Monday Night Football in January 2023 when Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Tee Higgins's helmet struck him in the chest as he was making a tackle. Hamlin collapsed and went into cardiac arrest, and his life was saved by the Bills' training staff administering CPR and employing an AED.

That's why it is important for everyone to have basic knowledge of performing hands-only CPR. Classes are available in town, where you can learn not only life-saving CPR, but you can become familiar with the outdoor AED unit and gain the confidence needed to use a defibrillator should such an emergency arise.

To find out when and where CPR classes are available, contact the Smithfield Fire Department, 401.949.1330, and ask for Chief Jonathan Polak. To sponsor a cabinet, please call Todd Manni at 401.233.1095.



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# Smithfield Police and Fire Dribble for Charity

By Joe Siegel

Members of the Police and Fire Departments played in a charity basketball game at Smithfield High School on March 22. The second annual event raised \$5000 for the town's Human Services Department and the Food Pantry.



The Fire Department defeated the Police Department 46 to 31. Town Councilman John Tassoni served as emcee.

The players from the Police Department included Amber DeCristofaro, Thomas DeCristofaro, Kerrin D'Agnelli, David Walsh, Orlando Braxton, Jon Ricciarelli, Christopher McIntyre, John Beausoleil, Madison Mitchell-Laplante, Christopher Kelly, and Ryan Perry.

The players from the Fire Department included Tom Estrella, John Greenhalgh, Vincent Ceceri, Matt Foley, Dave Mavillia, Corey Rosa, and Andrew Mckinney.

The coach was Jack Cuzzone.

"I would like to thank the police and firefighters for their great work in supporting the people in need," Tassoni said. "I also like to thank all who donated raffle prizes and those who made (financial donations)."



Thomas Winfield, Senator David P. Tikoian, and Councilman John J. Tassoni Jr.





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# SCMB Girls' Hockey Defends State Title Against La Salle



Smithfield members of the Smithfield-Coventry-Moses Brown Girls' Hockey Co-Op receive Certificates of Recognition from the Smithfield Town Council.

by: Sydney Briggs

For the second year in a row, the Smithfield-Coventry-Moses Brown Girls' Hockey Co-Op has once again defeated the La Salle Lady Rams in the Division I state championship.

Last year, during their first year as a division I team, the co-op beat the Rams 3-2 in double overtime. The winning goal, scored by then junior Quinn Faria of Moses Brown, brought the SCMB girl's hockey team to their first DI State Title.

The faceoff took place at Providence College's Schneider Arena Sunday, March 17. The anticipated battle had classmates, siblings, parents, and friends on the edge of their seats as the Smithfield Based Co-Op and the Lady Rams returned for a rematch.

In the first period, La Salle's Eliza Barker was able to slip the puck past Moses Brown's Ava Porter for the first goal of the game, bringing the score to 1-0 La Salle, putting the SCMB team in a deficit.

La Salle stayed ahead throughout the majority of the game, with the Ram's Kaylee Butler scoring an additional goal during the second period. La Salle was up 2-0, but the Sentinels didn't give up at that point, they only played harder.

With just over six minutes left in the second period, Moses Brown Freshman Margaret Baldwin was able to add a goal for the Co-Op, bringing the overall score from 2-0 to 2-1.

Despite trailing behind the Lady Rams, the girls of the Smithfield-

Coventry-Moses Brown Co-Op did not give up. They worked their defense, played hard, and competed neck-and-neck with the Rams throughout the entirety of the game.

Within the last two minutes of regulation time, Smithfield junior Kaylin O'Connor received the puck from Keira Goffe, and was able to backhand the puck past La Salle's goalie, bringing the game to two-all. Within the last 30 seconds of overtime, a La Salle player was placed in the penalty box for hooking, allowing the Co-Op to move the puck down the ice. With assists from Goffe and O'Connor and just a few seconds to spare, Margaret Baldwin was able to score the final goal of the game for the SCMB team, bringing their state championship title count to three.

# Ocean State School of Gymnastics (OSSG)

by: Isabella R Santoro

Christine Zinno, a resident of Smithfield, is a coach at the Ocean State School of Gymnastics (OSSG). She also teaches trampoline and tumbling gymnastics classes. I had the pleasure of speaking with her about her style of coaching, the fun she has with her students at the gym, and even their exciting trip to New Jersey for Regional championships at the end of April.

Christine started the first and only trampoline and tumbling team in Rhode Island, located at OSSG in Lincoln. OSSG is the premiere gymnastics facility in the area and hosts a very competitive artistic gymnastics team. The Lyons, who own the gym, have mentored and guided Christine and her program so that they too have demonstrated excellence. Starting out as just a small recreational class, Christine has been able to grow her team to 21 athletes. Two of her daughters are even part of this exciting and adventurous one-of-a-kind gymnastics team.

Christine grew up in Ohio doing artistic gymnastics before switching to trampoline and tumbling. She then became a five-time national champion in springboard diving while in college in California.

When she and her family moved to Smithfield seven years ago, Christine thought it would be great to be able to coach her daughter in trampoline and tumbling, so she ran with the idea. Her class grew from a small team to a larger team. In three short years, OSSG now has one of the largest trampoline and tumbling programs in New England.

What makes this program so fun and exciting for both Christine and her students, Christine says, is that there

is always a new skill to learn. Her girls have fun doing what they do, and they are hard workers. This approach to gymnastics is one that is unique and very suitable for an athlete that may not be as interested in the beam or the bars and wants to go more into the tumbling and flipping side. Christine also always makes sure that her students are having fun and enjoying themselves and while they are part of a team, she knows it is always important for the girls to make the most of their time while they are at the gym. She likes to use the method of playing games with her students to foster a fun environment.

Christine finds it extremely rewarding to be able to establish great relationships with her students where they feel respected and where they can come to her for advice. She wants to help her students learn leadership skills, integrity, and she strives to be a respectful coach to her girls. One thing that Christine and I talked a lot about was her style of coaching her students on different skills and techniques. She prides herself on positive coaching and says that that's had a major impact on the students in a good way. As she says, the coaches are driving the ship and so everything they do for their kids will be remembered. Christine is surely taking the positive coaching route with her athletes. We also talked about the influence a good coach can have on an athlete growing up, and Christine is paving the way for amazing gymnasts.

Travel is a huge part of this sport, and Christine and her team of girls are excited to join ten other states in the region for Regional Championships, where Christine is confident her athletes will medal. As Christine mentioned to me, her girls are very hard workers, training two to three

times per week and several hours throughout each practice. She is confident that her team will do well and that their hard work will pay off. They are headed to New Jersey at the end of April for their championship and could not be more excited for what is to come.



# Ask an Expert

My name is Tom Lopatosky. I'm the President of LOPCO Contracting ([www.LopcoContracting.com](http://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](mailto:tom@LopcoContracting.com) or call 401-270-2664. Thanks in advance for taking the time to read this column!



## Why Does Exterior Paint on Wood Surfaces Peel?

There certainly are a wide variety of items related to home improvement where if you asked the opinion of a professional as to why something was occurring (or not occurring) you would receive a different answer from every individual you asked.

The reality of the situation (of course in MY mind) is that there are only a finite number of reasons – barring few exceptions - that paint could peel...

- 1) Moisture. Although this is the easy “default” answer for peeling exterior paint on wooden surfaces, it is often provided in instances where moisture is not influencing the paint to peel. The rationale is certainly viable as moisture getting behind the wood surface and forcing its way out through the paint coatings is something which happens quite a bit (though not as much as some may lead you to believe!).
- 2) The wood is not porous enough to properly absorb the paint coating. Depending upon how dense the wood is, the grain of the wood itself may be too tight to allow paint (or stains for that matter) to properly penetrate. When this is the case, a methodology of correction that involves “roughing up” the wood needs to be



the mid-1980s. Mill glaze is a thin layer of wax, unable to be detected by the naked eye, which is embedded in the fibers of the wood during certain manufacturing processes. When this happens, it will be impossible for any paint or stain coating to properly penetrate the wood and often will result in paint peeling in “sheets” at some point in the future.

- 3) Mill glaze. This is particularly synonymous with wood shingles & clapboard that have come of the mills at various points since introduced or else the peeling will continue to occur.
- 4) Intercoat adhesion. Sometimes when paint peels back to the previous layer of paint, there is what is known as an intercoat adhesion challenge occurring

*See Ask an Expert, page 21*

### 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!

where there is something that is coming in between the old layer of paint and the new layer of paint and preventing the new paint from properly 'biting' into the old paint. It could be chalk or dirt, grime, or some other contaminant, but what most often leads to this happening is a surface that was not cleaned as properly as it should have been prior to the next coating being applied.

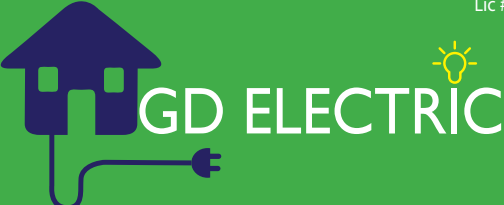
- 5) Painting on top of a higher sheened paint, or directly on top of an old oil coating with a more modern acrylic coating, without proper prep - Although this type of exterior peeling is still something we run into, it is one of those issues of peeling that we don't quite see as often these days in comparison to in the mid-1990s when we first started out in business. When converting a surface from a higher sheened paint to a lower sheened paint, or from an oil coating to a latex/acrylic/waterborne coating, there must be some type of proper surface preparation (usually some type of combination of sanding & priming) to allow the newer coating structure to properly "take."

While there are other reasons why exterior paint on wooden surfaces can peel, these are the ones that we tend to run into the most.

If you have paint on an exterior surface that just does not seem to stick and you cannot for the life of you figure out why, reach out to our office and set up some time to chat.

If you are going to offer a 5-year warranty on something (as LOPCO Contracting does), particularly something as volatile as paint sticking on an exterior wood surface, you had better be aware of as many pitfalls as possible!

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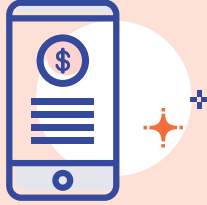
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# March Pizza Madness: A Tasty Event for a Worthy Cause



BSA Troop 1 Greenville hosted their inaugural "March Pizza Madness" event on Saturday, March 23. The delicious celebration of local pizza was held at the Smithfield Senior Center.

Attendees had the opportunity to savor sample sized slices from various local pizza restaurants and votes voted for the People's Choice Award for best cheese pizza and best specialty pizza.

Restaurants slated that participated were Tony's Pizza Palace, Wise Guys Deli, Athen's Pizza, DePetrillos, Jack's Irish & Italian Pizza Pub, Slice & Scoop and Dave's Fresh Marketplace.

In the spirit of community and camaraderie, March Pizza Madness directly supported Troop 1 Greenville, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit. All profits went directly to supporting their initiatives, fostering leadership, and character

development in our local youth.

"Troop 1 Greenville is excited to bring the community together for a fun-filled day of pizza tasting and friendly competition. We believe in the power of good food to unite people, and we are honored to be part of the local Smithfield community," said Matt Rees, Troop Committee Chair at Troop 1 Greenville.

Troop 1 Greenville, part of the Northwest District of the Narragansett Council B.S.A., is proud to be sponsored by and meets weekly at the Greenville Baptist Church, 582 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI.

A key goal of Scouts BSA is "Scouting is Fun."

The Troop organizes many activities throughout the year such as monthly campouts, weekly meetings, various community service projects and fundraisers. Additionally, the Troop

coordinates bi-annual high adventure trips for older scouts at National BSA camps like Philmont in New Mexico and Sea Base in Key West, Florida, among others. The highlight of the year is the annual week campout at Camp Yawgoog Scout Reservation in Rockville, RI.

You will notice within Scouts BSA that the boys themselves provide much of the troop leadership; this is in keeping with the scout goals of developing leadership skills as scouts get older. The job of the Scoutmaster, his assistants, and the parents is to provide the guidance necessary for learning and practicing scouting ideals. We also help teach scouting concepts and help structure troop activities. The basic motivation, however, must come from the boys themselves.

*See March Pizza Madness, page 23*

**For Media Inquiries:**

For more information, please contact Bill Koconis at billkoconis@gmail.com or 401-473-8055.



Photos by: Mark Carrier

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# Smithfield Senior Center Announces Summer Games Day

by: Paul Lonardo

The seniors have a long history of involvement with the CVS Senior Olympics through the years, but this June the Smithfield Senior Center will be hosting their very own summer games. It will be the first of its kind at the senior center, and the friendly competition will take place on Tuesday, June 11, with the following day being reserved in case of rain.

There will be six separate events offered, including bocce, pickleball, cornhole, basketball free throws, golfing chip shots, and timed distance walking.

You don't have to be a member of the senior center to participate. If you're a resident of the town, 55 or older, you're eligible. Also, if you reside from another town but are either a member of the Smithfield Senior Center or the Smithfield YMCA, you are also eligible.

Participants must fill out an application and a liability form available at the Senior Center and the YMCA. There is a \$10 participation fee, and that will include lunch, a shirt, a swag bag, and the winners of each event will be awarded medals. An opening ceremony will mark the start of the day's events, and Chris Whitten, of Premeer Realty, will be on hand providing his DJ service and playing everyone's favorite songs. If I were to hazard a guess, I would think that the crowd might hear Bruce Springsteen's *Glory Days* playing a time or two that day.

Participants can sign up for as many events as they want, and if you're reading this, you still have time to join in on the fun. Registration ends on May 31.

Kate McAdam-Prickett, the center's Activity Director, had been considering such an event for several years, and this seemed the right time to organize a day of competitive fun for their seniors to enjoy. She expects there to be tremendous interest, especially in the uber-popular cornhole, as well as pickleball.

"We have a very popular cornhole program happening at the senior center," Kate says. "It's mind-blowing how good these people are. We have a 92-year-old member who plays, and the YMCA has someone who is 94. It's great to see so many getting involved."

Kate stresses that this event is happening because of the partnership the Smithfield Senior Center has with the Smithfield YMCA, along with the assistance of Senator David P. Tikoian, as well as the Smithfield Fire Department, the EMA, the town Parks & Recreation Department, and all the individual volunteers and businesses within the community such as Premeer Real Estate and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of RI.

The Smithfield Senior Summer Games is something Kate is excited about, and everyone involved shares her enthusiasm.

"We have such an incredible group of seniors, or what we now refer to as 'Super-Agers,'" Kate says. "Our center has been growing more and more since Covid, and I am so excited to have this special competition for our members, the YMCA members and anyone over 55 in Smithfield."

While Kate and everyone else is focused on June 11, she hopes to make the games an annual event, perhaps

even doing some indoor events during the winter. Shauna and Torie from the YMCA have such great ideas for a Winter Games for Seniors.

We'll have to wait and see about that, but for now keep Tuesday, June 11 open on your calendar. Hamburgers and hot dogs, grilled by members of the Smithfield Police Department, will be available to all, free to participants, same for all your favorite frozen summer treats from Mum-sy's Ice Cream Delights truck, which will be on site.

Athlete check-in time is 8:00am, followed by the opening ceremony at 9:00am.

Whether you are an active participant or an observer of the Smithfield Senior Center Summer Games Day, you will enjoy a full day of festivities and fun.

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# Ask Our Attorney

Terrance N. Turner, HON.



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.

## Warning! - No Napping While Driving This Vehicle

Say what? Come again?

Sure: while you're driving this vehicle, don't try to take a nap, as this could be a risky thing to do.

We're all walking on legal eggs – worried morning, noon, and night about being sued for one thing or another. This is especially true if you are in business. If the way that you earn a living is by offering a professional service on the American (or world) marketplace or by producing a physical, tangible product for purchase, welcome to what I refer to in my law classes as “your exposure to liability.”

To paraphrase the old saying “beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” let me coin a new phrase: “liability is in the eye of the beholder.” If you are the seller of a product based on which you are sued by the purchaser, you might start to wonder whether or not our culture, our legal system ever holds the consumer responsible for his own carelessness, negligence, misuse or abuse of a product. On the other hand, if you happen to be the user of the product who gets injured by the product, you might want to be reassured that the manufacturer will be responsible for your injuries and their related consequences.

One of my favorite teaching tools for the law classes I teach is metaphors. One of my favorite metaphors is that of an accordion. One of the ideas

employed is that the accordion represents our ever-expanding exposure to liability for products we put out in the marketplace which cause injuries. The accordion is ever expanding; it's never contracted back inwards to the prior point; in other words, our liability is never lessened; it's always increased. It's almost like a law of nature, well known, understood and predictable.

To try to minimize their liability as much as possible, manufacturers have all manner of warnings and precautions attached to their products. It's not as if in doing so that a manufacturer will be let off the hook completely for an injury from its products; but in the eyes of a judge and jury, the presence of a warning may help to lessen the award of money damages that they might otherwise award. In fact, there's always the possibility that the manufacturer just might escape liability altogether.

Warnings and disclaimers, though two sides of the same coin, are nonetheless different and offer the manufacturer two different kinds of “coverage;” a warning might be like “flammable, do not use near fire;” while a disclaimer is more likely to say, “not liable for burns due to misuse.”

The whole business of warning labels on physical, tangible products is a fascinating area of study and analysis by anthropologists, sociologists and even historians. Why would this be

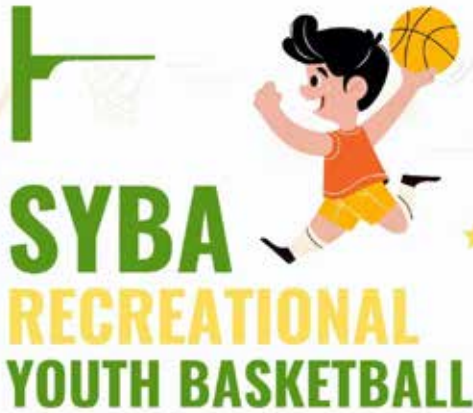
so? Warnings and labels can be seen as reflecting much of the underlying culture which produces them. With the proliferation of so many products and consumer goods on the American market, there are bound to be personal injuries and even property damage from misuse, carelessness, and abuse of such goods.

The conspicuous use of warnings raises questions such as: do consumers even read them; to what extent do we hold people responsible for their own carelessness or even stupidity; with a multicultural society, how many different languages do warnings have to be in; what does the widespread need for warnings say about our fractious culture; what products are no longer available to the consumer due to too much litigation; how does all this product liability business effect the insurance industry and the cost of liability insurance; what businesses have actually gone out of business due to excessive litigation.

What's the underlying cause of all this warning label business? Who's at fault here? Who's to blame and who can we point the finger to? ... to be continued in the next edition.

Warning: reading this legal column will make you a smarter consumer!

Turner Law Offices will take all the credit, thank you.



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# Inside The Brown Bag

by: Peg Brown

## The First of May ...

May Day – not to be confused with the internationally used distress signal, “mayday.”

Who knew? Remember that I did not grow up in New England, and therefore had a childhood devoid of May breakfasts and May Day baskets of treats shared with family, friends, and neighbors. I was not raised in the Catholic faith, so I never had the opportunity to crown a statue of the Virgin Mary with a wreath of flowers or celebrate the day as a feast day for the Catholic patron saint of workers, St. Joseph.

It wasn't until I went to college in Southern Pennsylvania, that I met the festive side of May Day with all its pageantry. The highlight of the spring each year was the election of the Campus May Queen and her court, all of whom in the English tradition would be crowned with flowers and proceed to do the traditional May Day dance, complete with multicolored ribbons streaming from the hastily constructed maypole in the center of campus.

However, the selection and the crowning of the May Queen and her court was significantly more complicated than the selection of our high school prom queens and kings. There were certain criteria for these honors that unfortunately, like those required for homecoming and prom queen, I did not possess. These young women of the court always included the leadership of the student body – those who ran student government, were the best athletes, sat on the judicial committee, starred in our theatre and dance productions, and of course, were good students who just happened to be attractive. Except for occasional A's and high B's, I met none of these requirements.

My move to Rhode Island introduced me to New England traditions including May Day breakfasts and whimsical baskets that were always made of discarded margarine cups, creatively disguised with crepe paper, containing fudge, cookies, and sometimes flowers.

Many of us forget, or never knew, the serious side of May Day. I do vaguely remember in the early 1950s watching the small black and white screen of my grandparent's television as tiny images of thousands of tanks, weapons, and soldiers paraded through Red Square in Russia on May 1 in a demonstration of the power of the Soviet Union and its communist philosophy – all of which I failed to understand as a pre-teen.

The real surprise to those of us who are not familiar with the labor movement in the United States would be that the May Day labor tradition is not rooted in the Soviet Union, but in 1886 in Chicago during what is known as the Haymarket Affair.

As socialist organizations began to develop in many of our major cities, agitation to address poor working conditions in factories peaked. Many workers in Chicago led a crusade to implement an 8-hour workday. It is reported that on May 1, 1886, “more than 300,000 workers in 13,000 businesses walked off their jobs on the first May Day celebration in history.” Worried that the walkout would turn violent, Pinkerton guards and police braced for the worst. For over six months, confrontations

with striking workers occurred in the streets, resulting in several deaths and many injuries. Following a call for a public meeting to confront the issue of police brutality, violence, and chaos erupted in Haymarket Square.

“In 1889, the International Socialist Conference declared that, in commemoration of the Haymarket Affair, May 1 would be an international holiday for labor.” However, it should be noted that during the Eisenhower-McCarthy red scare decade of the 1950s, to distance the US from what was perceived as the Communist threat, the President declared May 1, “Loyalty Day” – “a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of American and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom.”

So, on this May 1, as you stand in line for eggs, bacon, and pancakes at your favorite May Day breakfast venue and fill that May basket for your neighbor, take a moment to reflect on the long history and diverse and multiple origins of this special day.

Note: And, in case any of our senior centers need a May Queen, I still have my white wedding gown from my first marriage tucked away under the bed. I'll be waiting for an invitation!



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# Tales from the Beyond

## A Parrot Once Helped Solve A Triple Murder

by: Thomas D'Agostino

[www.tomdagostino.com](http://www.tomdagostino.com)

Halifax Massachusetts in the late 19th century was a close knit little community of about 600 people. One journalist in the 1870s referred to the town as such, "no lawyers and none needed." This would change however when on February 15, 1874 a gruesome triple murder took place in the Sturtevant home.

The elderly two brothers, Simeon and Thomas Sturtevant lived with their elderly cousin and caretaker, Mercy Buckley. It was well known that they were very wealthy farmers and kept their money hidden within the confines of the home. Though the neighbors were in the habit of checking on the trio, days would go by where the three would not be seen or heard from. On February 16 a neighbor happened to be passing the rear of the home when he noticed the body of Miss Buckley lying in a field some 40 rods from the house. (A rod is a unit of measurement equal to 16-1/2 feet. It was the common use of measuring up until the 20th century. Miles, acres and city blocks were laid out in rods and their measurements are the same today but now measured in feet instead of rods.) Her head had been beaten so badly, she was barely recognizable. He hurried to the house where he found Thomas near the door, also beaten to death. Simeon was found upstairs in the bedroom in the same condition. The whole community was to say the least, in utter shock.

Right away the police had a suspect in the nephew of the brothers, William Sturtevant. It was no secret that William owed money and had no means of paying his debts. This was coupled with the fact that his wife had just given birth.

One of the telltale signs pointing toward his guilt was a trail of coins leading from the Sturtevant house to his. This was due to a hole in one his pants pockets he had filled during the incident. When the police searched him they found dollar bills in his stockings issued in 1863, the same ones that the uncles kept in their home. The fact that only a portion of the money was taken was also a factor, as William had no way of carrying a large sum, therefore would only take what he could fit on his person.

All this was but circumstantial and although weighed heavy on the side of justice, it was what happened next that sealed William's fate. The police escorted William to the crime scene for a walk through, William seemed composed though nervous then it happened. As he passed Miss Buckley's parrot, the bird began screeching, "Murderer! Murderer!"

William then broke down and confessed killing his uncles and Miss Buckley with a cart spoke then taking what he could carry in currency. The trial was so popular that tickets

for the event were in high demand. Sturtevant was found guilty and executed on May 7, 1875. A special train was commissioned to bring crowds in to witness the execution. He would be the second to the last person executed in Plymouth County.

The two brothers are buried in the Tomson Cemetery in Halifax next to each other. On their stone reads under their names is the word "Murdered" carved into them. William is also reported to be buried somewhere in the cemetery in an unmarked grave.

A gruesome story with a strange ending is not uncommon in New England history. This particular one instead of a copycat murderer tells of a copycat screaming murder.





# Diaries of a College Student

## Don't Fear the Finals

by: Ellorie Corcoran

Finals are the first taste of a semester ending. Depending on your major, finals can be filled with exams, papers, or group projects. No matter the form, there is something everyone experiences: a deep dislike for finals. Since we're all in this together, I decided to share some tips I've learned to get through finals without losing (too much) of your mind!

### Tip 1: Create a daily schedule

I cannot survive without a schedule to outline exactly what work or other commitments I need to get done in a day. With so much work

toward the end of a semester, it's important to write down everything you must do, because there's no way to remember it all. It also helps you gauge how much time you have aside from classes, clubs, or jobs, to get your work done daily.

### Tip 2: Allow yourself some free time

A common problem that college students experience is time management, especially during finals. Set aside time to relax. Giving yourself some free time also allows you to feel more human, and less like a robot doing project after project.

### Tip 3: The weekend is your friend

Most assignments are due during the week, so weekday evenings can become stressful. The weekend is your chance to relax, spend time with friends, and try to forget about your work. The weekend has so much flexibility. The weekend can be molded to fit whatever your needs are during a time of stress.

These three tips might help finals seem less daunting. Taking time for yourself to do whatever brings you joy is paramount to your success!

## Greenville Water District

### Greenville Water District

P.O. Box 595, Greenville, RI 02828

Phone: 231-1433 Fax: 231-1435

### Help us conserve water this summer.

Please help us conserve water by adhering to our voluntary odd – even outside watering schedule. Odd numbered homes should water on odd numbered days and even numbered homes should water on even numbered days.

### Fix leaking toilets.

A leaking toilet is the number one culprit for higher than normal water bills. Leak detection tablets are available free of charge at the Greenville Water District. When you suspect a leaking toilet, this simple test could save you from a \$1000 surprise on your water bill.

1/8 inch leak can waste ..... 1,183,992 gallons of water @60psi

### Planting a new lawn?

Want to save big bucks on your future water bill? Layer at least 5" of organic material as a base for your new lawn. This will decrease your future water bills substantially. The price you pay for the organic material will pay for itself in savings in less than two water bills.

### How does this help the water utility?

It helps the water utility manage peak demand more efficiently. When everyone is using water at the same time, system resources such as pumping and storage can be strained, resulting in increased cost of delivery. Doing your part ensures even distribution of water in summer months when usage is at its highest.

### How can my toilet be leaking, I see no water?

Leaking toilets are usually transparent to the homeowner. The leak takes place in the back portion or closet of the toilet, some leaks can be heard and some cannot be heard. Routine annual inspections of the closet are recommended. Usually a small adjustment or \$10 repair kit is all that is necessary to repair the toilet.

## Swamp Meadow Community Theatre is Proud to Present the Fan-favorite Musical, *The Lightning Thief!*

Based on the breakout novel by Rick Riordan, *The Lightning Thief* follows Percy Jackson, a kid who can't seem to stay out of trouble. Percy gets swept up in a world of Greek mythology: the Greek gods are real, and so are the monsters. Percy and his friends at Camp Half-Blood need to find out why the gods are so mad, and what a few mortal teenagers can do to stop it.

With a talented ensemble, a driving rock soundtrack, and an inspiring story about taking control of your destiny, this show is a must-see. *The Lightning Thief* is for mythology nerds, Riordan fans, theater lovers, and everyone in between.

This production, directed by Cate Hackett, features two alternate casts for the leads. Camp Half-Blood performs on May 3, May 9, and May 11 at 7pm. Camp Jupiter performs on May 4 and 10 at 7pm and May 5 at 2pm. Find tickets and more information at [swampmeadow.org](http://swampmeadow.org).





# Calendar of Community Events



## Apple Blossom Garden Club Annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 18th – 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Blackbird Farm – 660 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI

Great Selection and Pricing on Perennials, Annuals, Herbs and Vegetables.

Over 50+ varieties of tomato plants.

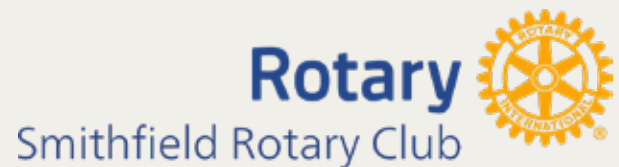


**FREE: Samples of Organic Fertilizer Tea from “Let It Grow”**

**9 AM – 12 noon - Soil testing by URI Master Gardeners**



Smithfield Rotary Club  
smithfieldrirotary.org  
facebook.com/SmithfieldRotaryClub  
P.O. Box 17265  
Smithfield, RI 02917



The Smithfield Rotary Club invites you to learn more about the projects we are working on that make a real impact on the Smithfield community and beyond.

Join us for a meeting and continental breakfast at Fisher Student Center, Bryant University, Suite 2C to learn about our club!

Upcoming meetings: May 1st & 8th 7:30 am - 8:30 am

### May Service Projects

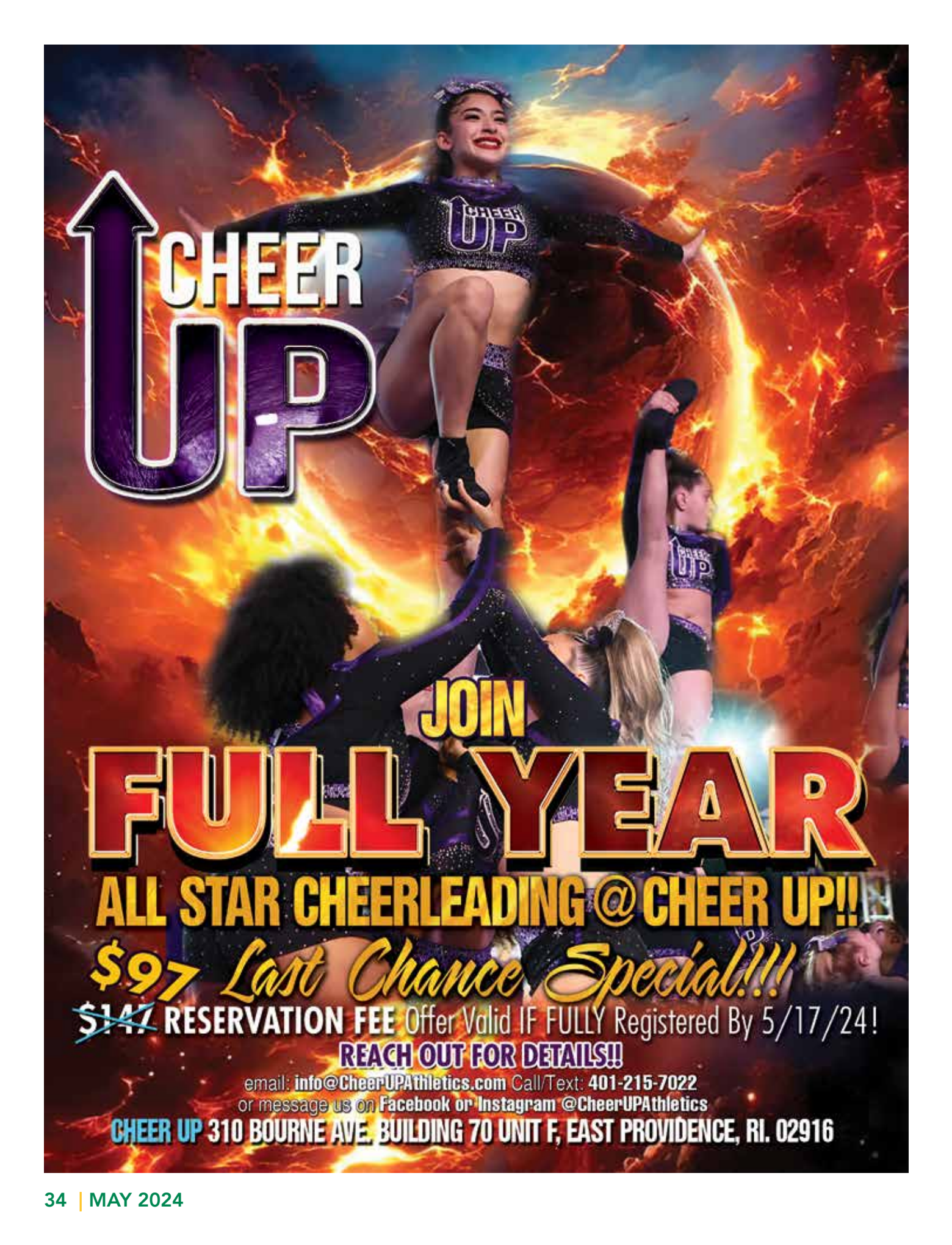
Find us putting our motto “service above self” into action at one of these events:

SSELAC Color Run, Walk, or Roll May 4th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Deerfield Park (Rotary Day of Service for Smithfield Club)

Chalk the Walk May 18th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Gallagher Middle School

Operation Stand Down Boots on the Ground (break down) May 28th 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at Fort Adams State Park

Questions about Rotary? Want to learn more about membership? Contact us at [smithfieldrirotary@gmail.com](mailto:smithfieldrirotary@gmail.com) or visit our website: [www.smithfieldrirotary.org](http://www.smithfieldrirotary.org)



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or message us on Facebook or Instagram @CheerUPAthletics

**CHEER UP 310 BOURNE AVE. BUILDING 70 UNIT F, EAST PROVIDENCE, RI. 02916**



# Let's Create Something!

by: Lisa Gentile

## Interchangeable Welcome Sign

Great D.I.Y gift for Mother's Day! All supplies are available at Dollar Tree.

### Supplies:

23" x 5 1/2" wood sign  
Interchangeable wooden shapes  
Traceable letters  
8" piece of thick string  
Acrylic paints of choice & paint brush  
Velcro  
Hot glue

### Instructions:

Paint the sign and the wooden shapes. I am also painting a pumpkin (not shown).

Glue an inch square of Velcro (fuzzy side) onto the top of the sign. Make sure it is centered. Glue an inch square of Velcro (rougher side) onto each of the shapes. Make sure those are centered as well.

Trace the letters vertically down the sign to spell out welcome. Then paint the letters.

Pull the string through the holds at the top of the sign and tie a knot in the back. Put a little dab of glue on the knots for extra support.

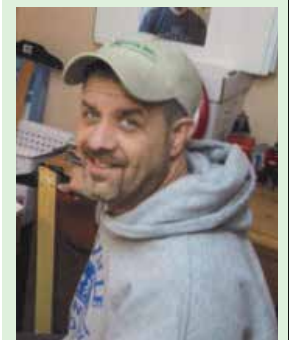
Lastly, take one of your shapes and attach the Velcro pieces at the top of the sign. Now you have a welcome sign to hang outside!

Happy Mother's Day!



## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Tim Jones  
Cartoonist



## Blueberry-Lemon Babka

By: Sarah Gabriel

My name is Sarah, and I am a Smithfield resident working in education. I also started a food blog in 2023 as a side project. I love cooking, baking, and learning more through different food and ingredients. So much to explore, so little time! When I'm not cooking, you might see me running around the streets of Smithfield training for my next race.

<https://www.infinitepalate.com/blog/blueberry-lemon-babka>

### Ingredients:

#### For the Dough

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp yeast
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup whole milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 5 tbs unsalted butter, room temperature & slices into tablespoons

#### For the filling

- 1 cup blueberry preserves
- 1 tbs lemon zest
- 2 tps cinnamon



### Method:

- Whisk together the flour, sugar, yeast and lemon zest in the bowl of a stand mixer.
- With the dough hook attachment, mix in eggs, milk and vanilla until it comes together.
- With the mixer on low, add the salt then the butter, one tablespoon at a time until it's fully incorporated. Run the mixer at medium speed for 7-10 minutes until the dough is completely smooth. Add another 1-2 tbs of flour if the dough gets too sticky.
- Transfer the dough to a large greased bowl, cover, and refrigerate overnight or 3-4 hours if you're shorter on time. It won't double in size, so if it doesn't look like it has grown a ton, that's okay!
- When the dough is ready, roll out on a floured surface to a 10x12 rectangle
- In a small bowl, mix together the blueberry preserves, cinnamon, and 1 tbs lemon zest. Spread a thin layer of filling over the top of the dough, leaving half an inch border around the perimeter of the rectangle.
- Starting at one of the shorter ends, roll the dough tightly away from you (like cinnamon rolls). Use a sharp knife to cut down the length of the center of the dough log so you now have two pieces.
- Twist the two pieces around each other, top-to-bottom, like a two-stranded braid, and then into the prepped loaf pan. Cover and let rise for 1.5-2 hours.
- When your dough is ready, preheat oven to 350 °. Bake on the middle rack for 40 minutes, or when the internal temperature reaches 180°. I ended up sticking my thermometer in 2 or 3 spots since the preserves were probably hotter than everything else.
- Leave in the pan to cool for 5-10 minutes and then turn out onto a wire cooling rack.
- Let it cool a little before slicing, and enjoy!



# A View From the Cheap Seats

## Remembrance of a Brilliant But Flawed Baseball Visionary

by: Dan Pieroni

The sports world never lacks people with Jekyll and Hyde personalities. Roger Clemens, Aaron Rodgers, and Howard Cosell come to mind immediately. In other words, these are people whose competitive nature and desire to be the best at what they did won them admiration from afar, but whose surly personalities and arrogant demeanors caused some to take a dim view of them at times.

Larry Lucchino, the former Boston Red Sox President, who died on April 2 at the age of 78, certainly fit that bill.

When Lucchino came to the Red Sox in 2001, he was an experienced baseball man. He was the driving force behind the Baltimore Orioles building a jewel of a ballpark and helped do the same thing for the city of San Diego as a Padres executive. He also had a reputation for being tough. Baseball reporter Ken Rosenthal in an April 2 column posted on *The Athletic*, mentioned Lucchino once spent 37 days in the hospital undergoing an experimental treatment for lymphoma that was at an advanced stage. He later survived renal and prostate cancer as well. Rosenthal went on to say that Lucchino had a reputation as someone who had a “volcanic” temper. One business associate said at times that Lucchino would get so angry that he’d start shaking. Indeed, to a skeptical Red Sox fan base who was starved for championship glory, Lucchino’s appointment as team President seemed like a welcome respite from the ambivalence of the previous regime. They had no idea how right they were.

Larry Lucchino was everything the

Red Sox and their fans could have hoped for – brash, overcompetitive, and omnipresent. Lucchino was at his best and most revered though in standing up to New York Yankee owner George Steinbrenner. Steinbrenner delighted in using his deep pockets, boorishness, and his team’s cachet to crush the baseball establishment like a bug to ensure the Yankees dominance on the field and in the headlines. Lucchino proved it takes one to know one by standing toe-to-toe with Steinbrenner in the competitive department. This is best exemplified by Lucchino’s labeling of the Yankees as “the evil empire” in the wake of the typical big money free agents signing The Yankees were wont to make in the early 2000’s.

How sweet it was then when Lucchino was able to back up his words by watching his 2004 Red Sox team win their first championship in 86 years and even defeat the Yankees by overcoming a 3-0 deficit in a memorable League Championship Series. Someone had finally broken the Steinbrenner stranglehold on Major League Baseball. Along the way, Lucchino modernized Fenway Park, the ancient ballyard the Red Sox called home by adding seats atop the famed Green Monster and helping revitalize the area around the ballpark through scores of bars and restaurants. It seemed like Larry Lucchino could do no wrong. Then, as quickly as the bolt of lightning, everything changed.

By 2011, Lucchino’s aggressiveness and need for control started to catch with him. His protégée, Theo Epstein, felt disrespected and locked in his power struggle with his mentor. He

soon left the organization to become General Manager of the Chicago Cubs. Soon afterwards, beloved manager Terry Francona was not brought back after an epic late season collapse. Lucchino recommended a long-time friend for the managerial job despite the fact he hadn’t managed in the major leagues in 12 years. Valentine was hired and led the Red Sox to their worst season in over half a century. In 2015, Lucchino resigned his post as President to be the public face of the Red Sox lead minor league operation.

When you hear the people of Worcester praise Lucchino for bringing a team to them, just remember what he did to the Rhode Island baseball fans to make that happen. He said our ballpark was too small, when the same was for Fenway, and yet he found a way to modernize it. He said the business model wasn’t sustainable long term, which was true, but did he try to find a solution in Pawtucket? Most of all, he disregarded almost 50 years of tradition and loyalty because he wanted a modern showpiece for people who aren’t necessarily baseball fans. Now, McCoy Stadium looks soulless and ready to be torn down thanks in no small part to Larry Lucchino’s need to look cool and modern.

So how should we view Larry Lucchino in the wake of his death? A driven ambitious baseball man? A kind and charitable man, or a man for forsook the loyalty of the Pawtucket Red Sox fan for a buck towards a modern baseball palace he had to have. They’re all true, but you can decide for yourself.



# 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 by visiting the children's room or by calling 401-949-3630 ext. 2

### Storytime Sessions through May 20

<b>Turtle Time</b>	Ages 1 ½ - 2 ½	Mondays 10:00 am
<b>Toddler</b>	Ages 2 ½ - 3 ½	Tuesdays 10:30 and 11:30 am
<b>Preschool</b>	Ages 3 ½ - 5	Thursdays 10:30 am

**Doodle and Comics Workshop** with Cartoonist and Author Cara Bean  
Saturday, May 4 10:00 – 11:00 Free Comic Book Day  
Grades 3-12

**Kids Reading Across Rhode Island** Saturday, May 4 from 2:00 – 4:00pm

**Free Play Fridays** May 4,11,18, 25

**Craft Creations!**  
Wednesday, May 8 Ages 4-10

**Board Games with Friends**  
Thursday, May 9 & 23

**American Girl Book Club**  
Tuesday, May 7 4:15 Grades 3-5

**PAWS to Read**  
Monday, May 20 6:00 – 7:00pm Ages 5 and up

**Magic Tree House Book Club**  
Thursday, May 16 4:15 Grade 2/3

**Graphic Novel Writers**  
Monday, May 13 4:15 pm

**Tissue Paper Votive Candles**  
Tuesday May 28 4:15 Grades 2-5

## Teen Events

**Drop-in Volunteering: Caring Cards (Grades 6-12)**  
Thursdays, May 2 & 23, 3:30-4:30 pm

**Doodle + Comics Workshop** with Cara Bean (Grades 3-12) Saturday, May 4, 10:00-11:00 am

**Magic: The Gathering** (Grades 6-12)  
Monday, May 6, 6:00-8:00 pm

**Teen Advisory Board** (Grades 6-12)  
Wednesday, May 22, 6:00-7:00 pm

**YA Graphic Novel Club** (Grades 6-12)  
Wednesday, May 29, 6:00-7:00 pm

**Teen Sensory Friendly Craft** (Ages 11-17)  
Thursday, May 30, 3:00-4:00 pm

**Virtual Community Service Hours** (Grades 6-12)

## Adult Events

Please register on our online event calendar at [greenvillelibraryri.org](http://greenvillelibraryri.org) or by calling 401-949-3630.

**Mystery Book Club** Tuesday, May 7 at 1:30 pm

**Virtual Book Chat** Thursdays, May 2 & 1 at 6:00 pm

**Monday Matinee** Monday, May 13 at 2:00 pm

**Coffee & Books** Wednesday, May 8 at 10:30 am

**Picnic Table Reads Book Club**  
Thursday, May 16 at 1:00 pm

**Home Sweet Home Book Club**  
Monday, May 20 at 6:30 pm

**Knitting Mavens** Every Tuesday at 6:00 pm



# East Smithfield Public Library

50 Esmond Street, Smithfield, RI 02917

401-231-5150

Please register for our programs online at <http://myespl.org>

Contact: [manager@myespl.org](mailto:manager@myespl.org)



## Children's Programming:

**Tiny-Tots Story Time** (children 18 months to 3 years old)  
– Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to 11am.

**Preschool Story Time** (children ages 3 to 5 years old) –  
Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to 11am.

**Bookworms Book Group** – Thursday, May 2nd at 4:30pm.

**Scratch Club** – Thursday, May 2nd at 6pm.

**Saturday Specials** – “Grab and Go” Butterfly Craft –  
Saturday, May 4th after 10am; Family Story Time –  
Saturday, May 18th at 10:30am.

**Middle School Book Group** – Wednesday, May 8th at  
3:30pm.

**“Books R Fun!” Book Group** – Thursday, May 9th at  
4:30pm.

**Kindergarten Countdown** – Thursday, May 16th from  
6:30 to 7:15pm.

**Pajama Story Time** – Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30pm.

## Makerspace Kids:

**Coded Robots Roll** – Tuesday, May 7th and 14th at 4pm.

**Discover Maker Cart** – Wednesday, May 8th and 22nd at  
3:30 pm.

**3Doodler** – Wednesday, May 8th and 22nd at 5:30pm.

## Young Adult Programming:

**Study and Snack** – Tuesday, May 7th at 4:30pm.

**Teen Book Club** – Tuesday, May 14th at 4:30pm.

**Doodle Day** – Monday, May 20th at 5pm.

**Creative Writing Workshop** – Wednesday, May 22nd  
at 5pm.

**Social Justice Book Club** – Tuesday, May 28th at 4pm.

## Adult Programming:

**Coffee, Cake and Conversation Book Group** – Tuesday  
mornings at 10:30am.

**Yoga for Adults** – Sessions run Wednesdays, May 1st, 8th,  
15th, 22nd, and 29th at 6pm.

**Tools for Healthy Living** – Wednesdays, May 1st, 8th,  
15th, and 22nd from 10am to 12:30pm.

**Bingo** – Tuesday, May 14th at 1pm.

**Tabletop Game Night** – Thursday, May 16th at 6pm.

**Scrapbooking Club** – Thursday, May 16th at 6pm.

**Tri-County Community Health Workers** – Friday, May  
17th at 12pm.

**Craft: May Flower Crown or Wreath** – Thursday, May  
23rd at 3pm.

**Thursday Night Book Group** – Thursday, May 23rd at  
6 pm via Zoom.

**Craft: Adult Craft/D&D Sewn Dice Bags** – Saturday, May  
25th at 1pm.

**Painting Party** – Tuesday, May 28th at 5:30pm.

## Makerspace:

**Drop in Tech Help with Michael** – Monday May 6th, 13th,  
and 20th at 3:30pm.

**Card Club** – Thursday, May 2nd at 5:30pm.

**Cricut Maker 3: Heat Transfer Vinyl HTV** – Friday, May  
3rd at 4pm.

**Cricut Club** – Saturday, May 4th at 12pm and Friday May  
17th at 3pm.

**Jewelry Making Open Studio** – Saturday, May 11th at  
10:30am.

**Cricut Maker 3: Basic Vinyl** – Thursday, May 16th at 5pm.

**Simple Sewing** – Saturday, May 18th at 12pm.

**Meet our Laser Machine** – Friday, May 24th at 4pm.

**Cricut Maker 3: Infusible Ink** – Thursday, May 30th  
at 5pm.

## Friends of the Library News:

**Fundraising Jewelry Sale** – Friday, May 10th from 12 to  
5pm. Saturday, May 11th from 10am  
to 2pm. On Monday, May 13th, from 10am to 12pm all  
remaining jewelry will be sold at half price.

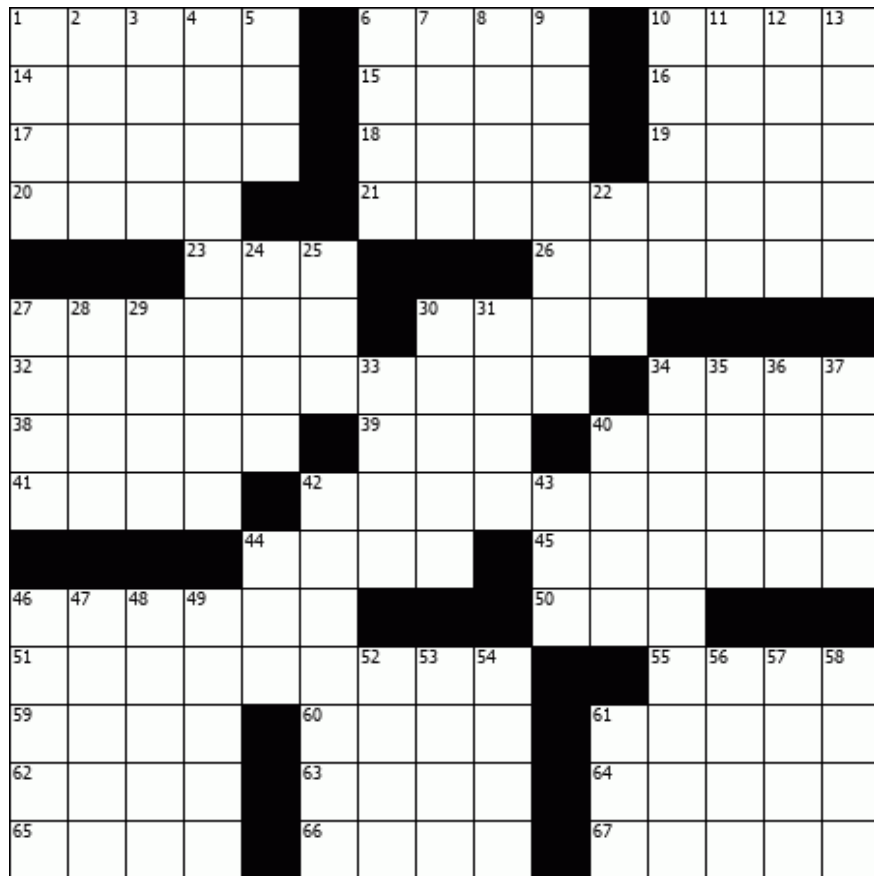
**Little Free Food Pantry** – Thank you to all who have been  
supporting this initiative. The pantry  
is available to anyone in need during library hours.

**Email Contact** – [friends.east.smithfield.library@gmail.com](mailto:friends.east.smithfield.library@gmail.com);  
next meeting: Saturday, May 11th at 1pm.

# Crossword Puzzle

## Across

- 1. Mold
- 6. Darn it!
- 10. Blemish
- 14. San Diego athlete
- 15. Reverberate
- 16. Horse's gait
- 17. More aged
- 18. Attention-getting sound
- 19. Responsibility
- 20. School exam
- 21. Pass through
- 23. Pixie
- 26. Wall socket
- 27. Repented
- 30. Wedding band
- 32. Insincere support (2 wds.)
- 34. Early video game
- 38. Register
- 39. WSW's opposite
- 40. "Sesame Street" character
- 41. Back talk
- 42. Recipe component
- 44. Informed about
- 45. Removes suds
- 46. Ease up
- 50. And so forth (Abbr.)
- 51. Intricate
- 55. The \_\_\_ of March
- 59. Manage
- 60. Customer
- 61. Into pieces
- 62. One who mimics
- 63. Letter opener
- 64. Newswoman \_\_\_ Shriver
- 65. Skin
- 66. Corn units
- 67. Tailor



## Down

- 1. Blot
- 2. Healthy
- 3. Appends
- 4. False \_\_\_
- 5. Eternally, in poems
- 6. Harvest
- 7. Feel bad
- 8. Now and \_\_\_
- 9. Unspecified person
- 10. Tennis, e.g.
- 11. Suez or Erie
- 12. Severe
- 13. Adjust again
- 22. Harbor boat
- 24. Malicious look
- 25. 32nd pres.
- 27. Pub orders
- 28. Singer \_\_\_ Turner
- 29. Makes a choice
- 30. Beatle \_\_\_ Starr
- 31. Bakery employee
- 33. Dryer outlet
- 34. School leader
- 35. Singles
- 36. On cloud \_\_\_
- 37. Understands
- 40. Revise
- 42. Enter uninvited
- 43. Lyrical "before"
- 44. Lennon's wife
- 46. Summarize
- 47. Marry clandestinely
- 48. Jacket part
- 49. Film critic Roger \_\_\_
- 52. On a voyage
- 53. Sign of crying
- 54. Is mistaken
- 56. Move quickly
- 57. Albany's canal
- 58. Big Dipper component
- 61. Medical org.



Answers to puzzle on page 42





## PETS OF THE MONTH



Brownie came to RI from the South. She was a scared, timid, little girl but is blossoming into a confident love bug. She has a big loving family

and is making lots of friends. She can't wait for nice weather to dine outside at The Trap.

This is Doug! He's a 2-year-old Pug with tons of energy in (short bursts)! When he's not doing zoomies around the house, he's following us around or being a couch potato! We love him so much.



Hello! My name is Kubota! I'm 5 1/2 years old and my humans adopted me from SOSARL. I love barking at the delivery trucks, snuggling on the couch, and playing fetch with my squeaky ball! When I'm not out for adventures with my humans, I'm probably sleeping in their bed:)

This is Max, the sweetest little yorkie! He is 5-years-old.

Max loves attention, being cuddled, napping, and being outside!



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](mailto:brittni@smithfieldtimesri.net) to be featured in the next issue of the magazine. Submissions might also be used on our Instagram.

# Obituaries



**Diana C. Fallon**  
3/14/24  
[www.andersonwinfield.net](http://www.andersonwinfield.net)



**Pauline R. (Cournoyer) Aridano**  
3/20/24  
[www.holtfuneralhome.com](http://www.holtfuneralhome.com)



**George W. Russell III**  
3/22/24  
[www.andersonwinfield.net](http://www.andersonwinfield.net)



**Patricia A. Amyot**  
3/30/24  
[www.andersonwinfield.net](http://www.andersonwinfield.net)



**Gail S. Jutras**  
4/8/24  
[www.andersonwinfield.net](http://www.andersonwinfield.net)

## Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 40.

S	H	A	P	E		R	A	T	S		S	C	A	R		
P	A	D	R	E		E	C	H	O		P	A	C	E		
O	L	D	E	R		A	H	E	M		O	N	U	S		
T	E	S	T			P	E	N	E	T	R	A	T	E		
			E	L	F					O	U	T	L	E	T	
A	T	O	N	E	D					R	I	N	G			
L	I	P	S	E	R	V	I	C	E			P	O	N	G	
E	N	T	E	R		E	N	E			E	R	N	I	E	
S	A	S				I	N	G	R	E	D	I	E	N	T	
			O	N	T	O				R	I	N	S	E	S	
R	E	L	E	N	T					E	T	C				
E	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	E				I	D	E	S	
C	O	P	E			U	S	E	R			A	P	A	R	T
A	P	E	R			D	E	A	R			M	A	R	I	A
P	E	L	T			E	A	R	S			A	L	T	E	R

# The Smithfield Times

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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:

**SCARY SPICE & BABY MAMA SPICE:** Introducing a special case mother and daughter “dynamic duo” in search of their very own forever home.

Baby Mama Spice is around 3 years old and has tested positive for FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus). She is a nice cat with good manners, but she is skittish around people. She lives in her foster home with her kitten, Scary Spice. She and the foster have an agreement that the foster can look but not touch. She has a great bond with her kitten, and it would be amazing to be able to adopt them together. Potential adopters should understand FeLV, and that Baby Mama Spice will need to be on a diet of high-quality food to help maintain her health. Baby Mama Spice is slightly sassy and cautious with her personal space. She is very treat-motivated and has started taking treats by hand. Baby Mama Spice is learning how to trust if she sets the pace, and it is on her own terms.



**Baby Mama Spice**



**Scary Spice**

Scary Spice is an 11-month-old, friendly, adventurous kitten. She is from a family of FeLV positive cats and does carry the gene. Out of an abundance of caution, Scary Spice should be the only cat in the home, or she can live with FeLV cats. She has not tested positive for FeLV, but her status may change in the future. Scary Spice is a very interactive, talkative kitten who likes to be in the middle of everything. She likes attention and pets but is not super snuggly. She takes her duties very seriously and must inspect every new addition to the home, no matter how insignificant! She scored 100% for inspecting grocery bags! Scary Spice is delightful and will make her adopters laugh every day.



**Curious George**

**CURIOUS GEORGE:** Things are getting curiouser and curiouser! Say hello to this handsome 2-year-old black and white fellow. Curious George was found as a stray when he came to our cat center. We are not sure how long he had to fend for himself on the streets because it took him some time to realize that there are people who care, and he was safe once again. When he finally let his guard down, it was like a whole new cat was revealed and Curious George showed us all his true personality. He is a sweetie and a mush at heart. He enjoys gentle pets and will bunt your hand with his head to show his affection. This deserving kitty can be vocal at times, and he meows to seek your attention. Curious George is laidback, enjoys a good catnap, and would desire nothing more than to be your forever companion!

**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/>**

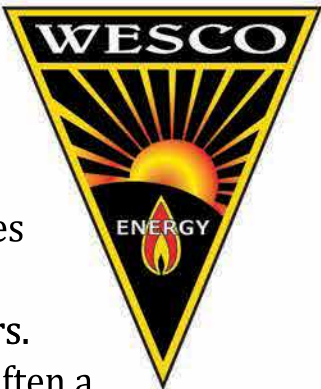
A no-kill shelter is an animal shelter that does not kill healthy or treatable animals even when the shelter is full, reserving euthanasia for terminally ill animals or those considered dangerous to public safety.



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- |                             |                                |
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| <b>Competitive Pricing</b>  | <b>Heating System Installs</b> |
| <b>Online Ordering</b>      | <b>Equipment Maintenance</b>   |
| <b>Automatic Delivery</b>   | <b>24 Hour Emergency</b>       |
| <b>Service Plans</b>        | <b>Licensed Technicians</b>    |

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