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Friday, December 21, 2018

Valley Green Grow project denied by DPH

BY JASON BLEAU
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The controversial proposed project by Valley Green Grow has hit a snag after being denied by the Department of Public Health who ruled it to be out of compliance with state regulations.

The DPH announced on Dec. 3 that a proposal by Valley Green Grow that has launched citizens petitions and movements to change marijuana regulations in Charlton has been denied due to violations concerning the requirement only company workers can access certain areas of the facil-

ity. Quality control and other issues were also a concern according to the DPH.

In a letter dated Dec. 3 assistant commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Elizabeth Chen confirmed this information stating, "The applicants proposal to share rooms in which extraction, packaging, manufacturing, trimming, delivery, and waste management of marijuana for medical use would occur, with a many as six 'cultivation tenants' via 'certain designated and controlled time periods,' is not in compliance with

regulations at 105 CMR 725.000. As outlines in 105 CMR 725.000, a Registered Marijuana Dispensary is not a shared operation, but rather an operation conducted at a site that is in the control of an entity registered by the Department of Public Health."

Valley Green Grow has been working throughout the year to gain approval for a one million-square-foot cultivation facility that would have allowed for up to six tenants to cultivate marijuana in

Please Read **VALLEY GREEN**, page **A7**



IT'S REALLY HIM!

A local family gets their photo taken with the Jolly One during the Webster Winter Wonderland. More photos page 6.

Gus Steeves photo

Southbridge native gave his life at Pearl Harbor

BY SARAH CHAMPAGNE
 NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Friday, Dec. 7 marked the 77-year anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Southbridge lost one of its own on the day that would "live in infamy" as President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared.

Leonide J. Lemire was the first person from Southbridge to die in service in World War II.

Lemire grew up on Charlton Street and joined the Navy, where he served as Seaman First Class on the U.S.S. West Virginia. He died on the ship, which was anchored at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack that brought the U.S. into World War II.

Lemire was 24 years old at the time.

Lemire's remains are now buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii under his full given name, Joseph Samuel L. Lemire.

Southbridge's V.F.W. Post (6055) was named in 1946 in honor of Lemire's sacrifice.

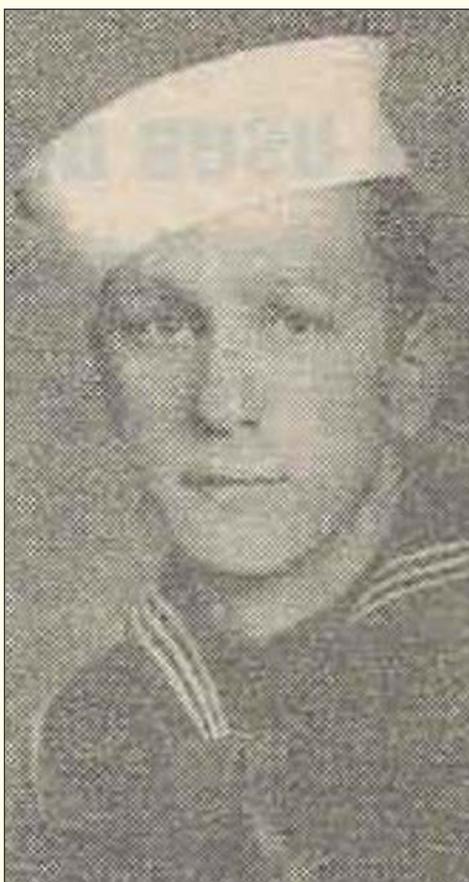


Photo courtesy USS West Virginia website.
Leonide Lemire of Southbridge died at Pearl Harbor.

Economic development director post remains unfilled

BY JASON BLEAU
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — A recommendation to fill the town's open economic development director seat was met with mixed reaction by selectmen on Dec. 4 despite a quality candidate stepping up to take on the responsibilities associated with the position.

Charlton has struggled to determine how it wants to move forward with the post since it became vacant in 2017 when then town planner Alan Gordon filled the position on a part time basis. A recommendation was passed to selectmen by the Economic Development Commission to hire a

familiar name as a part time interim director for the foreseeable future. Town Administrator Robin Craver brought a recommendation to have Richard Vaughn promoted to the position to selectmen in November and again addressed the potential hire earlier this

Please Read **ECONOMIC**, page **A7**

Charlton expanding Marijuana Advisory Committee

BY JASON BLEAU
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — A committee in charge of advising town officials on the addition of marijuana businesses is getting a bit bigger thanks to a recent decision by the Board of Selectmen.

The town's leading elected board voted in favor of increasing the number of members on the Marijuana Advisory

Committee, adding two new seats for community members to fill in addition to further solidifying the town officials that sit on the committee.

The committee was originally created to allow town departments and citizens to be involved with negotiations with the HealthWise Foundation which has sense changed its name to Green Gold Group, Inc. Now that the

company has become a part of the Charlton community and the issue of marijuana businesses has become a larger topic of discussion, Town Administrator Robin Craver recommended the selectmen examine the makeup of the committee and expand the scope of its goals for the town.

"The committee reviewed the composition and is requesting

Please Read **POT**, page **A2**

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Charlton Police Department

Arrests/Summons: December 2-8

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Police agencies can no longer print the names of people who are arrested or charged with domes-

POLICE LOGS

tic assault related charges. The new law is designed to protect victims, so they are not re-victimized through indirect identification.

Ronald Gaboury of Charlton: Malicious destruction of property

Unnamed male from North Oxford: Assault & Battery on a family or household member

Jennifer Proia of Belchertown:

Shoplifting (3rd offense)
Elizabeth Malouin of Sturbridge: Operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license
Joel Santos-Martinez of Southbridge: Operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration

Daniel Davenport of North Brookfield: Failure to stay in marked lanes, OUI-liquor, Negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

POT

continued from page 1

changes due to the narrowness of the language. The present makeup is health director, chief of police, fire chief, a selectmen, a selectmen alternate and one citizen," Craver said. Her recommendation was to change the language to add "or designee" to the end of several of these members and to add a representative from Planning & Zoning. She also stated the goal of the committee would be expanded to represent the town in all retail and cultivation business negotiations not just with Green Gold Group, Inc. specifically.

"The committee reports that they have established a good working relationship with Green Gold Group and looks forward to working with

any new businesses to create good business atmosphere while keeping in mind the needs of the community."

This is not the first time adding a second community member to the committee has been discussed and it was Selectman Joe Szafarowicz that brought it up again seeking to add a second citizen and an alternate citizen position to the committee. The addition of a Planning & Zoning representative was also received warmly. Selectmen agreed to add the citizen, citizen alternate and Planning & Zoning representation and seek volunteers for the committee. Selectmen further solidified that each position is a one-year appointment position on the committee and that members would need to be reelected each year to represent the town. Appointments to the committee expire on June 30 of 2019, the end of the fiscal year.

Holiday Messages & Christmas Wishes from Your Local Businesses

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June Simakauskas
Advertising Executive
Charlton Villager
(508) 909-4062
jsima@stonebridgepress.news

Mikaela Victor
Advertising Executive
Sturbridge Villager
(508) 909-4126
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VILLAGER STAFF DIRECTORY

EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS (508) 909-4130 ruth@stonebridgepress.news

SPORTS EDITOR: NICK ETHIER (508) 909-4133 sports@stonebridgepress.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER: JEAN ASHTON (508) 909-4104 jean@stonebridgepress.news

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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER: FRANK G. CHILINSKI (508) 909-4101 frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER: RYAN CORNEAU (603) 677-9082 ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR: JIM DINICOLA (508) 764-4325

EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS (508) 909-4130 ruth@stonebridgepress.news

ADVERTISING MANAGER: JEAN ASHTON (508) 909-4104 jean@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER: JULIE CLARKE (508) 909-4105 production@stonebridgepress.news

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\$390,900, 106 Harrington Rd, MSP 1457 LLC, to Parziale, Matthew A, and Mackie, Ashley J.

\$381,000, 15 H Putnam Rd, Ricard, Robert, and Ricard, Josephine, to Adams, Amy K, and Lewis, Brian A.

\$348,950, 299 N Sturbridge Rd, Raymond E Donadt LT, and Donadt, Raymond E, to Arello, Johna M, and Arello, Philip S.

\$267,000, 55 J Davis Rd, Dobson, Paul J, to Sedor, Scott E, and Sedor, Charlotte D.

\$263,296, 279 N Sturbridge Rd, Laporta, Robin R, and Laporta, Brian N, to Acorn Allocations LLC.

\$255,000, 38 S Buffumville Shore Rd, Daoust, Kevin M, and Seraphin, Jean M, to Braga-Chaves, Nelia.

\$213,000, 33 Center Depot Rd, Wright, Alan O, and Wright, Angela A, to Wolfe, Lisa M, and Wolfe, Timothy.

\$80,000, Jennings Rd #35, Gair LLC, to Russell, Daniel, and Russell, Tricia E.

\$45,000, Jennings Rd #35, Jennings, Irsi A, to Gair LLC.

Annual Harrington Auxiliary holiday event includes program



Courtesy photos

Harrington Auxiliary members enjoyed the meal presented by the Publick House.



Sarah Jo Burke described life with her family as part of the Burke Family Singers.

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Harrington Auxiliary held its monthly board meeting and annual Christmas party Dec. 10 at the Publick House Restaurant in Sturbridge. Approximately 50 members attended this gala event, sharing in a luncheon of turkey, the Publick House's specialty, and scrod with fresh vegetables and the restaurant's signature rolls.

Following the meal, writer and singer Sarah Jo Burke regaled the attendees with stories from her book *Don't Think It Hasn't Been Fun: The Story of the Burke Family Singers*. She offered insight into her family's adventures in the entertainment world as she, her parents and her nine siblings — an assortment of altos, sopranos, tenors and basses — sang their way out of their humble Rhode Island home to several prestigious national venues. During the Burke Family's musical journey, they appeared on local television, as well as on the Ed Sullivan, Mike Douglas and Jack Parr shows. The group crisscrossed the United States and Canada in a pair of monogrammed Chevrolets, meeting television hosts, show business personalities, comedians, cardinals and a host of other interesting people along the way. The Auxiliary members in attendance also had the pleasure of hearing some musical excerpts from the Burke Family's albums.

To conclude the program, the members participated in a gift exchange and socialization.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Charlton Villager is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4130 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

The Harrington Auxiliary was founded in 1932, one year after the Harrington Memorial Hospital opened its doors. The Auxiliary comprises dedicated men and women whose mission is to support and enhance the excellent services provided by the Harrington Healthcare System. Throughout the year, the Auxiliary organizes and sponsors a variety of fundraising events, including Lucky Duck and Family Day, Irish Night, the Car and Motorcycle Show and bake sales. The proceeds from these events are used to purchase equipment and provide programs that benefit the health and wellbeing of those who live in the communities served by the Harrington Healthcare System.

New members are always welcome. For more information about the Auxiliary or to request a membership form, please contact Volunteer Services at Harrington Hospital at 508-765-6472 or email auxiliary@harringtonhospital.org.



Members of the Harrington Auxiliary mingling before the luncheon.

Gateway Players announces auditions for next production

Gateway Players Theater announce auditions for "Sylvia", by A. R. Gurney, on Sunday, Jan. 6 at 5:30 pm and Monday, Jan. 7 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St., Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around corner). Men and women ages 18-60 are needed for this production.

Please see detailed character descriptions below.

Performance dates are April 5, 6, 12 & 13 at 7:30 pm and April 14 at 2 pm. Rehearsals will be on Sundays at 6 pm, and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Wear comfortable clothes and plan to have a good time.

Presented by permission through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service. David Corkum is the director, Bill Guy is the producer, and

Mary Darling will be the assistant director. For questions about auditions call 508-764-4531.

Synopsis:

Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after 22 years of child raising in the suburbs. Greg's career as a financial trader is winding down, while Kate's career, as a public school English teacher, is beginning to offer her more opportunities. Greg brings home a dog he found in the park — or that has found him — bearing only the name Sylvia on her nametag. A street-smart mixture of Lab and poodle, Sylvia becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife. She offers Greg an escape from the frustrations of his job and the unknowns of middle age. To Kate, Sylvia becomes a rival for affection. And Sylvia thinks Kate just doesn't under-

stand the relationship between man and dog. The marriage is put in serious jeopardy until, after a series of hilarious and touching complications, Greg and Kate learn to compromise, and Sylvia becomes a valued part of their lives.

Character descriptions:

Lead Roles

SYLVIA (Female Age 18-35) A Labradoodle

Must be fit and agile, the part is physical, getting up and down off the floor, up and down stairs, moving through the theatre. The actor walks as a person but acts like a dog; you won't be crawling around on all fours, but you will be "sitting", "begging" and "rolling over". The actress should be convincing as a cute, bouncy female "labradoodle" as well as being occasionally flirtatious. Having at least shoulder length hair is a plus.

GREG (Male Age 45-60)

A man coming to the natural conclusion of his career and struggling to cope with the changes in his world and in himself. He loves his suddenly adopted dog Sylvia but seems to be going through an early midlife crisis in his work and his marriage.

KATE (Female Age 45-60)

A woman coming into her own in her career and in herself; the last child gone to college, career recognition and opportunities opening up for her. She has little use for Greg's issues and even less for his newfound best friend, Sylvia.

Supporting Roles (These are smaller roles and each character appears in one or two scenes)

TOM (Male Age 25-50)

A "dog person" that Greg befriends in the

park. Tom is a regular guy who educates Greg about dog ownership. He has a male dog that becomes Sylvia's lust interest.

PHYLLIS (Female Age 45-60)

A socialite and old school friend of Kate's who is prone to drama and drinking. She is put off when Sylvia treats her the way all dogs address new acquaintances.

LESLIE (Female/Male Age 30-60)

A marriage counselor. Leslie is very good at psychological banter, but Greg's relationship to Sylvia proves to push her/him over the edge. Leslie dresses very ambiguously whose gender is open to question.

A STORY OF CHRISTMAS PAST

BY ED NEAL

It all started on December 1, 1917 in the midst of World War I. The ship, the Mont Blanc, left New York for Halifax, Nova Scotia with a cargo of 2,989 tons (almost six million pounds) of munitions on its way to join a convoy of ships headed to Boudreaux, France, delivering war supplies to troops.

In the early hours of Dec. 6, the Mont Blanc collided with a Belgian Relief ship, the Imo, in Halifax harbor. While the Imo was able to make way, the Mont Blanc caught fire.

Captain Aime Le Medec gave the order to abandon ship. It was at 9:04 that morning that the Mont Blanc exploded in what, to this date, remains the world's largest man made non-nuclear explosion.

1,600 men, women and children died instantly. 9,000 were wounded. 12,000 homes were flattened or made uninhabitable. Water surrounding the ship vaporized, causing a 20 foot tidal wave to cause further devastation. Windows as far as 50 miles away were shattered by the blast.

Word of the disaster reached Boston by telegraph at 10 that morning. That day the city dispatched by train 13 doctors and surgeons, nurses, food, water

and medical supplies the 750 miles to Halifax.

Slowed by a blizzard, the train did not arrive until Dec. 8.

"Boston was one of the first responders, a real lifesaver."

The medical personnel were immediately put to work, coordinating with doctors on hand, performing life/death surgeries, amputations and eye removals.

Following a tradition started in 1941, the Province of Nova Scotia sent Boston a Christmas tree, decorated by the city and displayed on Boston Common. In 1971, the government enacted legislation which provided that each and every year a tree would be taken from anywhere in the Province and sent to Boston. Each tree is 40 to 50 feet tall and chosen for color and shape.

Homeowners consider it a privilege to have a tree chosen from their property. The tree cutting is attended by town and government officials, the town crier, the Royal Mounted Police, townspeople, schoolchildren, a choir and Santa Claus. "The whole Province gets excited about the tree. It is a big deal."

In Boston, the tree lighting ceremony

Turn To **STORY** page **A7**

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Holiday Networking at The Publick House!



Join the Chamber of Central Mass South for some holiday cheer with our Members and Guests on the evening of Thursday, Dec. 20! The final Fun at Five of the year will be a glittering celebration at the Publick House in Sturbridge featuring fantastic food, a joyous atmosphere in a glowing hall, many great prizes and surprises, a 50/50 raffle, and your chance to celebrate the season with our Members and friends!

We will be collecting for Southbridge Lions/Southbridge Police COPS N KIDS program at Holiday Fun at Five. If you are able to donate an unwrapped, non-violent new toy, your contribution would be most welcome and help spread holiday joy to the less fortunate right here in our community. Please consider toys for teenagers as well as young children. Thank you for your generosity!

The Publick House at the holidays is an enchanting venue and we look forward to this one last celebration with you in 2018! RSVP by phone at 508-347-2761 or email info@cmscham-

ber.org. The cost to attend is \$10 for pre-registered members, \$15 at the door, or \$20 for non-members. The party starts at 5:00 and runs until 8:00pm.

The Chamber is very grateful to Cornerstone Bank for sponsoring the Holiday Fun at Five! Cornerstone Bank is a local, community bank that delivers a personal touch that only a local bank can offer. Cornerstone is dedicated to providing high quality, personal customer service for individuals, businesses and community organizations in central Massachusetts. Cornerstone Bank works to connect you with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services to meet your financial goals with the unique ability for fast, flexible service. Their goal is to be the Cornerstone for your success. Learn more about the products and services offered by visiting www.cornerstonebank.com.

Congressman Neal to Speak at the Chamber's Annual Meeting

The Chamber will hold its annual meeting in January at a date to be determined. We will be welcoming our distinguished guest of honor and keynote speaker Congressman Richard Neal. With a new Congress due to be sworn in on Jan. 3 and Congressional schedules in the works, the annual meeting will be scheduled to coincide with the Congressman's availability. We look forward to hearing the viewpoint

from the incoming Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Stay tuned to cmschamber.org and the Chamber Corner in this publication for the definitive date and time.

Welcome New Members! The Chamber is excited to introduce our newest members!

Brandis Center, Sturbridge, www.brandiscenter.com
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THE CHAMBER'S MISSION

The Chamber of Central Mass South is the leading advocate for business, promotes the success of its members, and enhances regional prosperity through networking, education, and promotion. Contact us today to find out more about the benefits of joining our dynamic organization! Follow the Chamber on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cmschamber, on Twitter at twitter.com/ChamberofCMS and Pinterest



Courtesy photo

A snip and smiles! On Nov. 29, the Chamber was thrilled to cut the ribbon that officially opened the new Tillyer House at The Publick House Historic Inn. Representative Todd Smola and Senator Anne Gobi joined us to give this amazing new property a rousing and heartfelt welcome to the neighborhood.

at www.pinterest.com/cmschamber.

508-347-2761 or visit www.cmschamber.org; or email info@cmschamber.org.

Contact: The Chamber of Central Mass South, 46 Hall Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566 at

Area fire departments honor fallen firefighter



Courtesy photo

Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy lost his life while battling a Dec. 9 blaze.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

Fire officials from throughout the area came together last week to honor fallen Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy.

On Dec. 9, the 36-year-old Shrewsbury resident became trapped while battling an early morning five-alarm fire at a Lowell Street apartment complex. Roy belonged to Ladder 4, Group 3 at the city's Webster Square Fire Station.

"Fire crews were heroic in their efforts to rescue their colleagues under extreme conditions," said Worcester Fire Chief Michael Lavoie. "Every person on the fire-ground gave 110 percent to try to rescue the firefighters who were in danger."

Conditions in the burning building rapidly declined, fire officials said, with heavy flames forcing several firefighters on the second floor to evacuate. With the assistance of additional crews, five firefighters escaped the building on ladders.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Hundreds of firefighters attended services and programs

leading up to Roy's funeral on Dec. 15. For local officials, it was important to show their support for Roy's family and the Worcester Fire Department.

December has been a tragic month for the department over the years, beginning in 1999 when six firefighters lost their lives battling a blaze at the abandoned Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Co. building.

On Dec. 8, 2011, Worcester Firefighter Jon Davies died while responding to an apartment fire.

"This is unfathomable. The [memorial anniversary] services for Jon Davies were held the day before, and the very next day Firefighter Roy lost his life," said Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons. "December has been a cruel month for the Worcester Fire Department. We want to do whatever we can to show our support."

Local fire departments collaborated with the area's fire district to arrange for coverage of their towns during services for Roy. In neighboring Auburn, firefighters took part in many activities to show solidarity with Worcester.

"No matter how much you prepare, you can never be fully prepared for every situation you might encounter," said Auburn Fire Chief Stephen Coleman. "Like Worcester, we train every day to make sure we operate as safely as possible in

adverse conditions. But even when you're doing everything right, the job is inherently dangerous."

A memorial fund was created to support Roy's family. He had been a member of the Worcester Fire Department for nearly three years.

Meanwhile, support poured in over social media and at memorial events throughout the week. Locally, December has repeatedly brought tragic reminders to all departments of the dangerousness of the job.

"This has been very hard for everyone in our department. When it happens this close to home, it really hits you hard," Parsons said.

In a tradition reserved for all fallen firefighters, Roy's body was transported past his station enroute to Alfred Roy and Sons Funeral Home. Funeral services took place at St. John's Catholic Church following a private family procession. Roy was laid to rest at Notre Dame Cemetery in Worcester.

A memorial fund has been established by the Worcester Firefighters IAFF chapter in the name of Roy's daughter, Ava Roy. Checks should be made payable to the Ava Roy Fund and mailed to the Worcester Fire Department Credit Union, 34 Glennie St., Worcester, MA 01605.

December Real Estate Market Update



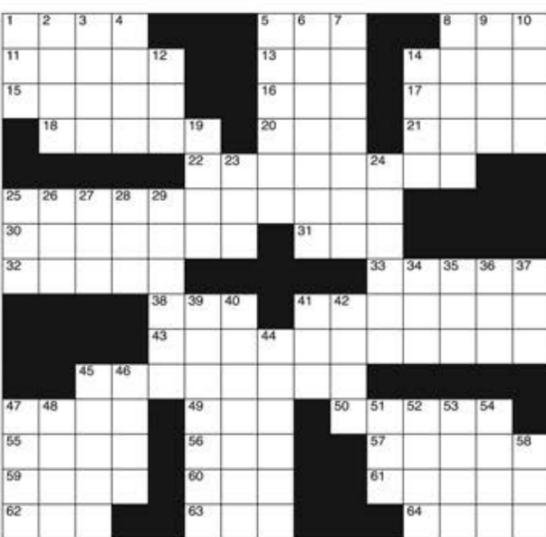
REALTOR'S
REPORT

JAMES
BLACK

According to Bankrate.com as of 12/16/2018 the rate on a 30 year fixed loan was 4.57%. Which is lower than it has been the last couple months. The market is still extremely strong but all the numbers are showing us going towards or more stabilized market.

Today we have 1642 single family homes for sale in Worcester County which down from 6 months ago where we had 1785 single homes for sale. 12 months ago we had 1488 homes for sale which shows a more than 10.3% increase in inventory compared to the same day 12 months ago. Every month lately has shown a higher inventory than the same month in 2017. The good news is the inventory is still lowering as normal going into the winter months. The average days on market is currently 117 days which is creeping higher every month however last year at this time it was at 132 days. If we look at homes sold over past 12 months compared to the same time for the previous year there is a small decrease in sales of 2.2% and a 5.9% increase in average sales price while it is taking 13.3% less time to sell the homes this year than last year in Worcester County. The big difference I noticed this month is that the amount of sales has decreased while our active inventory has increased from last year. Again this is a sign of stabilization in the market.

I would not recommend making a buying or selling decision based on these changes in the market. However, if you are thinking of moving soon I would suggest you meet with a Realtor that is familiar with your area and the economics of Real Estate to guide you on where you market is and where it will most likely be going. It is never too early to consult with a professional to understand the market and your steps to getting your home on the market.

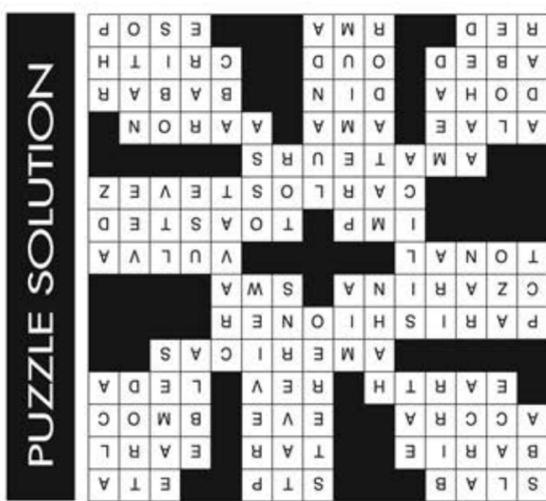


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thick piece of something
- 5. Engine additive
- 8. Anticipated arrival time
- 11. French commune
- 13. Cigarette (slang)
- 14. Nobleman
- 15. Ghana capital
- 16. Adam's wife
- 17. Most popular student
- 18. Where you currently are
- 20. Increase motor speed
- 21. Queen of Sparta
- 22. North, South and Central
- 25. Churchgoer
- 30. Russian empress
- 31. Female daredevils organization
- 32. Relating to music
- 33. Female body part
- 38. Tyrion Lannister
- 41. Honored
- 43. Argentine footballer
- 45. Novices
- 47. Wings
- 49. Doctors' group
- 50. Packers' QB
- 55. Qatar capital
- 56. Unpleasant noise
- 57. Lovable elephant
- 59. Sleeping
- 60. Lute
- 61. Weight of a liter of hydrogen
- 62. Crimson
- 63. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 64. Employee plan

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Helps little firms
- 2. Type of curtain
- 3. Online stock exchange
- 4. Irish castle
- 5. Audio-system
- 6. Places to grab a drink
- 7. What's coming
- 8. Designed chairs
- 9. Stepped on
- 10. Genus of birds
- 12. Consume
- 14. Ancient Syrian city
- 19. Australian brewery
- 23. Not present
- 24. Necktie
- 25. What part of (abbr.)
- 26. Type of compound
- 27. Jogged quickly
- 28. Roth is one type
- 29. Mineral
- 34. Purpose
- 35. Financial term (abbr.)
- 36. Orange is the New Black character
- 37. Used to cut and shape wood
- 39. Bullfighter
- 40. Top of the line
- 41. Hill
- 42. Greek mountain
- 44. Angola's capital
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Fermented honey beverage
- 47. Month in the Jewish calendar
- 48. Frontal is one type
- 51. Basics
- 52. Uncommon
- 53. Broad kimono sashes
- 54. European defense organization
- 58. Box score term



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Hot antiques and collectibles for 2019

In 2015, I wrote a top 10 list of some of the antiques and collectibles you may have in your home that are bringing great prices at auction. As 2019 approaches, I have a slightly modified list. I have also included some other things that didn't make the top 10 but are also selling very well. Here is the list for 2019, with number one being the most desirable, in my opinion.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

10. Arts and crafts and art deco design furnishings

9. Mid-20th century Scandinavian and other modern design art and furnishings

8. Advertising signs, posters and displays

7. 1960s comic books, toys and other collectibles

6. 1960s and earlier baseball and other sports memorabilia

5. Gold coins and jewelry; silver coins, flatware and hollow ware

4. Important historical memorabilia

3. Antique paintings and other artwork by listed artists

2. Antique and classic automobiles and motorcycles

1. Early Chinese and other Asian antiques

These items continue to sell well, but there are plenty of rare antiques and collectibles that didn't make the list. Here are some examples of rare finds that have made their way to auction.

A circa 1880 ten point stag copper patinated (showing natural wear and oxidation) weathervane that came from a Massachusetts estate sold well at auction. It brought \$60,000 in 2012.

A rare "The Manila" 5¢ trade stimulator was named to honor Admiral Dewey. The quarter sawn oak base held a bubble top dome. A pistol would shoot the players coin into different slots that held different prizes. It sold for \$70,000.

According to askart.com, John Brewster Jr. was a deaf-mute itinerant artist. He traveled along the New England

coast advertising in local newspapers to paint portraits for \$15 and miniatures for \$5. One of his portraits identified as "Louella J. Bartlett" sold for \$77,500 in 2016.

The only known example of a Frankenstein insert poster from 1931 was auctioned in 2013. Larger posters had been found, but this was the only to have been found in this size. It fetched \$220,000.

A rare Marblehead vase recently sold at auction, according to the Antiques and Arts Weekly. It was one of four known examples designed by Annie Aldrich, decorated by Sarah Tutt and made by John Swallow. A 19 year old picker found it at a yard sale. It sold for \$307,500.

A map considered by many as the most important in American cartography sold for auction in 2017. The first edition, first issue of the 1755 Mitchell Map depicts the French and British Dominions in North America. 21 versions of the map were printed between 1755 and 1781. It brought \$400,000 at auction in 2017. Hopefully you find a rare map or other treasures in your



home that can help chart your way to a great 2019.

It was nice meeting readers of this column who attended the appraisal event at the Shrewsbury Historical Society on December 12th. Our winter live auction date will now be February 28th. My next "Evaluating your Antiques" class will be held on March 12th at the Bay Path Evening School in Charlton. The last classes sold out, so sign up early. See

www.centralmassauctions.com for details on these and other upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111), info@centralmassauctions.com

Picking, preserving and perfecting the holiday evergreen

A holiday tree is the center of the yuletide celebration. Decked out in garland and adorned with ornaments, the stately Christmas tree is not only a tradition but the source of both merriment and sentiment. It's no wonder choosing a special evergreen is a task not to be taken lightly. Whether freshly cut, balled and bagged, or artificially constructed, the choices are pleasantly plentiful.

Read on for ways to ensure this year's pick is truly trim worthy!

On Evergreen!: Selecting a fresh Christmas tree is a fun family tradition, but getting caught up in the festivities, one can overlook the requirements of a successful pick. The first thing to remember is in a lot or on a farm, a tree can look much smaller than it will in your home. Rule number one is to always bring a tape measure to ensure a proper fit.

When choosing a freshly cut evergreen, look for nice, even coloring throughout the tree with no signs of browning. Also, beware of brittle branches, which are another sign of an old tree that may not last the season in a heated home. Look for flexibility in a bough.

To test freshness, pick a needle and bend it. A fresh fir needle will snap; a fresh pine needle will bend, but not break. The old "shake tip" really reveals a tree's freshness. Simply shake from the trunk, or wave a bough and observe how many needles fall off. If it is more than several, keep looking.

Live trees balled with the root and wrapped in burlap or containers (a.k.a. balled and bagged trees) are a great choice if you plan on planting the tree after the holidays. The most important consideration with a balled and bagged tree is to make sure the tree species can thrive in your climate zone.

Faux Forest: If a fresh cut tree is impractical, an artificial tree can be a good investment - if you choose wisely. When evaluating artificials, buy the best you can afford as skimping on such a purchase will shorten its lifespan. Did you know a well made artificial tree can last a decade or more? Choose trees with many branch tips and multiple needles, thus creating a "fullness" that rivals the real deal.

Look for easy to set up models with hinged branches for quick and easy set up. High end trees often come equipped with an abundance of lights. Make sure the tree stand is sturdy enough to hold a tree laden with heavy ornament and garlands. Lastly, consider a tree that can easily refold into a box or bag, for hassle free storage.

Evergreen Elixirs: Evergreen branches and boughs take center stage this season, but if you're adding sparkle with lights, you may be fretting about fire hazards. Here's a thrifty solution to make your evergreens more fire resistant: Mix together five tablespoons borax and four tablespoons Epsom salts in two quarts of water. Fill a spray bottle and spritz the tree or wreath completely, then allow to dry. Make up a double batch and spritz your tree too! Remember, this doesn't fireproof the greens, so always use standard fire prevention.

Tree preservatives are pricey. Mix up this homemade potion and pocket the difference: Combine one quart of fresh warm water, a half cup of light corn syrup, and a teaspoon of liquid



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

chlorine bleach in a two-gallon bucket. Fill the water reservoir with this solution.

How does it work? This mixture helps keep trees moist because fresh-cut trees, which absorb and digest corn syrup as an energy source, don't have to waste as much energy converting stored sugar. Therefore, they can focus on staying green and beautiful!

Christmas Tree Preservative: If your family loves decorating a real tree, but you hate the mess of fallen needles, and the fear of sparking branches - don't despair! And don't spend big bucks on commercial preservatives either. This recipe will save the tree, some money, and maybe even a few frayed nerves:

Ingredients: one gallon water; one cup ammonium sulphate (available from garden supply store); two tablespoons borax (available from grocery or hardware store); a few aspirin or three tablespoons glycerin, or three tablespoons sugar.

Instructions: Mix first three ingredients together well. Pour into a spray bottle. Spritz on tree and pour the remainder into the tree stand instead of in water.

Saw off the bottom of the trunk, one to two inches and use a drill to bore a narrow hole up through the middle of the trunk. Then fill the hole with cotton, and pack tightly. Put the base in warm water as soon as possible. Warm water will melt the sap, allowing the tree to drink more easily.

Tree Talk

*Want your fresh tree to last longer? The lower the temperature and the higher the humidity, the longer your tree will last.

*Placement is also important. Avoid setting up a tree near a heat source or in front of a window that gets direct sun.

*Keep in mind miniature lights, which produce lower heat, do not dry out the tree as fast as larger, hotter lights.

*Did you know? A freshly-cut tree can consume a gallon of water in 24 hours!

*Want to avoid a trail of fallen needles to the back door? Before you set

up your tree, place a tree disposal bag around the base of the trunk prior to placing it in the stand. At the end of the season, simply pull the bag up over the entire tree.

*Check with your local transfer station or recycling center to find out if they offer a tree pick up.

*Going artificial this year? You can still mimic the fresh scent of balsam, simply by sprinkling your carpets with a pine scented carpet freshener before vacuuming. Since smell is the most potent of our senses, visitors to a house that smells like the holidays will feel doubly welcomed!

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random

drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint! c/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

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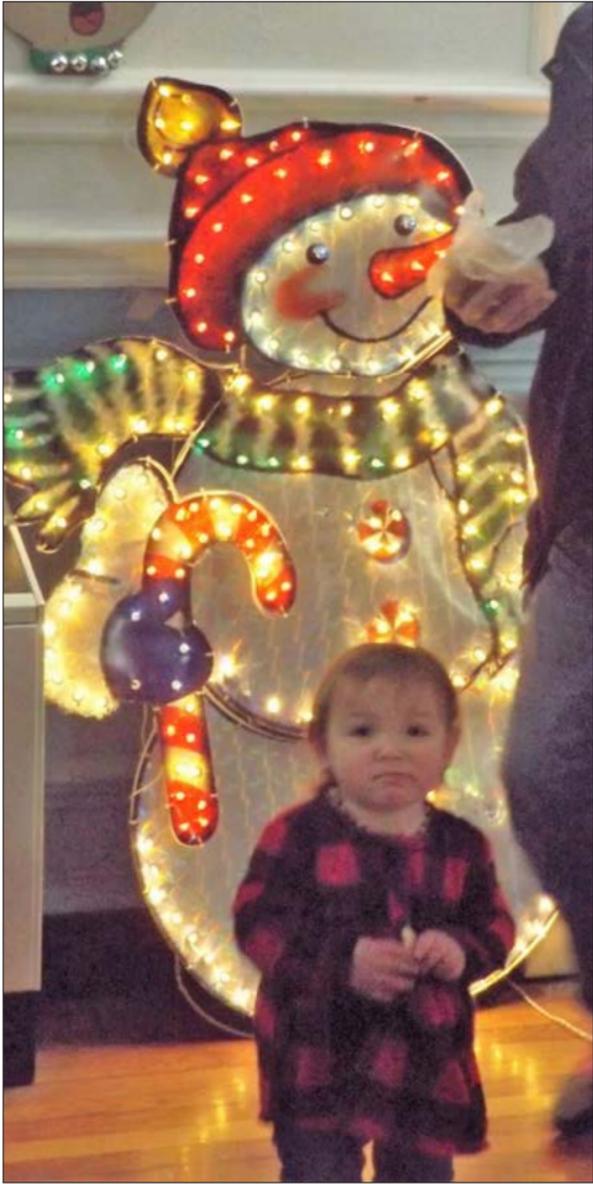
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Webster creates Winter Wonderland

There was no snow, but Saturday's temperatures justified the thoughts of the season that Webster celebrated with its annual Winter Wonderland. Last year held at the beach, this year the event moved to town hall. Santa walked in with police escort; the athletic lit up a pedal-powered electric tree; and kids of all ages spent some time with llamas, sheep and goats despite the chill. Once everyone wanted to warm up, local volunteers provided hot cocoa and popcorn, among other things.



Gus Steeves photos
Elizabeth Wall walks away from checking out the glowing snowman.



A pair of goats ignores the audience to munch hay (and maybe discuss the humans).



Aalyah, Steven and Elle Vovolakis check out the llama.



Stella LaFountain and Caelyn Thibeault make cards.



Melissa Kemp of Enchanted Animal Parties makes it easier for visitors to pet a baby goat.

*Wishing you Happy Holidays
and a prosperous New Year!*




artwork by Quoc Yen
Khe Nguyen '20

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Lynn Bent makes popcorn.

LEARNING

Too Juul for school

BY EMMA TYLER
THE HILL TELEGRAM

CHARLTON - Cigarettes, hookahs, bongs and now the e-cigarette, Juul, are among the top forms of smoking used by middle and high school students. Recently, the biggest contender in the smoking world of high school students is the company JUUL. According to the Massachusetts Tobacco and Smoking Cessation Industry, "Make Smoking History," 44.8% of high school students have tried vaping, and that the number of kids vaping versus adults vaping is nine times higher. The vape product, Juul - a small sleek device that has been widely compared to a USB flash drive - was created by two former Stanford University students, James Monsees and Adam Bowen. However, the use of juuling in schools has increased mainly due to how easy it is to conceal and how easy it is to smoke - anywhere from the most popular spot, the bathrooms, to right out in the middle of crowded hallways. While the prevalence of e-cigarettes and Juul are growing concerns for all school districts, Shepherd Hill has tried to take a positive, proactive approach.

As a freshman, I was surprised the first time I saw a pupil smoking - especially because we were in the middle of a crowded hallway. What surprised me even further was that the student proceeded to blow the smoke into the

back of a faulty member's head who was walking directly in front of them, without being caught. At Shepherd Hill Regional High School, more and more students are beginning to use vaping devices, especially Juuls, according to Shepherd Hill Assistant Principal Andrew Leach.

"It's become a social magnet when it's around, [some] just hang out in that [environment]; whether they are participating or not, it's a social norm."

These products are easier to access than one might think. An anonymous student source at Shepherd Hill claims, "You can just buy them off of online stores like Ebay or Amazon."

The easier to access, the more likely kids will use, causing a domino effect. These new vape products are far more improved and easier to use than the "old-school" cigarettes, making it easier to "take a hit" in school. However, Mr. Leach added that the administration and faculty are taking the necessary precautions and punitive steps to assist with this evolving conundrum.

"Ten years ago, cigarette smell and use was awful, but back then we just did what we are doing now. We catch you and you're suspended."

However, Shepherd Hill has also taken an educational approach to this epidemic, seeking to instruct students on the potential dangers. The school hosted a vaping presentation by a professor from the University of Massachusetts

Department of Psychiatry and the university's medical team, who informed students of the long-term dangers of vaping and how to prevent it.

The smell produced by a vape or Juul blends into smells like perfume, making it much harder for administrators to identify versus the stench cigarettes left behind. Due to the new, easy process, being able to vape has almost become some type of competition, as in who can get away with the more public display of vaping at school. When going after students vaping in the school, Shepherd Hill's Resource Officer Phil Meagas added that while they catch the students, many have found ways to evade the system.

"Do we catch them? We do. Yet, some of them beat us to it because they are communicating." Due to improvements in technology, it has become easier for students to inform each other when they need to scatter, in order to avoid being caught.

The increased number of teens using JUUL has caused the company to stop selling most of its flavored pods in retail stores and cutting back on its social media influence. While this may be a large step towards a smoke-free environment for teenagers, the number of students that regularly use devices such as Juul is constantly climbing. In a school environment where peer pressure is at its peak, both administrators and parents need to take the time to educate teenagers on the dangers of vaping. Many students who vape using Juul are unaware that a single pod contains just about the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. We as a community need to do better for the upcoming generation so they are not pressured into making a decision that could affect them for the rest of their lives. We must face this problem head on, before it is too late to fix the upcoming vaping epidemic. Shepherd Hill hopes to lead the charge.

Show support with this special 'Hoyt' plate

HOLLAND - After several years of supporting the local father-son racing duo of Dick and Rick Hoyt, Massachusetts residents now have the opportunity to show their Team Hoyt support each time they get behind the wheel.

The Hoyt Foundation has been working with the Registry of Motor Vehicles to produce a new specialty license plate for Massachusetts motorists. The license plate design depicts Holland's Dick Hoyt pushing his son, Rick Hoyt, in his familiar running chair. Despite his quadriplegia and cerebral palsy, Rick hasn't let anything hold him back, accomplishing his dreams with his father always at his side.

The Hoyts have become well-known for their annual involvement in local road races and the Boston Marathon. Their journey began back in 1977, when Rick Hoyt told his father he wanted to participate in a 5-mile benefit run for a local athlete who had been paralyzed

in an accident. Since then, the duo has completed more than 1,100 races together - including duathlons and triathlons - and they participated in their final Boston Marathon together in 2014 after 32 years.

Throughout their decades of lacing up and giving back, the Hoyts have always relied on support from area communities. Now they're hoping to see more of that same support for the license plate initiative.

The cost of each plate is \$40, with \$28 going to the Hoyt Foundation and \$12 going to the RMV for manufacturing costs. Upon renewal of each plate, the Hoyt Foundation will get the full \$40.

Pre-orders for license plates are currently being collected. If you're interested in applying for a plate, send an email to TeamHoytMAPlate@gmail.com. Additional information can be obtained on the Hoyt Foundation website: www.TeamHoyt.com.

VALLEY GREEN

continued from page 1

Charlton. The project has been the subject of several town meetings and led citizens to approve a bylaw requiring town meeting approval in future negotiations should entities continue to see Charlton as a viable business location for marijuana.

The project is slated to take place on the ground of Charlton Orchard at the cost of \$100 million but requires a series of approvals including affirmation from the Department of Public Health. This latest setback does not appear to be the end for the project though. Valley Green Grow can, in fact, reapply with

a new approach to the project if they so choose. The letter from the DPH did reveal Valley Green Grow's application expired on Oct. 30 and they may re-initiate the application process although they will need to address the flaws presented in the letter if they hope for approval.

As for the next steps for Valley Green Grow on the town level, Valley Green Grow representatives appeared before the Planning Board on Dec. 11 to further discuss the project. The Planning Board announced they will make a decision on Valley Green Grow's subdivision and site plans at a meeting on Jan. 2, 2019. Selectmen were expected to discuss a "letter of support" for Valley Green Grow on Dec. 18.

ECONOMIC

continued from page 1

month. The job would add to Vaughn's growing list of responsibilities in the town of Charlton including the management of TV Charlton and host of programs on Charlton Community Television Channel 12.

The request to appoint Vaughn was met with hesitation by several selectmen due in part to the ethics of hiring Vaughn for yet another job in Charlton. Selectman David Singer, who called in to the meeting, said his hesitation was due to several others showing a willingness to step into the role and he wanted selectmen to consider all options before making a decision.

"I recently been made aware of at least one, potentially two other people in the town who I'm told had they known they could have volunteered to do this they would like to have," Singer said.

"At least one of them has an amazing background as well and would be another great fit. I'd like us to hold this if we could and just post it as a volunteer position on the site. I'd like to have the time to find out how genuine these other offers are."

Selectman Karen Spiewak agreed with Singer, saying she believes the process should allow for other potential candidate to have their names considered along with Vaughn's for the position, even if it's only temporary.

"We don't know if there's someone more qualified and that's important. It's also about perception. We don't want to look as though we are handing this position to anyone. I know we're not,

but the reality is we should go through the process. We should not circumvent the process," Spiewak said.

Other selectmen had different opinions, mainly Joe Szafarowicz, who argued that he believed it would be difficult to find anyone who could do the job better than Vaughn.

"I think it would be hard to find someone as qualified. Going forward we're trying to use this position to help us create the goals and set up the means for economic development and to go into a more permanent position possibly in the future," Szafarowicz said.

Szafarowicz later also went so far as to say that Vaughn's name is "being dragged through the mud" as a result of his stepping up to fill the position, an accusation that seemed to resonate with the rest of the board including leading to an aggressive response from Selectman Spiewak after Szafarowicz refused to elaborate on his suspicions. Even then Spiewak was also vague about any issues she may have with Vaughn.

"If Mr. Vaughn is going to be a candidate I'm afraid I'm going to have to insist that we have an executive session because of allegations that were brought to my attention," Spiewak said. "There is a reason that I am making statements that I am making, I just want full disclosure. If that's going to happen that's what needs to happen because we will be discussing character."

Vaughn himself took to the microphone to defend and support his candidacy for the position. He said that is not against having someone else fill the post, but he does not believe they will find someone more qualified than himself.

"I have no problem if the board wants to go out and offer it to other people and open the door for others to apply. I have no problem with that. If you can find somebody better for this town, fantastic. I personally don't think you will," Vaughn said.

Selectmen did not make a motion on the recommendation for Vaughn to fill the director post during their Dec. 4 meeting opting instead to allow an opportunity for other potential candidates to step forward and to consider all options on the table.

STORY

continued from page A3

is televised and is typically attended by up to 20,000 people each year.

A friend's help in need makes a friend forever. One year's truck driver, David McFarland, said it best.

"It means a lot to all the Nova Scotia people what Boston did for us in our time of need when the explosion happened."

A Merry Christmas, and its spirit to follow us in the New Year to come.

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Friday's Child



Photo by Shana Griffin.

Zoey ~ Age 11

Hi! My name is Zoey and I love animals so much!

Zoey is a very friendly girl of Hispanic and Caucasian descent. Zoey has a strong yet bubbly personality. She likes to be social and to make new friends. She is very caring of others around her. Zoey is excelling in school and is especially great at math. In her free time, Zoey loves to listen to music, sing and dance. Zoey shows an interest in art and fashion and loves to design and do arts and crafts. Zoey has a really big heart when it comes to animals and she even volunteers at her local animal shelter. Zoey is legally freed for adoption however she will benefit from having an open adoption with visits to her biological siblings and mother. Zoey will do best in a family where there is at least one mother figure present. Zoey will do well in a family which is childless or has children who are older. Zoey will thrive in a home where she receives a lot of one on one attention and consistency.

Who Can Adopt?

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have "a permanent place to call HOME."



To sponsor Friday's Child call Tia at 508-909-4110
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RUTH DEAMICIS
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Happiest holidays

Whether you are celebrating with family, friends or enjoying a little down time alone; this coming week is an interesting one for many reasons.

It means something to a lot of people; and not much to others. But that is neither here nor there for the basis of this essay. We want to simply wish everyone a bit of peace in their lives and to say thank you.

Thank you to those who will still be working at hospitals, on ambulances, at fire stations and at police stations; working as first responders and on call in whatever capacity is needed. And thank you for your service throughout the past year. You've been there. We appreciate it. It hasn't been an easy year; we've lost good people. These jobs are hazardous.

Thank you to those in the service whether overseas or away from home and stationed at places not near those near and dear to them. It is not easy even if you are still stateside, but thousands of miles away on a holiday. And if you are boondocked, it is twice as hard. Thank you for your service. We have lost the urgency of the war in the myriad of other news that has taken precedence in our lives. But young Americans are still in danger and losing their lives every day. Thank you for serving. Let us please remember them.

Thank you to those who volunteer. Whether it is by running for unpaid political office in a small town or working with a church or a service group such as Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis or another organization; they are unsung heroes in every one of our towns. The programs they run, the shelters, the meals, the food banks, the afterschool programs, the Scout troops...the list goes on and on. We are all better for their hard work and they are often not noticed. Yet if they weren't there, if these programs were to disappear, we would all be much worse for it.

Those who put in hours and hours on committees, boards and such are equally necessary. How would the work of our towns get done without these selfless volunteers? They are often the targets of unhappy citizens, true; but they do the best they can and continue on. They often take classes on their own, attend seminars and conventions to learn more about how to do their jobs better; and often do so by taking time away from paid jobs and their families.

While we are saying thank you let's remember all those who care for our children in several capacities. Not only must we thank our school systems and their many, many hardworking teachers and staff; but let's hear it for places like Boys & Girls Clubs, Little Leagues, YMCAs, and camps of every kind.

We are certain we are missing people who deserve our thanks, we are touching the tip of an iceberg here. These people and many more keep our towns running, keep them safe, and keep them the places we love.

Happy Holidays, and thank you all.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!
We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!
Mail your letters to the Charlton Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at ruth@stonebridgepress.news

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

OPINION

Views and commentary from Charlton, Charlton City, Charlton Depot and beyond

Considering possibilities of being vegetarian...and why

Have you ever considered becoming a vegetarian or vegan? First, let me define what these terms mean.

A vegetarian is someone who does not eat meat. The vegetarian spectrum begins with partial vegetarians.

They might not eat red meat, but they eat fish and chicken. Then there are lacto-ovo vegetarians. They don't eat meat, fish, or chicken, but they eat eggs and other dairy products. When someone says they are a vegetarian, but not a vegan, that is usually what they mean.

Finally, there are vegans (pronounced vee-gun). They don't eat meat, fish, chicken, eggs, or other dairy products. They usually don't wear any animal products such as leather. Some vegans don't even eat honey. I've heard stories of extreme vegans who go to great lengths to avoid bringing any harm to any animals including insects.

People become vegetarians and vegans for different reasons. Some do it for health reasons. Many recent books and videos have come out in favor of a Whole Foods Plant Based diet. Studies have shown that this diet slows and can even reverse heart disease. It also reduces cancer and diabetes, and other degenerative diseases. Caldwell B. Esselstyn Jr., MD, who helped save Bill Clinton's life, wrote the book, Prevent and Reverse Heart Disease. I heartily recommend this book. YouTube has countless videos on the subject as well.

Others, like me, become vegetarians or vegans for animal rights reasons. Many like me believe that activities such as hunting and fishing are barbaric and amount to animal cruelty. We believe, and scientific studies recently confirm, that animals feel pain, have emotions, bond with their families, and communicate with each other.

I first became a lacto-ovo vegetarian on Nov. 25, 1975. I was visiting my mom for Thanksgiving. I was walking up the stairs of my mom's six-floor apartment building for the exercise. I have a very sensitive nose. Suddenly, the scent of all the turkeys being cooked hit me



THE VEGETARIAN TROUBADOUR

ANDREW TARGOFF

like a cannonball. It occurred to me, "Why do all these turkeys have to die for Thanksgiving?"

I decided right then and there that after eating what mom

cooked for me, I would no longer eat meat, fish, or chicken. A year or two later, I stopped wearing leather as well.

Two years after arriving in Massachusetts to attend Berklee College of Music, in 1987, I went on my first date with the woman who later became my wife. When I arrived at her house to pick her up, she was wearing a fur coat! I told her that I would not go on a date with her if she was wearing that. She proceeded to throw it out entirely. That's when I knew she must really like me. We are still deliriously happy together today.

Fast-forward 30 years and I discovered Facebook, when I was told through a music business course which I had purchased online, that Facebook is a great way to promote oneself. I came to find out that a second cousin of mine was a vegan. Every day she kept posting about the poor conditions for the animals at dairy farms, and how many of the males are still killed. Also, I had already read the books about the harmful effects of eating dairy products. So on June 11, 2017, I decided to go totally vegan.

One day I got a Roku, and started watching health videos on YouTube on my TV. I adopted the Whole Foods Plant Based diet, and combined it with a bit of intermittent fasting and exercise, and I dropped 40 pounds. Now I feel great at the tender age of 64.

So if you want to become a vegetarian or vegan, start with You Tube and Facebook. You can find recipes, join vegan Facebook groups, learn all about getting proper nutrition on the Whole Foods Plant Based diet, watch TED talks with the most eminent nutritionists in the world, find fellow animal rights advocates, and even find great restaurants which serve vegan food.

Life imitates art

"The political lesson of Watergate is this: Never again must America allow an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents to by-pass the regular party organization and dictate the terms of a national election."

- Gerald R. Ford



...AND ONE MORE THING...

GREG VINE

Trudeau - got a front-row view of Donald Trump as he must have appeared to 5th-grade classmates during a playground war of words.

In fact, the logic Mr. Trump employed while trying to convince "Chuck and Nancy" that they needed to give him more than \$5 billion for his border wall lest they risk a government shutdown didn't even match the logic that actually might be employed by recalcitrant 5th-grader.

The verbal scuffle started with Pelosi and Schumer said they'd be willing to give him \$1.3 billion for the border wall that he said Mexico would pay for, instead of the more than \$5 billion he wants. If he doesn't get what he wants, Trump said he's more than willing to shut down the government, which runs out of funding Dec. 21 unless Congress passes, and the president signs, a new spending package.

Trump tried to argue that "a lot of the wall is built"; a flat-out lie. As pointed out by the website PolitiFact: "Steel bollard wall' has been built at the southern border since Trump took office. But that's not much different from what's been built by other administrations."

Then, pulling more dubious statistics out of his...ear...Trump claimed illegal crossings at San Diego, Tucson, Yuma, and El Paso were down between 90 and 99 percent due to wall construction. As usual, the president was throwing out numbers with little or no connection to reality.

Next, he fell back on a couple of his favorite fictional arguments to support construction of the wall: illegals are bringing dangerous diseases with them, and terrorists (10 this time around) have recently been caught trying to cross ("...no evidence to support his claim..." according to the CATO Institute).

Finally, in a fit of frustration, the president declared he would be "proud to shut down the government for border security." Since he loves to have super-

Turn To VINE page A10

What's smarter - paying off debts or investing?



FINANCIAL FOCUS
JEFF BURDICK

It probably doesn't happen as much as you'd like, but you may occasionally have some extra disposable income. For

example, perhaps you have recently received, or will soon receive, a year-end bonus. Or maybe you will get a sizable tax refund in just a few months. Wherever this money comes from, you will want to put it to good use. Should you use the cash to pay down debts or should you invest it instead?

There's no simple answer, and everyone's situation is different, but here are a few suggestions for helping you make a good choice:

Evaluate your cash flow. If you already have enough cash to meet your daily living expenses, you might lean toward investing the money, but if you are just getting by, possibly due to heavy debt payments, then you might be better off using your newfound funds to reduce your debt load. Another way of possibly reducing your debt load is to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Once you have such a fund, you could use it, instead of going into debt, to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or a major car repair.

Evaluate your debts. Some of your debts are actually more "expensive" to you than others. This expense level doesn't necessarily refer to the size of the debt, however. You might have a large mortgage, for instance, but because your interest payments are typically tax deductible, your "after-tax" interest rate may be relatively modest. Therefore, you might consider using your excess cash for investments, rather than paying down your mortgage. But if you have consumer loans or credit cards that carry a high interest rate and whose interest payments are not deductible, you might be better off paying down this debt.

Evaluate your investment opportunities. You may have heard that one season or another is a "better" time to invest - but there's really no strong evidence to support this claim. However, now that we are nearing the end of the calendar year, and only a few months away from the tax-filing deadline on April 15, you may want to take advantage of at least one time-related investment opportunity.

Specifically, you could use whatever extra money you have to fully fund your IRA, if you haven't done so already. For the 2018 tax year, you can contribute \$5,500 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$6,500 if you are 50 or older. (Depending on your income, you may not be able to contribute the full amount to a Roth IRA.) You've got until the April 15 deadline to fully fund your IRA, but if you have the money sooner, why wait? The quicker it's in your account, the faster it can go to work for you.

One final suggestion: If you have a company match as part of your 401(k) or similar retirement plan at work, consider contributing enough to get your employer's full matching contribution before you pay down debts - don't leave this "free money" on the table.

Your year-end bonus, tax refund or other source of beyond-the-paycheck money can help you make progress toward your financial goals - so evaluate your situation and options carefully before making any moves. It will be time well spent.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com

BUZZER BEATER!
CHECK OUT THE SPORTS ACTION!

Celebrating the season, Renaissance style

BY GUS STEEVES
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE – The 21st century briefly visited the Renaissance for a while last week, as the St John Paul II Madrigal Singers gave the town a taste of the past at LaSalle Center over the weekend, with a preview at the Jacob Edwards Library Thursday.

“When it’s do dark and dreary – and I’m not just talking about the weather; our times are dark – we wanted to bring everyone some light,” said director Brandon Vennick. “We’re hoping this will become a tradition.”

Well, it certainly used to be. Madrigals date back at least to the late Middle Ages, where groups of minstrels “would travel from town to town and were the first ‘news’ people,” bringing tales of the outside world to largely isolated villages, he noted.

While the exact origins are still a

little unclear, it seems to have originally been a secular polyphonic musical form that was gradually adopted by church-based musicians. The local group showed a little of both, with traditional Christian carols alongside ribald limericks, humor and poetry then popular among the common folk.

According to Thomas Morley in 1597, as quoted by the Music of Yesterday website (musicofyesterday.com/history/history-madrigal/), a key to the madrigal style is this: “you must in your music be wavering like the wind, sometime wanton, sometime drooping, sometime grave and staid, otherwhile effeminate, you may maintain points and revert them, use triplaes, and shew the uttermost of your variety, and the more variety you show the better shall you please.” (Note the odd spelling is how he wrote it.) That site traces the madrigal itself to “the great Flemish

school” of 15th century Netherlands, but notes the oldest known example of a secular polyphonic song is “Sumer icumen in” (“Summer has come in”), which dates at least to the 1260s. It also notes that era’s church and secular music often fed each other, so that it was common to find songs “in which the lighter [secular] theme is almost profanely contrasted with” references from a hymn.

Many collections of madrigals exist, but one of the most prolific composers was Jacques Arcadelt, a Fleming who lived in Italy, whose “First Book of Madrigals” of 1538 went through at least 16 editions over the next 80 years, Music of Yesterday states. The style was originally vocal only, but soon came to include instruments in Italy and elsewhere. The first madrigals in English were printed in 1530, and the style “fell into neglect” in the early 1600s part-

ly because of the English Civil War, although it would later help inspire the uniquely English style called the Glee.

Vennick said Southbridge itself has some history with the style. Although this is just his group’s second year, Sacred Heart Church once had a Music Makers group, which occasionally performed madrigals, and the Publick House has hosted the Beef Eaters’ Festival.

Generally speaking, the madrigal is a combination of musical theater and dinner. Those who attended the LaSalle events got to see the full thing, complete with food and a cash bar; those at the library saw a shortened version of it featuring a fake boar’s head and fake burning pudding that would have been the main course and dessert.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.



Gus Steeves photos

Jester Billy Bolster, center, gets a big reminder of how to sing a high C.



Mike Dupuis tips a cup during the “wassailing.”



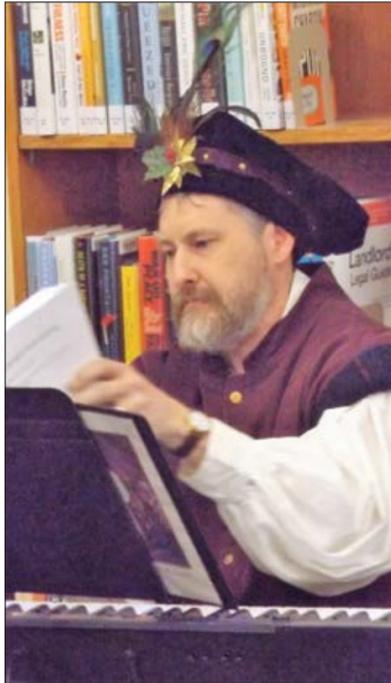
Pam Goodnow plays the flute to start a song as Mike Dupuis looks on.



Billy Bolster pretends to have a few too many.



Brandon Vennick, Lauria Tiberii and Fran Martel



Brandon Vennick plays the keyboard for one piece.

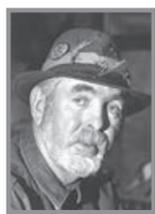


Jester Billy Bolster does a little verbal jousting with audience members.



Charles Alan and Rob Honohan lead the quartet bringing in the boar’s head. (The boar was an ancient symbol of courage and nobility altered by Christianity to represent the devil’s defeat.)

Switching gears from hunting to ice fishing



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As the last segment of the Massachusetts deer season slowly comes to an end on Dec. 31, many sportsmen have their sights on ice fishing. Although a few small ponds had safe ice on them last week, anglers are hoping for a good freeze that would make larger bodies of water safe. My brother Ken caught a few trout on a local club pond last week, and reports of anglers fishing ponds in Milford was good news.

Jig fishing is one of my favorite forms of ice fishing, and can be extremely exciting when a school of yellow perch and other pan fish go into a feeding frenzy.

Ice fishing with tilts or fish traps as many anglers call them today with a group of friends, can also be rewarding, and can have anglers racing over the frozen ice, attempting to be the first one to the fish trap when a fellow angler shouts out "FLAG." It is best to observe the spool of line in the water prior to picking up the trap to see if the line is being pulled from the spool. If the spool is spinning, it is a good sign that you have a nice fish on the other end. Carefully picking up the trap and grabbing the line to set the hook is the start of landing a possible lunker fish! Slowly retrieving the line and laying it on the ice, you will soon realize how big the fish may be if the line tightens and you need to allow the fish to take some line back. Allowing the line to slip back through your fingers until the fish ends his run, you will need to start all over again retrieving the line. That is why it is very important to lay the line carefully on the ice as you try to retrieve the line. If the line becomes tangled, you could lose the big fish to broken line.

Most anglers fishing with ice traps prefer to use shiners, although some prefer worms



Captain Mel True Jr.'s daughter Lexie on one of her first ice fishing adventures with her dad.

or crawlers. The latter need to be changed every half hour, as the cold water can take its toll on the live bait. Fishing for trout, some anglers prefer salmon eggs or grubs for bait which is fished close to the bottom.

Prior to setting up bait when ice fishing with fish traps, each hole should be checked for depth using a heavy weight. This will give you an idea of the depth at which you will set your bait. If no bites are realized in a half hour, try bringing the bait up a few feet. Sometimes it is necessary to move your traps 50 ft. or more trying a new location. It can make a big difference! Some of the best local ponds and lakes are Wallum Lake, Meadow Pond, Arcade Pond, Manchaug Pond, and Webster Lake.

Cape ponds can produce some real nice fish and they include Hamblin Pond that produce some real nice trout including huge bass and yellow perch. Peters Pond, Cliff Pond and Sheep Pond are also great ice fishing spots on the Cape.

A bit North of the valley is Comet Pond that produce some impressive fish in the winter months.

Some more serious ice fishermen also use an electronic portable fish finders to locate fish. Setting the unit over the hole can show you the bottom and fish that are suspend-

ed or feeding at the proper depth. Just because you find fish with the unit it does not always produce fish. Using the proper bait and method of fishing can make a big difference. Using a fish finder can show the fish actually biting the bait, giving the angler the precise time to set the hook.

Be sure to take the family along and enjoy a great day in the outdoors. Building a fire and cooking some venison, hamburgers, and hotdogs over an open fire provides some of the best eating and family fun. Always be sure of the safe ice you are fishing on, and do not let the kids wander away from the group. Dangerous ice can be only a few feet away.

This week's picture of a 10 pt. 189 lb. buck taken in the valley by Mickey Deane, was a once in a life time deer for any sportsman, although he stated that another buck was spotted in the same area carrying a similar set of antlers. I am sure he will be hunting with his black powder gun in hopes of taking the huge buck. He still has a few days to hunt for the monster deer. The huge antlers that local deer are sporting in the valley are indeed impressive. David Stainbrook, Mass Fish & Wildlife moose and deer biologist, recently wrote a great column in the Massachusetts Wildlife magazine on the whitetail deer in Massachusetts!



Mickey Deane with a 10 point buck taken in the Valley.

Courtesy photos

One of the most important parts of the column was the controversial issue dealing with local residents feeding deer corn to the deer that are visiting residents back yards. Deer are now feeding on their winter diet of browse and grass, and feeding corn to them at this time could prove to be fatal to the deer, as their

digestive system cannot properly digest corn at this time of year! I would recommend that residents and sportsmen get a copy of Stainbrooks indepth report on the Massachusetts deer habits.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

VINE
continued from page A8

latives applied to himself, Trump must be simply gleeful that he now becomes the first president in history to willingly take the blame for a shutdown. Not just gleeful, but proud!

I keep asking myself how much longer it will be before cracks finally start to appear in Mr. Trump's base of support. When will he actually go out and shoot someone in the middle of 5th Avenue just to test his own theory that such an action wouldn't cost him a single vote among his loyal corps of sycophants and cult-followers?

Mark Twain said, "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it."

Well, the time has long since come and gone when it became obvious that the executive branch of our government no longer deserved the support of anyone who truly cares about the country.

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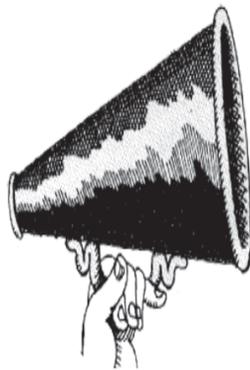
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SPORTS

Defense fuels Bay Path's offense to get past Pioneers



Bay Path's Jamie Rodriguez elevates to win the game-opening jump ball.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

SOUTHBRIDGE — When noticing that the Bay Path Regional boys' varsity basketball team poured in 76 points versus Southbridge High on Tuesday, Dec. 11 — the Minutemen defeated the Pioneers, 76-56 — some may think that Bay Path shot exceptionally well en route to the win. But head coach Al Greenough was quick to point out that it was actually his team's defense that stood out and that's what led to easy transition baskets.

"I was really, really impressed with our team defense this evening," he said. "It's something we've been stressing to start this year. Last year we had a lot of really talented offensive players that graduated; this year we know that our defense is going to lead more to our offense. That's kind of our game plan, to play our best sound man-to-man defense that we can, create some turnovers and get into the open court."

On the other side of the court,

Southbridge head coach Victor Colon wasn't pleased with his team's defense.

"Defensively we just weren't there," he said. "We got outworked, outthusted to every single ball. They were playing very aggressively and we just had to work through it. We took our time getting through it, so they got up on us."

The Minutemen led, 17-10, after the initial eight-minute quarter and, after the Pioneers had cut the deficit down to four points on two occasions in the second quarter — on baskets from Brandon Valentin and Eury Mateo — Bay Path increased the lead to 10 points at halftime, 32-22.

Greenough then preached the importance of playing more impressive defense during his halftime talk.

"We really stressed defense at halftime in the locker room. It's what we started the game with and I said the game will go one of two ways," he explained of either Southbridge mounting a comeback or the Minutemen making a run early in the half

to put the game away.

The latter happened, as Bay Path scored the first 10 points of the third quarter to increase the lead to 20, 42-22. Cory Cotton drained a 3-pointer and Jamie Rodriguez provided a steal and coinciding layup during the run.

With two minutes to play in the third the Minutemen got the lead up to 30 points (56-26) following a Joe Starr layup, and they were ahead, 59-31, entering the final frame.

Rodriguez (22 points, 13 rebounds), Cotton (22 points) and Starr (16 points, 6 rebounds) were Bay Path's leaders.

"That was probably the best game I've seen Jamie play in his career," Greenough said of Rodriguez, a senior. "Last year he kind of played a little bit in the shadows of the other kids we had on the team, but he knows it's his turn to step up and I challenged him with that in practice. He stepped up and he attacked the basket so strong and so well — he was really the difference in the game."

"Cory, normally our high scorer, really, really struggled tonight shooting the ball... [but] he probably played the best defensive game I've ever seen him play," Greenough added of Cotton.

Southbridge then won fourth quarter scoring, 25-17, to trim the deficit down to a 20-point loss. Mateo led the team with 16 points, while Garret Lazo chipped in 9 points and 10 rebounds.

"I had a lot of guys step up," Colon said, pointing out the play of Valentin, a freshman. "We had a lot of positives to build off of, so we'll be fine."

Southbridge dropped to 1-1 in the early season, while Bay Path improved to 2-0 as they hope to accumulate 10-plus wins and advance to the Central Mass. Division 4 Tournament.

"That's what we're aiming for," Greenough said of District play. "We're setting the tone early with defense and that's what we're going to ride all year long and hopefully that's good enough to get us to where we want to get at the end."



Joe Starr of Bay Path feeds a pass down low into the paint.



Cory Cotton of Bay Path follows through upon the release of a 3-point attempt.

Rockets top North Middlesex for Dana Willard Christmas Tournament title



Auburn's Adam Lanier attempts to maneuver the puck around a Worcester defenseman.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Editor's Note: The accompanying photos are from Auburn's first round victory versus Worcester, played on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

AUBURN — The Dana Willard Memorial Christmas Tournament has opened the Auburn High boys' varsity ice hockey team's season for 33 straight years at Horgan Arena, but it had been a long time since the Rockets last hoisted the trophy in celebration.

Auburn, with tournament titles in 1997 and 2004, had the chance to win it again this season after defeating the Worcester co-op team, 3-0, on Wednesday, Dec. 12. They advanced to the finals, played Saturday, Dec. 15, versus North Middlesex Regional. The Patriots made it to the championship by beating Agawam High.

In the title game, North Middlesex scored first but the Rockets came roaring back with a pair of second period strikes to claim a 2-1 victory.

"It means a lot because we haven't won it since 2004," explained Auburn head coach Glen Bombard. "It shows that we are capable of winning big games. It means a lot to these guys and it's a good kickoff to the year, to set the tone for the season."

As any coach would do, though, Bombard found areas of improvement to work on going forward.

"We played a period and a half. The first period and half of the second we weren't very good, then we got one [goal] and it kind of woke us up," he said.

The first period was slow and sleepy, and appeared to be headed into intermission scoreless. But with 31 seconds

to play until the Zamboni resurfaced the ice, Ethan Freeman of North Middlesex stole the puck in the neutral zone, broke into the Rockets' defensive end and zipped a shot up and over the glove of goalie Mike Sosik.

Sosik then rebounded nicely in the second period when the Patriots were looking to add to their lead. There, he turned aside six tough shots in the first seven minutes of play. In all Sosik made 10 saves in the second period and finished the game with 24 stops.

"Mikey's been solid, he always has," Bombard said of Sosik, who through 90 minutes of play has allowed just the one goal. "He's a little under the weather but he fought through it."

Auburn — whose co-op team features student-athletes from Millbury High, Shepherd Hill Regional and Tantasqua Regional — finally found the back of the net with 5:02 to play in the second. Ryan Lempicki took control of the puck following an offensive zone face-off and the right-handed shot used his backhand to fire a shot to the near side left portion of the goal and past North Middlesex's Thomas Kelly, who also made 24 saves.

Lempicki, a defenseman, now has three goals through two games (forward Adam Lanier scored the Rockets' other goal in the win versus Worcester).

"We kind of give him the green light," Bombard said of Lempicki, an offensive-minded defenseman.

Auburn then scored its second goal in 1:11 of game time with 3:51 to go in the second period. Caleb Bartlett dumped the puck down the ice and Joe Valone — a freshman — did the dirty work, winning possession of the puck along the wall. Valone then fed a centering pass to Nick Spanos, who deposited the puck past Kelly and into the net.

"He's going to be a great hockey player — he works very hard and he has talent. He went out tonight and worked



Photos courtesy Mark Seliger, www.SeligerPhotography.com

Auburn's Dillon Winkelmann takes control of the puck and moves down the ice.

his butt off," Bombard said of Valone. Bombard was impressed with the play of his team's third line, which included the four-man rotation of Valone, Spanos, Billy Erikson and Zach Schirm. "That line, I really liked what I saw from them," the coach said.

Auburn then held the Patriots scoreless the rest of the way, where Sosik needed to make a pair of saves in the final minute to preserve the victory.

Lempicki was awarded the tournament MVP, while Worcester defeated Agawam in the consolation game for third place, 5-1.

SPORTS

'Tougher' Tantasqua gets the better of Shepherd Hill, 68-58



Jason Mckay photos

Shepherd Hill's Eric Lehmann gets ahead of a defender and lays the ball up.



Shepherd Hill's Danny Brooks releases a 3-point attempt.



Cam Hackett of Shepherd Hill lets a free throw attempt fly.



Chris Nellis of Shepherd Hill drives on Tantasqua defender Jeremiah Dingui.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — High school boys' basketball is, of course, about 3-pointers and drives to the hoop and tenacious defense and blocked shots. It's also about heart and desire. In its 68-58 victory over Shepherd Hill Regional on Tuesday, Dec. 11, Tantasqua Regional showed — for a night anyway — they had more of both.

"For me this game was, literally, about toughness; they were tougher

than we were," Rams' head coach Mike Byrnes said. "They earned the win tonight and we didn't. We didn't deserve to win. We gave them too many second chances. They killed us on the boards; they killed us on loose balls. We have a completely different team than we had last year. Last year this is a game we win, just based on toughness."

Motivation is a big part of the game, too, and Tantasqua is an inspired group, playing hard for

new head coach Scott Dion.

"What I know about Coach Dion is that he used to coach at Prouty and his teams are always tough," Byrnes said. "They play hard and they're gritty. When you look down the other end and see that you're coaching against Coach Dion you know they're going to come ready to go for 32 minutes. They played well tonight; they're definitely a good team and they're going to have a great season. We've got to play harder."

The fact that the Rams enjoyed a pair of lopsided wins over the Warriors last year helped in the motivation department also.

"We got smoked twice last year by these guys," said Tantasqua senior co-captain Chase Freeland, who scored six points. "We came into this game with a chip on our shoulder. We were super motivated. We were the only ones in the building tonight that thought we had a chance to win this game."

The defining moments of the game came late in the second quarter and early in the third period.

The Warriors (2-0) used a 12-3 run in the second quarter to turn a 23-22 lead with 4:39 to play into a 35-25 advantage with 2:29 remaining before halftime. Tantasqua, like it did all night, got balanced scoring in the run, with six different players scoring.

Shepherd Hill (1-1) scored the final 10 points of the half — sophomore Danny Brooks (11 points)

hitting six consecutive free throws in the final 1:19 of the second period — and the game was tied, 35-35, at halftime.

Following a pair of free throws by junior Brandon Dejesus (eight points), the Rams led, 40-37, with 5:04 left in the third quarter. That's when Dion made his move.

"I took a timeout at that point and I really challenged my players," Dion said. "I really got into them and they responded very, very well."

Freeland said to him it was the turning point of the game.

"We were feeling a little down coming into half-time because we had just given up that big lead. But in the locker room Coach Dion was like, 'we're still in this; it's only half-time,'" Freeland said. "And then he took that timeout in the third quarter and really got our fire going; he hyped us up really well. I love playing for Coach Dion."

The Warriors outscored the Rams 15-6 in the final five minutes of the third quarter, a run that was highlighted by a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by senior co-captain Jackson Hall (12 points), to take a 52-46 lead into the fourth period.

In the final quarter, behind the play of Hall, Freeland, senior co-cap-

tain Jeremiah Dingui (10 points) and junior Troy Lee (five points, four in the fourth quarter), Tantasqua gradually built its lead back to 10 points, the first time being 64-54 on a fast-break layup by Lee — who gathered in a crisp open-court pass from Hall and converted it — with 2:05 to play.

"This was a real good win. Everybody played well but I thought Troy Lee coming off the bench was huge, as was [junior] Griffin Polga and [sophomore] Will Pieczynski [11

points]," Dion said. "And [senior] Brad Gergoire [13 points], he kept us in the game in the first half. He probably had 8 or 10 of his points [11 actually] in the first half down around the block."

In addition to Brooks, scoring in double figures for Shepherd Hill were seniors Jack Rynne (13 points) and David Bilis (11 points). Senior Chris Nellis added seven points, while sophomore Cam Hackett scored six.



Photo courtesy Worcester Polytechnic University Athletics

Bailey Savage

Charlton's Savage selected as WPI Women's Student-Athlete of the Week

WORCESTER — Bailey Savage of the Worcester Polytechnic University basketball team has been selected as the WPI Female Student-Athlete of the Week for the week ending Sunday, Dec. 9.

Savage, a resident of Charlton and a Shepherd Hill Regional graduate, averaged 14 points and 4.5 rebounds, and totaled four assists and two steals in the Engineers' 1-1 week. After tying her career-high of 11 points at the half versus Clark University, the freshman went on to share game-high honors with 15 on the day.



Shepherd Hill's Jack Rynne is open, so he shoots a 3-pointer.



Tantasqua's Chase Freeland floats through the air en route to a layup.

SPORTS BRIEF

Worcester State University to hold baseball clinics

Worcester State Baseball Indoor Clinics are now held in the \$52 million gymnasium and wellness center. The second floor multipurpose gym allows for live practices with plenty of storage for the six indoor mounds, bats and balls, etc. Hitters will use the double-barrel cages on the first floor. Here kids will bunt/bat off the Hack Attack pitching machines (uses real balls; speed adjusted for ages), hit close-range BP, use soft toss nets, tees, and utilize slow-motion video analysis.

There are multiple upcoming clinics to choose from. For questions, please call (508) 929-8852 or (774) 230-3872, or email dbaker1@worchester.edu. Also, please visit wsulancers.com/camps-clinics for more information.

OBITUARIES

Raymond A. Lehner, Sr., 87



C H A R L T O N - Raymond A. Lehner, Sr., 87 of Charlton passed away on December 10, 2018 after a short illness. He is survived by his wife of 58 years Dorothea E. (Conway) Lehner; his son, Raymond A. Lehner, Jr. and his wife Gina of Charlton; his daughter, Karen Mangini and her husband Michael of

Grafton; a grandson Mark Mangini of Grafton; two sisters, Frances DuPont of Auburn and Dorothy Painchaud of Worcester; and many nieces and nephews.

He was born in Auburn, the son of the late Joseph J. and Mary V. (Sifferlen) Lehner, and had lived in Auburn and Charlton. He was a graduate of Auburn High School and St. Anselm College in New Hampshire.

He served in the U. S. Army in Korea as a company clerk and taught

Chemistry for 30 years at David Prouty High School in Spencer. He enjoyed traveling, going on cruises and was an avid gardener.

A Calling Hour was held on Thursday, December 13, 2018 from 8:45-9:45 AM at the ROBERT J. MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd. followed by a Funeral Mass at 10AM at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H-Putnam Rd., Ext., Burial with Military Honors was at Northside Cemetery in Charlton.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made to: St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN. 38105.

To leave a message of condolence, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net



CALENDAR

Monday December 24

PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS: First Congregational Church of Brimfield has announced its Christmas Eve schedule. Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Services: 7:00PM - Family Worship. All are invited to join us in this joyous service as we sing and pray to honor the birth of our Lord and Savior.

11:00PM - Candlelight Service: A more 'traditional' Christmas Eve Service. Please join us in this quiet and reflective service which leads us into Christmas Day.

Sunday January 6

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: The Christian Community Choir presents EVERLASTING LIGHT, a Christmas Cantata on Dec. 14 at The Congregational Church of Leicester, 5 Washburn Square, Leicester at 7:00 pm; Dec. 23 at East Brookfield Baptist Church, 262 Main St., East Brookfield at 5:00 pm; Dec. 30 Overlook-Masonic Hall, 88 Masonic Hill Road, Charlton at 3:00 pm; Jan. 6 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Blaine Avenue, East Brookfield at 2:00 p.m. The performance is free and open to all.

ONGOING

BUSINESS NETWORKING: Join us for a FREE Business Networking

Meeting! Thursdays - 7am at Old Sturbridge Village Oliver Wight Tavern - Grecian Room, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd, Sturbridge, For more info call Tia @ 774-200-6740

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Please come join us for a fun evening of exercise and basketball at the Heritage School gym in Charlton. We play pickup basketball from 7-9 PM every Monday evening from September to June based on the school schedule. There are no set teams and participation is free for women 18 years and older. Please contact Deb at 508-248-3600 for more information.

Pilgrimage to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje

St. Joseph's Church in Charlton is sponsoring a Pilgrimage Sept. 29- Oct. 9, 2019 to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje with Fr. Robert Grattatori. The cost is \$4,599; 11 days includes 4-5 star hotels, airfare, luxury transportation, and breakfast/dinner daily. A \$500 deposit is due at the time of registration. Please contact parishioner Dr. Karen Zaleski for trip details at karenzaleski42@gmail.com or you may call Proximo Travel directly for information and to register at 1-855-842-8001, or 508-340-9370.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: third Wednesday each month, 6-7 p.m. at the Overlook Independent Living Building, fourth floor Solarium, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton. The

intent is to build a support system, exchange practical information, talk through issues and ways of coping, share feelings, needs and concerns and to learn about community resources. Contact Kathy Walker at (508) 434-2551 or kawalker@overlook-mass.org for more information. Presented by Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter, visit (800) 272-3900 or alz.org.

NUMISMATICS: Looking for a new hobby? Come learn about the hobby of coin collecting. Or maybe you are an old time collector. Our club, the Nipmuc Coin Club, has both. We learn from each other through our monthly guest speakers, show and tell presentations, monthly coin auctions and free attendance prizes. Our group loves to share their knowledge with each other. About half of our members also like to eat. Each month we have a simple dinner with dessert and refreshments just prior to our meeting, which allows us time to socialize too. We meet the fourth Wednesday of each month starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Oxford Senior Center located at 323 Main St. in Oxford. It is the building directly behind the Oxford Town Hall building. For more information, please contact Dick Lisi at (508) 410-1332 or lisirichard15@yahoo.com.

Free Playgroup at the Hitchcock Academy; sponsored by Union 61 Family Foundation Five Grant. It includes: Music & Movement on Wednesday 9-9:45 a.m. and Playgroup on Monday &

Thursday 9-11 a.m. For more information about these and a variety of other classes visit us at www.hitchcockacademy.org or call 413-245-9977

Grief Support Group: at Overlook Hospice, Charlton: Have you recently experienced the loss of a parent, child, sibling, friend or spouse? We are here to help. Join a safe, supportive and caring group to share your stories and support others who are learning to live again after the death of a loved one. Drop-in group for adults meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 1-2:30 p.m. Contact Susan Fuller at (508) 434-2200.

THRIFTY: Saint Paul II Parish's Flea Market, at 40 Charlton St., Southbridge, is open each Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and each Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Items for sale include household, linens and furniture. We also have a holiday room. Donations are appreciated. All proceeds go to the support of the church.

NUMISMATICS: Southbridge Coin Club meets on the third Friday of the month (except July and August). The doors open by 7 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Collectors of all ages are welcome. The meetings include raffle, auction, and show and tell. Light refreshments are served. The meetings are held in the community room at the Southbridge Savings Bank at 200 Charlton Rd. (Route 20), Sturbridge.

TRIPS OFFERED

The "Trips Offered" section is for non-profit organizations and will run as space allows. Mail your information to Trips Offered, c/o Ruth DeAmicis, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550; fax to (508) 764-8015 or e-mail to ruth@stonebridgepress.news.

CHURCH PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje

St. Joseph's Church in Charlton is sponsoring a Pilgrimage Sept. 29- Oct. 9, 2019 to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje with Fr. Robert Grattatori. The cost is \$4,599; 11 days includes 4-5 star hotels, airfare, luxury transportation, and breakfast/dinner daily. A \$500 deposit is due at the time of registration. Please contact parishioner Dr. Karen Zaleski for trip details at karenzaleski42@gmail.com or you may call Proximo Travel directly for information and to register at 1-855-842-8001, or 508-340-9370.

BRIMFIELD SENIOR CENTER

CHARLTON SENIOR CENTER

Call Elaine or Debra for more info at (508) 248-2231 ~ Sign up sheets & flyers available at the Senior Center. Flyers are available on webpage www.townofcharlton.net: click on Departments then click on Council on Aging/Senior Center. Pick up is generally from St. Joseph's Church, 10 H Putnam Road Extension, Charlton.

March 12: Celtic Angels of Ireland & Celtic Knight Dancers at Venus De Milo.

Be transported to Ireland with some of the sweetest voices under heaven! The Celtic Angels: Victoria Kenny, Emily Carroll, Tammy Browne, Amy Penston and Ellie Mullane are Irish to the core and seasoned entertainer all.

The Celtic Knight Dancers feature two lead dancers of Riverdance. Their rhythm and artistry are astonishing.

The Trinity Band Ensemble of Dublin round out the show with flawless interpretations of authentic Irish traditional instrumental and their backing of both singers and dancers is perfection. \$92 includes: lunch, show and transportation. (Driver gratuity not included). Payment due Feb. 12, 2019. Make check payable to: Best of Times

April 25: Dancing Dream an ABBA tribute band!

Be transported back to a similar time when gas was under \$1 per gallon, when music was fun, inspiring and uplifting and disco was king! Performing ABBA's greatest hits from 1973 through 1983, DANCING DREAM, the Tribute

to ABBA — precisely recreates all of the excitement and passion of their record-breaking 1979-80 world concert tour. With beautiful harmonies, elaborate costumes and exciting choreography, every show is to be remembered. \$92 includes: lunch, show and transportation. (Driver gratuity not included). Payment due March 25, 2019 Make check payable to: Best of Times

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

For reservations contact Jan Caouette at (508) 887-2215. Make checks payable to Bernadette Circle #709 and mail to Bernadette Circle #709, PO Box 201, Webster MA 01570. The Daughters of Isabella is a nonprofit and charitable Catholic women's organization

DUDLEY SENIORS

For information and reservations contact Evelyn Grovesteen at (508) 764-8254

The next trip being offered is to Mackinac Island, next June 2-8. It includes transportation, lodging, 10 meals, tour of Mackinaw City, Mackinac Island with guided carriage tour, a boat ride through the Sault Locks, sight seeing in Sault Saint Marie, a visit to Mackinaw Crossings, Admission to Colonial Michillmackinac and the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse. Tips for driver and step-on guides are included. Games, drinks and snacks will be provided on travel days. Cost is \$650 pp/double occupancy. Call Evelyn Grovesteen for info at (508) 764-8254.

Also next year, Sept.13-21, we will be going to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Included is transportation, lodging, 14 meals, guided tours of Acadia National park, Halifax, Peggy's Cove, Lunenburg, Prince Edward Island including Anne of Green Gables' home, admission to King's Landing Historical Settlement, admission to Hopewell Rocks, and a visit to St. John. Tips for driver and step-on guides are included. Games, drinks and snacks will be provided on travel days. Cost is \$1065 pp/ double occupancy. Call Evelyn Grovesteen for info at (508) 764-8254

EAST BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER

For information and reservations, please contact Judy Shute (508) 867-9224

LEICESTER SENIOR CENTER

Contact Leicester Senior Center, Joan

Wall, (508) 892-3967 for information and reservations.

Friday, January 18: Trip to Foxwoods Casino. Bus leaves at 8 a.m.; cost is \$30. Free buffet and \$10 in free slot play.

Friday, February 15: Trip to Foxwoods Casino. Bus leaves at 8 a.m.; cost is \$30. Free buffet and \$10 in free slot play.

Friday, March 15: Trip to Foxwoods Casino. Bus leaves at 8 a.m.; cost is \$30. Free buffet and \$10 in free slot play.

MARY QUEEN OF THE ROSARY PARISH

SPENCER — Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish, 60 Maple St., Spencer, is offering the following trips. For more information, call Bernard Dube at (508) 885-3098.

IRELAND: September 9-22, 2019
USA: SPLENDORS OF THE NORTHWEST: May 20 to June 4, 2019
JAPAN: March 26 to April 9, 2020
JAPAN & CHINA: March 26 to April 22, 2020
SPAIN & PORTUGAL: September 9-24, 2020

MILLBURY SENIOR CENTER

1 River St., Millbury, (508) 865-9154

NORTHBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER

Phone: 508-234-2002
www.northbridgemass.org/council-on-aging

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Contact Jim Julian at the Casaubon Senior Center Monday, Wednesday, or Friday 9-10 a.m. or call (774) 922-4049 or e-mail jimtrips@yahoo.com.

Trips are open to the public! Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association, payment due at sign up:

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS 2019 TRIP SCHEDULE OPEN TO PUBLIC

Payment is due at sign up. Trips are open to the public. Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association.

Contact Jim Julian at the Casaubon senior center Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 9-10 a.m. or call (774) 922-4049, or email jimtrips@yahoo.com

Tuesday, March 12, 2019: Foxwoods \$25 8 a.m. bus.

For \$25 You get a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have five hours at the casino to gamble or PLAY BINGO as the bus will leave Foxwoods at 3 p.m. You will receive \$10 for gaming and \$15 meal voucher.

Tuesday, April 30-Thursday, May 2, 2019: Atlantic City

You will get two nights on the boardwalk. You also get a \$25 in slot play and \$60 food credit and see two stage shows. Trolleys available. For details call Jan at 508 887 2215

Sunday, May 19, 2019: Newport rail tour.

Tour ocean drive: board the excursion scenic dining car for a 90 minute tour along Narragansett bay. Enjoy a full course lunch on the train when you book give choice of meal - chicken Marcella or Atlantic cod. For details call Jan at 508 887 2215

Sunday, June 16, 2019: Gloucester Beaufort Princess cruise.

Board the ship for a New England clam bake including clams, lobster chowder, barbecue chicken and more; finish with chocolate mousse. Cruise the harbor for 2 1/2 hours with music on board. Visit the Salem visitor center and shops. For details call Jan at 508 887 2215

Tuesday, July 23, 2019: Mohegan Sun \$25 10 a.m. bus

For \$25 you get a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have five hours at the casino as the bus will leave Mohegan Sun at 4 p.m. You will receive \$10 for gaming and \$15 meal voucher.

Thursday, August 22, 2019: Diamonds and Pearls the ultimate tribute show.

For \$95 you will get a deluxe motor coach to Lake Pearl in Wrentham where you will hear the music of Neil Diamond, Carol King, Janice Joplin and more. You have a choice of baked stuffed chicken or scrod

Tuesday, September 17, 2019: Atlantic City Boys

For \$95 you will get a deluxe motor coach to Danvers Yacht Club in Danvers. where you will hear the music of the Beach Boys, The Drifters, the Bee Gees and more. You have a choice of baked stuffed chicken or scrod.

October 8-15, 2019: ALL INCLUSIVE ARUBA

Happily Full. I am taking names for standby on this trip and for 2020 trip

Keep holiday plants looking their best



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

The holiday season has arrived. That means you will be on the giving or receiving end of a poinsettia, Christmas cactus, cyclamen, amaryllis or other holiday plant. Extend the beauty and longevity of these holiday beauties with proper care.

And that starts the minute you leave the florist or garden center. Always protect your gift plants from the harsh outdoors. Professional florists and garden center staff will provide a care tag and wrap your plants in a plastic or paper sleeve.

Remove the wrap as soon as you arrive home. This is especially important when caring for poinsettias. The upturned leaves emit ethylene, a ripening hormone, that can shorten the longevity of your poinsettia's colorful display.

Rewrap your holiday plant anytime you move it outdoors

and never leave it sitting in a cold car while running errands. A chilled plant looks fine until it thaws. By the next day, the plant turns grayish-green, wilts and may die. Not such a nice gift after all.

Once your plant arrives home, place it in a cool, brightly lit location. The cool temperatures and indirect light help the blooms last longer. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air. These can dry or chill the plant, resulting in leaf and blossom drop. Fold down the foil wrap to allow sunlight to reach all the leaves.

Keep the soil moist, like a damp sponge, but not wet. A quick touch of the top inch or two of soil will let you know when it is time to water. Water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and just slightly moist.

Pour out any water that collects in the foil, basket, decorative pot or saucer. Or place pebbles in the bottom of the container or saucer to elevate the plant above any sitting water.

Plant your amaryllis bulb in a container that is slightly larger than the bulb and has drainage holes. Set the bulb in a well-drained potting mix with 1/3 of the pointed end

exposed. Water the potting mix thoroughly and place the container in a cool sunny location. Continue to water thoroughly, but only often enough to keep the soil barely moist.

Or go soilless. Place several inches of pebbles in the bottom of a glass vase or watertight container. Cover the pebbles with water. Set the bulb on top of the pebbles, adding more stones around the bulb to hold it in place. Leave the top one third of the bulb exposed. Add water as needed to maintain the water level just below the bulb.

Now relax and wait the month or more needed for your amaryllis bulb to wake up and start growing. Water more often once sprouts appear.

Keep your floral display looking its best by removing spent flowers from azaleas, Christmas cactus, cyclamen and kalanchoes. This keeps the plant looking fresh and often encourages more blooms. Remove the true flowers, those yellow knobs in the center of the colorful leaves of the poinsettia. This extends the longevity and beauty of the poinsettia plant.

And once the holidays are past, keep enjoying these plants through the gray days



Photo credit Melinda Myers, LLC

Poinsettia and other holiday plants should be kept in a cool, brightly lit location.

of winter. Move the plants to a sunny window, fertilize with a dilute solution of complete or flowering plant fertilizer and water as needed.

Add some artificial berries, cut flowers in water picks or silk blooms to replace the faded flowers. Use colorful stakes or natural twigs for added beauty and to support floppy leaves and stems.

Be sure to add a few holiday

plants to this year's gift list. They're guaranteed to brighten everyone's holiday celebrations.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books and is the host of The Great Courses' How to Grow Anything DVD series. Her website, www.MelindaMyers.com, offers gardening tips and videos.



Winter Home & Auto

This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

Call Jean at 508-764-4325 or email jean@stonebridgepress.news for more information

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Fly, my darling, fly: A note on divorce for the holiday season



MIND OF A
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Mommy told me I could fly. She said I could do anything I set my mind to. When I was a tiny, blonde, wide-eyed bundle of energy, she would push me in the little red airplane swing in our backyard.

Daddy told me I could fly. He took me to the airport often, and I would run through the breeze, my arms out like a bird's wings. He took me for my first flying lesson on my 13th birthday.

My family is no less dysfunctional than any other family. I am actually quite confident that is more dysfunctional than many. But somehow, the distrust never outweighed my love. The tension never outweighed my love. The anger never outweighed my love.

Divorce isn't easy for any child, at any age. It doesn't matter what day of the year it is, it is always complicated and never painless. However, there is something about the holidays that brings up just a little more sadness, a little more heartache, and a little more

longing for your parents to be together, or at least be friendly with each other for your sake. I spent year after year wondering why my parents loved me so much even when I made mistakes, but couldn't do the same for each other.

Strumming chords on her 12-string, my mom told me musicians are trouble, don't date one. Then I became one.

Playing his Yamaha baby grand, my dad told me women are trouble, don't trust one. Then I became one.

Trouble or not, I'm made of them. I have my dad's wit and my mom's drive. Some days I look like him, some days I look like her. But most days I look like both of them, a clean cut down the middle.

We don't choose our parents, but even if we did, I still would have picked mine.

My parents, like many couples, had a complex and agonizing divorce. My mom and dad are not friendly or cordial, probably for their own good reasons, nor are they currently okay with seeing each other at any holiday or event, even if it is for my sake. It wasn't my marriage nor my decision to have a child, yet I'm the one who had to find them completely separate seats at my most recent graduation even though my guests were supposed to be in one section. I'm the one who

either misses out on seeing one of them on a given holiday or uses two tanks of gas to dodge from place to place, trying to make sure they're both happy.

I don't remember a year when the holidays were not worrisome for me as I tried to appease both my parents and often failed to make myself happy in exchange. I don't remember a time when I wasn't stressed about their relationship even though it was never meant to be my problem. I don't remember a time when my parents didn't constantly tell me that my desire for their cordiality was unrealistic.

Their insistence, however, never stopped me from hoping that they could put their bad feelings aside for me. I was 9 years old when I saw my parents give each other a hug for the first time since they separated. It was Thanksgiving, and my mom was dropping me off with my dad's family. I finally saw them put aside their anger for a few seconds and thought to myself, "Maybe this whole divorce thing will get easier with time."

Yet here I am at age 22, and as I was driving down Route 49 going from my mom's family to my dad's family on Thanksgiving Day, I thought to myself, "I can't believe I was so convinced that this whole divorce thing would get easier

with time."

There has always been anger, distrust, and the loudest silence I've ever heard.

But the music has always been louder. It's the only thing that connects me to both of them. My mom used to sing to me every morning to wake me up. She would sing John Denver's "Leaving on a Jet Plane" whenever she pushed me in that little red airplane swing. We still sing Billy Joel's "Only the Good Die Young" at the top of our lungs every time it comes on the car radio. When my dad wasn't around, he sent me cassette tapes of him singing songs like the Beatles' version of "Till There Was You" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow".

My parents' song was "Don't Know Much" by Aaron Neville and Linda Ronstadt. The song sings exactly how I feel.

"I don't know much, but I know I love you. That may be all I need to know."

It took me nearly two decades to begin to truly accept that it really is their problem. It has always been their problem, not mine. I think that's the hardest thing for children of divorce to finally come to terms with. Every day, you're told it's not your fault, but you're also caught in the middle like a tree in a lightning storm, not causing the uproar but likely

to get struck by it. How could you not be? You're made of them. You're what they have to remind them of each other.

During this holiday season and every day of the year, love should outweigh all else, and my love for my parents as well as every other child's love for their parents should be celebrated, appreciated, and recognized, because the relationship between every parent and their child, no matter how complicated, is beautiful in its own way. Just because their love for each other was clouded in anger, distrust, and betrayal, my love for both of them is still very much intact, screaming in the unbearable silence, and that should be very much okay. I will continue to hope that, at some point in the future, I will have them both by my side for the holidays, because that possibility keeps me going every year.

And no matter where I end up, it is because of them that I fly. It is because of them that I choose love over hate, because they have loved me through it all. And I know how toxic hatred can be.

And when I fall, I get back up, and think of what my parents have said to me all my life. "Fly, my darling, fly."

TRIPS

continued from page A14

Tuesday, November 12, 2019: Foxwoods \$25 10 a.m. bus.

For \$25 You get a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino You will have five hours at the casino as the bus will leave Foxwoods at 4 p.m. You will receive \$10 for gaming and \$15 meal voucher.

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UNION SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE CHAPTER 12

Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Chapter #12, Southbridge, is sponsoring a variety of excursions for all to enjoy in 2018. We are a non-profit family oriented Franco-American fraternal society since 1900. As always, you do not have to be a member to participate in any of the scheduled events. All are welcome. Gift certificates purchased in any amount can be used by the recipient to any event at face value. For information or reservations contact Ted at (508) 764-7909.

2018 is the Society's 26th anniversary in providing members and non-members alike the opportunity to experience excursions of a day or extended days. All are welcome to travel with our organization.

UXBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER

All trips leave from the Whitinsville Walmart and the Stop & Shop at 32 Lyman St, Westboro. Make sure to include entree choice, phone # (esp.

cell) and an emergency # when sending payment. "Like" us on Facebook The Silver Club and The Uxbridge Senior Center. Please call Sue at (508) 476-5820 for more information.

The Silver Club BUS TRIPS for 2018 Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information.

The Uxbridge Senior Center and its Silver Club travelling group is offering the following trips for 2019:

March 21, 2019 "THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA" at PPAC: Lunch at Mossimo's on Federal Hill. Please choose: eggplant Parmesan, salmon, or chicken piccata~ \$99.

April 9 JFK Library and museum w/wine tasting & Venezia Restaurant for lunch. \$81. Lunch choices: Baked Haddock, chicken parmesan, steak tips, chicken piccata, or pasta primavera Kentucky w/ARK, horses and more \$869. 7 day trip! March 31-April 6. Includes 12 meals, 2 shows; Loretta Lynn's homestead; Hatfield & McCoy tour; Toyota Tour; tour of Wheeling, WV; cut-through project in Pikeville; horse farm tour; "Grand Canyon of the

South" and other fun highlights!

Hotel Frontenac ("bucket list" hotel!), Quebec: 5 days w/White Mt. Hotel, N. Conway, NH, April 27-May 1: \$999. 8 meals, show, and touring in Quebec. Come and stay at the famous hotel that's in all the photos of Quebec! True luxury!

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NEW LISTING **THOMPSON** - 48 Smith St! 2 Family! 3/8 Rooms! 1/4 Bedrooms! 1/1 Bath! Major Rehab 2005 - Roof, Gutter & Downspouts, Vinyl Siding, Windows, Entry Doors! 2018 Electric Heat Conversion! Gas Hot Water! Off Street Parking! Garage! Town Services! **\$139,900.00**

SOLD **WEBSTER** - 5 Chestnut St! 6 Rm Ranch, 3 Bdrms, Remodeled Bath, Finished Lower Level! Corner Lot! Frplc Liv Rm w/Cathedral, Hrwd Flr, French Drs to 16x24 Deck! Din Rm w/Hrwd! Remodeled Kit w/Cherry Cabinets & SS Appliances! Solar Hot Water! 1 Yr Old Roof! A/G Pool! Shed! **\$269,900.00**

SOLD **AUBURN** - 9 Lorna Dr! 2680' Split Entry! Applianced Oak Eat-in Kit w/Corian Counters! Spacious Liv Rm w/Hrwd! Sun Rm Cathedral to Trex Deck! 3 Bdrms w/Hrwd! Frplc Fam Rm! 2 Full Baths! 4th Bdrm/Office! Laundry! C/Air & Vac! Professionally Landscaped .46 Acre Lot! 2 Car Garage! **\$389,900.00**

WEBSTER - 21 Spring St! 6 Rm Ranch! Eat-in Applianced Kit w/Mahogany Cabinets & Tile Flr! Liv Rm w/Carpet over Hrwd! 3 Bdrms w/Hrwd! Master w/Walk-in Closet! Full Tile Bath! 1X30' Fam/Game Rm! 2nd Bathrm w/Laundry! Workshop! Utility Rm! 2 Z Oil Heat! C/ Airl 2 Car Garage! Porch! Don't Miss Out! **\$219,900.00**

SOLD **DUDLEY** - 13 Pineview Rd! 7 Rm Colonial! Tiled Foyer! Kit w/Wm Area & Slider to Composite Deck! Din Rm! Liv Rm/Dent! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry! 2nd Flr w/3 Carpeted Bdrms & Full Bath! Master w/Walk-in Closet & Bath! Finished Lower Level w/Gas Frplc! Pains! Fire Pit! Roof 2017! Attached 2 Car Garage! Town Services! **\$359,900.00**

SOLD **DUDLEY** - 9 Page Ln! Newly Renovated 6 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Cape! 1 Acre Lot! Oak-de-sac Hrwd! Throughout! Open Liv Rm, Kit & Din Area! SS Appliances! Kitchen! Kit w/Slidr to Composite Deck! 1st Flr Master w/Walk-in Closet & Master Bath! 2nd Flr w/2 Large Bdrms & Full Bath! Garage Under! **\$309,900.00**

ON DEPOSIT **WEBSTER** - 882 School St! Conveniently Located Charming 8 Rm Colonial w/ Natural Woodwork! Eat-in Applianced Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm w/Hardwoods! Fireplaced Living Rm! 4 Possible Bedrooms w/Hardwoods! 2 Bathrooms! Detached Garage! Cosmetics & Updating Needed! **\$141,900.00**

ON DEPOSIT **DUDLEY** - 9 Progress Ave! 6 Rm Cape! Move In Ready! Applianced Eat-in Kit! Din & Liv Rms w/Hrwd! 1st Flr Master w/Hrwd & 2 Dble Closets & Ceiling Fan! 3 Season Porch! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry! 2nd Flr w/3 Bdrms w/Hrwd & a Full Bath! Roofs 2013! Town Services! Quick Close Possible! **\$239,900.00**

SOLD **WEBSTER LAKE** - 54 West Pt Rd! North Pond - Killedeer Isl - West Expo - Beautiful Lake Views & Sunsets! 2002 Built 6+ Rm Colonial! Ideal 2nd Home or Yr Rd Living! Applianced Kit w/Center Isl! Lake Facing Din Rm w/Panoramic Water Views & Recent Wood Flr! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/LP Gas Frplc, Recent Wood Flr & French Door to Deck! 1st Flr Laundry & Hall Bath! 2nd Flr w/5 Spacious Bdrms! Lake Facing Master Suite w/Panoramic Lake Views, Frplc, French Dr to its Deck, Dressing Office Area & Full Bath w/Whirlpool Tub! A 2nd Full Bath off the Hall! Huge Lake Facing Walk-out Lower Level w/Gas Stove & Slider to Stone Patio is Ready for "Finishing"! Additional Lakeside Deck! Dock! **\$559,900.00**

DOUGLAS WATERFRONT! 36 Cedar St! Badluck Pond (110Acres) aka Cedar Lake or Laurel Lake! Western Expo - Beautiful Sunsets! 2.74 Acres! 633' Waterfront! 471' Road Front! Beautiful Private Setting! Huge 28X96', 2,688' Custom 6 Rm Cedar Ranch w/Hrwd Flrs Throughout! Spectacular, Open Din Rm & Great Rm w/Stone Frplc, Soaring Beamed Cedar Cathedral Ceiling, 6 Sky Lights, Recessed Lighting, 1/2 Bath & 3 Sliders to 96' Lake Facing Screened Porch! Custom Kit w/2 Skylights, Recessed Lighting, Slider to Porch, Wall Oven & Center Island w/Triple Bowl Sink, Cooktop & Dishwasher! Mud Rm Entry w/2 Dble Closets, Tile Flr, Door to Kit & Door to Full Bath! 2 Lake Facing Bdrms w/Walk-in Closets, Skylights & Sliders to Porch! Full Tile Bath w/Separate Shower & Whirlpool Bath w/Door to Master & Hall! Office w/Dble Closet! 2.5 Baths Total! Cedar Lined Closets! Full Basement! Plus 36X72' 2 Story Heated Boat House/Garage/Work Shop w/Hall Bath! Upper Level! 5 Rm Caretaker/In-Law Apartment w/2 Full Baths! Game Rm w/Full Bath! 5 Full + 2 Half Baths Total! One of a Kind Waterfront Home! **\$599,900.00**

SOLD **WEBSTER LAKE** - 60 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 52' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Panoramic Lake Views! 8 Rms, 3 Bdrm, 2 Baths, A/C'd, Ranch! Custom SS Applianced Granite Kit! Din Rm w/Hrwd & Slider to Waterfront Deck w/Awning! Lake Facing Frplc Liv Rm w/Cathedral, Skylight & Hrwd! Comfortable Master Bdrm! Frplc Lower Level Fam Rm! 2 Car Garage! **\$729,900.00**

SOLD **WEBSTER LAKE** - 209 Beacon Park! 1280' Townhouse! 5 Rooms! Spectacular Sandy Beach! Fantastic Lakeside Pool! Applianced Kitchen! Carpeted Dining Rm & Fireplace Living Rooms! 2 Spacious Bedrooms! Master Bath! 2.5 Updated Tile Baths! Central Air! Garage! **\$239,000.00**

SOLD **WEBSTER LAKE** - 130 Killedeer Island - North Pond! West Expo - Beautiful Sunsets! 6 Rm 3 Season Home! Add Heat & Use Yr Round! Great Potential! 4 Bdrms w/Hrwd, 2 Lake Facing! Frplc Liv Rm w/Lake Views! Spacious Kit & Dining Area! 2 Baths! 55' of Sandy Beach! **\$475,000.00**

SOLD **WEBSTER LAKE** - 7 Point Pleasant Ave! Panoramic Lake Views! Eastern Expo! Super Sunsets! 9,000' Level Lot! 2,300' Custom Contemp Colonial! Bath 2015! Like New! Open Flr Plan! Custom Granite Kit w/Land, Stainless Appliances, Gas Range, Soft Close Cabinets & Recessed Lights! Spectacular Lake Facing Great Rm, Stone Gas Frplc! Surrounded by Custom Cabinetry, Recessed Lights & Ceiling Fan! Dining Area w/Custom Ceiling! Full Bath w/Granite Vanity & Custom Tile Shower! Laundry Rm "Wood Look" Tile Floors throughout the First Floor! 2nd Flr Features 3 Comfortable Bdrms w/Being Waterfront! Lake Facing Master w/Slider to Deck, Hrwd, Recessed Lighting, Walk-in Closet & Bdrm Access! Lake Facing Bdrm w/Hrwd, Dble Closet & Door to Deck! 3rd Bdrm w/Hrwd & Dble Closet! Full Hall Bath w/Dble Granite Vanity & Tile Flr! C/Air! Gas Heat! 2x30 2 Story Detached Garage! Dock! Get Packing! **\$789,900.00**

ON DEPOSIT **WEBSTER LAKE** - 194 Killedeer Island! North Pond Views! Sandy Shore! 6 Rm Cape! Open Liv & Din Rm w/Newly Restored Fireplaced New Lake Facing Windows! 2 1st Flr Bdrms, 1 Lake Facing! 3 Bdrms! 2 Updated Bathrms! Huge Composite Deck w/Vinyl Rails! Walk-out Lower Level to Courtyard! Garage Under! **\$559,000.00**

SOLD **WEBSTER LAKE** - 12 Kenneth Ave! South Pond! 5 Rm Ranch! 80' Waterfront! Completely Remodeled! 10 Yrs Ago! Kraftmaid Cabinet Kit w/Island & Silstone Counters! Bamboo Wood Flrs Throughout! Open Flr Plan! Composite Deck! Lake Facing Master! 2 Bdrms! Full Bath! Fam Rm! **\$399,900.00**

ON DEPOSIT **WEBSTER LAKE** - 202 Killedeer Island Rd! Panoramic View of North Pond! Natural Sandy Shoreline! Complete Rebuild Since 2002! Custom Center Island Applianced Granite Kitchen w/Walk-in Pantry, Recessed Lighting, Hardwoods & 1/2 Bath! Open Floor Plan! Dining Rm w/Window Seat, 2 Closets & Hardwoods! 19X19 Lake Facing Living Rm w/Hardwoods & 2 Sliders to Deck w/Recent Awning! Upstairs to 4 Bedrooms or 3 Plus Office! Lake Facing Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Walk-in Closet & Master Bath w/Tile Floor, Huge Corner Shower w/Seat, Double Linen Closet! Full Hall Bath! Halfway Laundry Closet! Lake Facing Walk-out Lower Level Family Room, 2 Sliders to Patio! Full Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! 4 Zone Heat & 2 Zone C/Air only 2 Yrs Old! Start Packing! **\$629,900.00**

ON DEPOSIT **WEBSTER LAKE** - 8 Reid Smith Cove Road! Panoramic Lake Views! West Expo! Super Sunsets! 9,088' Lot! Gently Sloping! 2,544' Custom Contemp Cape, Built 09 as 2nd Home, Like New! Open Flr Plan! Spectacular Lake Facing Great Rm w/T Ceiling, Recessed Lights, Sliders to Trex Deck, Stone Gas Frplc, Surround Sound & Glamouring Hrwd! Granite Kit w/Sl, SS Appliances, Soft Close Cabinets, Hrwd & Recessed Lights! 1st Flr Master w/Tile Bath, Whirlpool Tub/Shower, Dble Sink & Linen Closet! Upstairs Sitting Area Overlooking Great Rm w/Lake Views! Hrwd Hall to 2 Bdrms w/Recessed Lights, Ceiling Fans & Dble Closets! Full Bath & Linen Closet! Lower Level Walkout Fam Rm w/Tile Flr, 10' Ceilings, Recessed Lights, Ceiling Fans, Stone Gas Frplc, Surround Sound, Wet Bar & Slider! Full Bath w/Tile Flr! Utility Rm w/Laundry & Storage! Nice Deck! Get Packing! **\$724,900.00**

ON DEPOSIT **WEBSTER LAKE** - 37 Bates Grove Rd! South Pond! As a Second Home, Getaway or Expand it into Your Dream Home - Have Possible Plans! 4+ Rooms! Open Floor Plan! Applianced Kit! 2 Bedrooms! Bathroom! Covered Deck! Ideal Gradual Sloping Lot w/ Panoramic Lake Views! **\$399,900.00**

SOLD **WEBSTER LAKE** - 104 Treasure Island! 1,874' Townhouse! Oak Cabinet Kit w/Breakfast Counter! Formal Din Rm! Frplc Liv Rm! Screened Porch! 1st Flr Master w/Walk-in Closet & Bdrm! 2.5 Baths! 2nd Level w/2nd Master Bdrm & Bath! Recent C/Air! Attached Garage! 2 Boat Slips! Heated Pool! Sandy Beach! **\$324,900.00**

NEW PRICE **WEBSTER LAKE** - 905 Treasure Isl! WATERFRONT Townhouse! 6 Rms! 1,674' Hrwd! SS Applianced Quartz Kit! Open Flr Plan! 2 Bdrms! Master Bath w/Dble Vanity! 2.5 Baths! Frplc! Fam Rm! Newer C/Air & Gas Heat! Trex Deck! Garage! 2 Boat Slips! Heated Pool, Sandy Beach! **\$449,000.00**

HERE & THERE → Local Events, Arts, and Entertainment Listings

ONGOING

MARIACHI BAND
First Thursday of the month
5-8 p.m.
MEXICALI MEXICAN GRILL
Webster location
41 Worcester Rd., Webster, MA
508-461-5070

ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM
Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
CADY'S TAVERN
2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI
401-568-4102

TRIVIA SATURDAY NIGHTS
7:00 p.m. register

7:30 p.m. start up
HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB
325 Pleasant St., Leicester, MA
508-892-9822

TRIVIA NIGHT

WISE GUYS TEAM TRIVIA
Every Tuesday, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
CADY'S TAVERN
2168 Putnam Pike (Rt. 44)
Chepachet, RI
401-568-4102

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY NIGHT
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FRIDAY ACOUSTICS IN THE BAR AND SATURDAY ENTERTAINMENT EVERY OTHER SATURDAY
308 LAKESIDE
308 East Main St.
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THE CENTRAL MA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED meets the first Monday of every month from September through May.
We discuss a variety of conservation programs to improve the local cold water fisheries, local fishing opportunities, our annual High

School Fly Fishing Championship
(open to all MA high school students)
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Auburn Sportsman's Club
50 Elm St., Auburn, MA

Seasons Greeting from Stonebridge Press

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THOMPSON - 2 family on the Thompson/Putnam line, additional .20 of Putnam land included. First floor offers 3 bedrooms with new carpet, 1 bath, living room and spacious kitchen and dining area with newer laminate flooring; 2nd floor is a 1 bedroom, 1 bath unit with updated bathroom. All new baseboard heat installed 2018, replacement windows, siding and windows approx. 17 years old. Only one heating system and one electrical service rent should include heat & electric. Putnam provides the sewer service. Private well with new well pump 2017.
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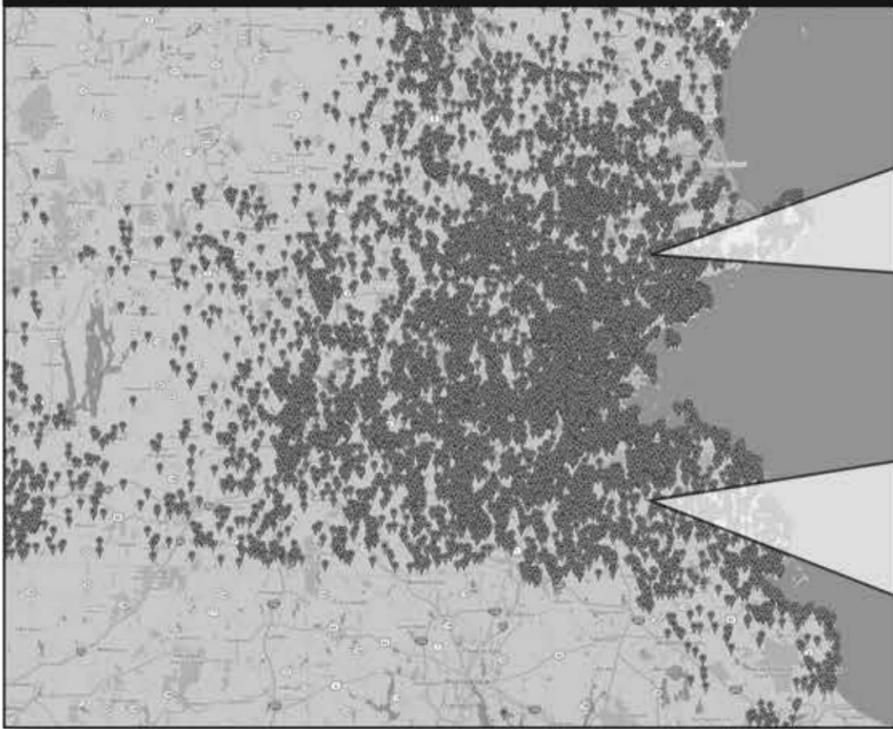
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SMALL BUREAU \$75. Printer's Antique Drawers \$20 Per. Fake Brick Fireplace With Heater \$140 Kitchen Chairs. Spare Tire P225/60R16 Eagle GA With Rim \$45 Vanity Table & Chair \$135. Car Sunroofs \$100. Per. Homemade Pine Coffee Table & 2 End Tables \$100. Antique Lamp Jug \$40. Antique Croquet Set \$40. Wood Truck Ramps 8 Foot \$100.00. Drop Leaf Cart \$50. End Table W/Drawer \$50. End Table W/Drawer \$60. Elvis Presley Silhouette \$50 (he talks!), Indian canvas painting \$60, 9 golf clubs \$100, Call 1-508-764-4458 or 1-774-452-3514

SNOW PLOW, Myers, 61/2' all controls and lights, great condition. Can be seen at Old Cider Mill, Rt. 9, West Brookfield or call 774-232-9382

SNOW TIRES, PIRELLI 245/45R19/102V M+S, 250 miles, \$1000, 508-564-3556

TOOL SHEDS Made of Teature 1-11: 8x8 \$1075 8x10 \$1260; 8x12 \$1350; 8x16 \$1675 Delivered, Built On-Site. Other Sizes Available. CALL (413) 324-1117

Transport chair, Excel Deluxe by Medline 19" seat, up to 300 lbs. Used once. 508-637-1304

TREES/FIELDSTONE: Trees- Evergreens, Excellent Privacy Border. Hemlocks-Spruces-Pines (3-4' Tall) 5 for \$99. Colorado Blue Spruce (18"-22" Tall) 10 for \$99. New England Fieldstone Round/Flat, Excellent Retaining Wallstone. \$28/Ton (508) 278-5762 Evening

TWO USED RECLINERS, \$75 each. Dishwasher, bought new, never used, \$225 or best offer. 508-764-3567 please leave message

010 FOR SALE

VIKING RANGE, PROFESSIONAL SERIES, propane gas, 6-sealed burner, 36" infrared broiler, as new, never lit, still in original packaging, w/tags. Model VCGSC-5366BSS, trades considered. \$4,600 508-865-7470

WE'VE MOVED! Husqvarna lawn tractor, misc. home furnishings, king, queen, twin beds, lamps, etc. priced to sell! No reasonable offer refused. Call 413-896-7047 Sturbridge area.

WHITE OUTDOOR PRODUCTS SNOWBLOWER. 10hp Tecumseh, two stage, 30 in. width. Electric start, well maintained! \$600.00. 508-347-3775

100 GENERAL

105 BULLETIN BOARD

VOLUNTEER NEEDED to shovel sidewalk & back porch for elderly person in Leicester during the winter. 508-868-5953, please leave message.

107 Misc. FREE

FREE TWIN BED MATTRESS AND BOX SPRING, Uxbridge. Good condition. call 508-278-6447

130 YARD SALES

DEADLINE FOR YARD SALE SUBMISSIONS IS NOON MONDAY FOR ALL MASS. WEEKLY PAPERS Deadline subject to change due to holidays Call for more info

200 GEN. BUSINESS

205 BOATS

14' GREAT CANADIAN CANOE includes 2 clamp-on chair seats, 2 paddles, 2 life-vests. Excellent condition. \$425 508-885-3017

CANOE - 17' GRUMMAN ALUMINUM, flat bottom. Ideal for fishing and family fun. \$850. Call Sue 860-412-9632

225 INSTRUCTIONS

Inexpensive guitar lessons in North Brookfield. \$5.00 for kids and \$10.00 adults. My lessons are 1/2 hour long on weekdays or weekends. Call or text 1-774-200-0955 or email gtroutbilly@yahoo.com.

265 FUEL/WOOD

CORD WOOD - Seasoned, cut, split, delivered. \$250 a cord. 508-826-3312, 508-344-9214

FIREWOOD: Cut, Split & Delivered. Green Wood Lots Wanted. Call Paul (508) 769-2351

283 PETS

TEDDY BEAR SHICHON PUPPIES - 3 males, 2 females. Born 8-26-18. Vet checked, available 11-4-18 \$800. 401-678-9166 or 401-419-5889 or 860-315-9945

284 Lost & Found PETS

Did you find your pet? Or find a home for one?

LET US KNOW!!! Please call us so that we can take your ad out of the paper...

Town-To-Town Classifieds
508-909-4111

287 FEED

HAY FOR SALE - \$4 a bale off wagon (pick up only), cash 508-826-3312

298 WANTED TO BUY

ROUTE 169 ANTIQUES: 884 Worcester St., Southbridge MA. Looking To Purchase Antiques And Collectibles Single Items Or Entire Estates. We Buy It All And Also Do On-Site Estate Sales And Estate Auction. We are now accepting dealers for our multi-dealer group shop. Call Mike Anytime (774)230-1662.

298 WANTED TO BUY

ROUTE 169 ANTIQUES: 884 Worcester St., Southbridge MA. Looking To Purchase Antiques And Collectibles Single Items Or Entire Estates. We Buy It All And Also Do On-Site Estate Sales And Estate Auction. We are now accepting dealers for our multi-dealer group shop. Call Mike Anytime (774)230-1662.

298 WANTED TO BUY

LEE'S COINS & JEWELRY \$ BUY & SELL \$ ALL GOLD & SILVER ITEMS Specializing in NUMISMATIC COINS, Bullion Items, gold & silver of any form! Qualified with over 30 years experience & a following of many satisfied customers. We also sell a nice selection of fine jewelry, antiques & collectibles. Bring in your items & see what they're worth. You won't leave disappointed. Honesty and fairness are our best policies! Lee's Coins & Jewelry, 239 West Main Street, East Brookfield (Route 9 - Panda Garden Plaza) (508) 637-1236 or (508)341-6355 (cell)

300 HELP WANTED

WAR RELICS & WAR SOUVENIRS WANTED: WWII & EARLIER CASH WAITING! Helmets, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Medals, Badges, Flags, Uniforms, etc. Over 30 Years Experience. Call David 1-508-688-0847. Ill Come To YOU!

310 GENERAL HELP WANTED

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED: Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support. Generous Reimbursement. \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details. Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care. (508)829-6769

310 GENERAL HELP WANTED

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED: Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support. Generous Reimbursement. \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details. Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care. (508)829-6769

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310 GENERAL HELP WANTED

Medical Billing/ Data Entry - We have a full-time and part-time opening at a small medical billing company. Lytec medical billing software being used. Knowledge of CPT and ICD-9 a plus. Fax resumes to (508)347-7347

310 GENERAL HELP WANTED

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED: Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support. Generous Reimbursement. \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details. Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care. (508)829-6769

311 PART-TIME HELP WANTED

DRIVERS WANTED We are looking for non-emergency medical drivers to work in the Boston/Lowell area. We have hours available all day Monday through Sunday. Please come in and fill out an application M-F, 10-3pm @ 217 Main St., Oxford, MA

325 PROFESSIONAL HELP WANTED

BASED IN North Brookfield: Home Every Night, Class A Driver And/Or General Mechanic For 18-Wheel Trailer Trucks ***** Contact H.R. Salem Transport, LLC. (800) 262-9081

400 SERVICES

433 CLEANING

HOUSE CLEANING AVAILABLE Reasonable rates. Weekly, bi-weekly or monthly times available. Bonded- Call Wendy for a FREE estimate at 774-262-9166

LINDA'S CLEANING SERVICE

Professional cleaning with a personal touch! Over 20 years of cleaning experience. Call Linda 508-341-7025

442 LICENSED DAY CARE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services requires that all ads placed in the newspaper for child care (daycare) in your home include your license number

454 HOME IMPROVEMENT

FURNITURE DOCTOR: Have your furniture Professionally restored at Reasonable rates. Furniture face lifting, painting, stripping to Refinishing, caning and repairs. ANTIQUE DOCTOR, Daniel Ross (508)248-9225 or (860)382-5410. 30 years in business

500 REAL ESTATE

510 COMMERCIAL/ BUSINESSES

COMMERCIAL, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL & STORAGE SPACE: 1,000 to 10,000 sq. ft. facility located in Pomfret, CT. Call Rose Construction 860-928-4072 or email rose.construction.snet.net

546 CEMETERY LOTS

Pine Grove Cemetery, Whitinsville. Double plot for sale, lower than the going price. Yew Avenue. Call owner 774-602-8211

WORCESTER COUNTY MEMORIAL PARK:

Garden of Faith, Paxton, MA. 2 LOTS FOR SALE. BUY ONE FOR \$2,500. GET 2nd LOT FOR FREE!! Call Dick. 508-612-9263

Local Heroes



FOUND HERE!

576 VACATION RESOURCES

CAPE COD TIME SHARE FOR SALE: Edgewater Beach Resort, 95 Chase Avenue, Dennisport, MA 02639 On the water, Studio (Unit 706). Permanent Week 33 (August). Deeded rights. You'll own it for a lifetime & can be passed down to your children and grandchildren. REDUCED \$3500. (508) 347-3145

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

flex week at The Manhattan Club in New York located across from Carnegie Hall. Great buy; illness forces this sale. Asking \$7,000. For details 508-248-5123

Automotive

700 AUTOMOTIVE

725 AUTOMOBILES

1971 Chevy Impala Convertible 400 2 barrel carb with 89,000 miles, 1 owner, runs smooth, new top in 2012, asking \$8,000 or best offer 508-885-6878

1987 BMW 325i Convertible, red with black leather interior, 153,000 miles and in good condition, no rust, newer top, needs a tune-up. \$4100 or B/O, Adam 508-735-4413

1988 Mercury Topaz, 73K miles, one owner, always garaged, showroom condition, white, 2 door, 4 cyl., auto, FWD, PS, PB snows on, driven daily, best offer. 774-232-0920 or 508-892-1462

725 AUTOMOBILES

1998 Mercedes Benz SL500 convertible and removable hard-top. Red to keep you young! Perfect condition. \$14,000 508-885-6988

2001 CAD EL DORADO TC 72,000 miles. Must see! \$11,000 7 Hartley Street, Webster, Mass.

2002 BMW 525IA. \$3995. Call Ray for more details. 508-450-5241

2007 TOYOTA COROLLA S \$3995. Call Ray for more info. 508-450-5241

2008 NISSAN ROGUE S AWD well-maintained, runs, drives, everything works well, passed safety inspection. 126K miles. Very solid in snow. Black interior, brand-new brake pads, front & back. \$4400 774-232-9310

2010 MAZDA M3 ISV. \$6800. Call Ray 508-450-5241

725 AUTOMOBILES

2011 SUBARU OUTBACK - 136,000 miles, great shape, regular maintenance, roof rack, trailer hitch, back-up camera. \$7500. 508-688-7666

2012 TOYOTA RAV4- 79,000 miles. Well-maintained, 3rd row seats, black, one-owner. \$11,000. 508-688-7666

Black 2011 Honda Fit Sport, 5-speed automatic 73,000 miles, very good condition. Asking \$8,000 508-341-7644

Want to Place a Classified Ad? Call 800-536-5836

F250 work truck, 2012, RWD, 71K, equipped with aluminum flatbed with fold-down sides. Recent brakes, battery, ac compressor, tires, 10 ply. Ready to work. 10,000 GVW. \$17,000 508-943-1941 or 508-320-2765

2010 MAZDA M3 ISV. \$6800. Call Ray 508-450-5241

725 AUTOMOBILES

RED 1971 MUSTANG MACH 1 in good condition. 302 engine with automatic transmission. Lots of new parts. Call Eric at 508-987-2628. Serious buyers only.

740 MOTORCYCLES

1991 HARLEY DRESSER: 55,000 Miles. Runs Great! \$4,500 or Will Trade for Car of Equal Value. BASS BOAT 16 1/2ft LUND Very Good Condition! MANY EXTRAS \$3,750 O.B.O. Call for Info (508) 943-5797, Cell (508) 353-9722

Need to Place a Classified Ad? Call 800-536-5836

2002 HARLEY DAVIDSON ELECTRA-GLIDE FLHT 38,340 miles, asking \$6,000 508-277-8745

Want to Place a Classified Ad? Call 800-536-5836

740 MOTORCYCLES

2005 YAMAHA V-STAR 1100 CLASSIC, PEARL-WHITE Has all options-hardbags, windshield, custom seats/exhaust, backrest, floor-boards. 20,000 well-maintained miles. Great looking & performing bike. \$3500 OBO 774-289-4550

Local News

FOUND HERE!

Need to Place a Classified Ad? Call 800-536-5836

740 MOTORCYCLES

BMW MOTORCYCLE, rare K75 (4-stroke in-line 3 cyl motor), 1995. Mileage 10,800 (tires have about 1K wear) color: silver (#705). Asking \$5,200. Accessories: 3rd generation saddlebags with keys and insert bags, tail rack, Monoshock upgraded to YSS dialed to 250 lbs. Adjustable - all documents. Original toolset and bike manual. OEM windshield, Corbin low seat, Trickle charger, heated handgrips. This bike was stored in a garage for many years and is in like-new condition. Cruises between 60-80 with no effort and accelerates 0 to 60 in 4.5 seconds. A true 3-season miler! 508-943-1790 or ndc0001@charter.net

745 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

2007 TRAVEL WILD RV Auto, White, ONLY \$8,995. Herb Chambers Toyota of Auburn, 809 Washington Street, Auburn, MA (877) 906-1649



2016 RIVERSIDE TRAVEL TRAILER RETRO WHITEWATER MODEL 195 bought new, used twice in new condition w/ extras; must give up camping. Asking \$13,900 860-779-3561

750 CAMPERS/ TRAILERS

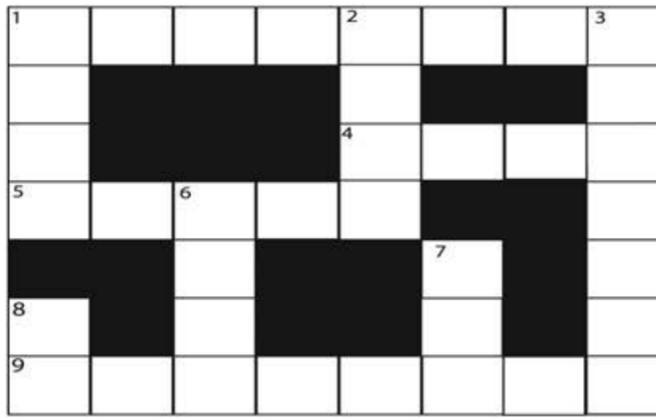
5TH-WHEEL HITCH, 1 yr old, for Chevy or GMC, \$700. Chevy 5th-Wheel tailgate, good condition \$200, 5 trailer tires 235/ 80/16R on mag wheels, like new \$800 Marc 508-847-7542

760 VANS/TRUCKS

2000 GMC 2500 SIERRA 4-door cab & 1/2, 4-wheel drive, no rot, with plow + truck mount slide-in Fleetwood Alcom camper (2001) w



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Special occasions
- 4. Sports group
- 5. Have fun
- 9. Gifts

DOWN

- 1. Place to live
- 2. Task or job
- 3. Small parts to try
- 6. Gets a laugh
- 7. Move fast
- 8. Not down

Answers:
 Across
 1. Holidays 4. Team 5. Enjoy 9. Presents
 Down
 1. Home 2. Duty 3. Samples 6. Joke
 7. Run 8. Up

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1787:** NEW JERSEY BECOMES THE THIRD STATE TO RATIFY THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.
- **1939:** THE BATTLE OF HELIGOLAND BIGHT OCCURS. IT IS THE FIRST MAJOR AIR BATTLE OF WORLD WAR II.
- **2015:** KELLINGLEY COLLIERY, THE LAST DEEP COAL MINE IN GREAT BRITAIN, CLOSES.



HEALTH FACT:
 DOING THIS ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS CAN IMPROVE FEELINGS OF HAPPINESS AND MAY IMPROVE OVERALL HEALTH.

ANSWER: GIVING GIFTS



BESTOW

present a gift or honor

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Grandfather
- SPANISH:** Regalo
- ITALIAN:** Regalo
- FRENCH:** Cadeau
- GERMAN:** Geschenk

Did you know?



THE AVERAGE AMERICAN WILL SPEND AROUND \$900 ON HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COWORKERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PRESENT

LEGALS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Wales Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., in Wales Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA to consider an application for site plan review and special permit for a large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic project at 40 Sizer Drive submitted by Sunpin Holdings, LLC. A complete copy of the application and site plan may be seen in the Wales Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA, 9:00am – 2:00pm, M-Th. APPLICANT: Sunpin Holdings, LLC WALES PLANNING BOARD: James Whalen, Chairman December 21, 2018 December 28, 2018



www.StonebridgePress.com

SUDOKU

2			8			4		
	7							3
4			1		2			
					1	6		
	1			4	8	3		
	5			2	3			9
9	3							
	2							5
6		5						7

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	8	5	3	1	4	9	2	7
1	2	7	9	8	6	5	4	3
9	3	4	2	7	5	8	1	6
8	5	6	7	2	3	1	9	4
7	1	9	6	4	8	3	5	2
3	4	2	5	9	1	6	7	8
4	6	3	1	5	2	7	8	9
5	7	8	4	6	9	2	3	1
2	9	1	8	3	7	4	6	5

ANSWER:

Bay State Savings Bank

We take banking personally.

Member FDIC
Member DIF
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER

Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

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 (508) 890 - 9000 | (800) 244 - 8161
 (508) 890 - 9090 (Español)

REGULAR STORE HOURS: MONDAY THRU THURSDAY 9 AM TO 9 PM • FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9 AM TO 10 PM • SUNDAY 10 AM TO 6 PM

Sterling Vintners
Chard 750ML
\$7.98 net

LARGEST SELECTION

YANKEE
Discount Liquor, Wine & Beer
SPIRITS

LOWEST PRICES

Don Q Rums
1.75L
\$17.99

376 MAIN STREET - ROUTE 20,
STURBRIDGE, MA ☎ 508.347.2231

207 SWANSEA MALL DRIVE,
SWANSEA, MA ☎ 508.672.8400

628 WASHINGTON STREET
S. ATTLEBORO, MA ☎ 508.399.5860

942 PROVIDENCE HIGHWAY
NORWOOD, MA ☎ 781.762.0539

WINE	Woodbridge 1.5 all varietals.....	\$9.98 net	Louis Martini Sonoma Cabernet.....
	(save an additional \$10 per case after Mail-in-Rebate)		(save an additional \$24 per case with Mail-in-Rebate)
	Yellowtail 1.5 all varietals (save an additional.....)	\$8.98 net	Columbia Crest H-3 Cabernet.....
	(\$12 per case after Mail-in-Rebate)		(save an additional \$24 per case with Mail-in-Rebate)
	Lindemans 1.5 all varietals.....	\$8.98 net	Ch Ste Michelle Chardonnay or Riesling.....
	(save an additional \$12 per case after Mail-in-Rebate)		(save an additional \$24 per case with Mail-in-Rebate)
	Beringer California Collection 1.5 all varietals.....	\$7.98 net	Columbia Crest Grand Estates.....
	(save an additional \$12 per case after Mail-in-Rebate)		(save an additional \$24 per case with Mail-in-Rebate)
	Cavit 1.5 all varietals.....	\$9.98 net	Ecco Domani Pinot Grigio.....
	(save an additional \$12 per case after Mail-in-Rebate)		(save an additional \$24 per case with Mail-in-Rebate)
Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc.....	\$11.98 net	Alamos Malbec.....	
Mark West Pinot Noir.....	\$7.98 net	(save an additional \$24 per case after Mail-in-Rebate)	
Black Box 3.0 liter all varietals.....	\$15.98 net	Ruffino Prosecco.....	
(save an additional \$3 with Mail-in-Rebate)		(save an additional \$3 with Mail-in-Rebate)	
J Lohr Chardonnay.....	\$8.98 net	J Lohr Seven Oaks Cabernet.....	
		\$11.98 net	
SPIRITS	Tito's Vodka 1.75 liter.....	\$27.99	Dewar's 12 Year Old 1.75 liter.....
	Absolut Vodka 1.75 liter.....	\$24.99	(save an additional \$5 after Mail-in-Rebate)
	Stolichnaya Premium Vodka all flavors 1.75 liter.....	\$24.99	Jim Beam White Label 1.75 liter.....
	(save an additional \$7 after Mail-in-Rebate)		(save an additional \$7 after Mail-in-Rebate)
	Bombay Sapphire Gin 1.75 liter.....	\$32.99	Woodford Reserve 1.75 liter.....
	(save an additional \$5 after Mail-in-Rebate)		Jack Daniels Black, Honey, or Fire 1.75 liter.....
	Hendrick's Gin 1.75 liter.....	\$52.99	Evan Williams Bourbon 1.75 liter.....
	Jose Cuervo Silver or Gold 1.75 liter.....	\$29.99	Fireball Whiskey 1.75 liter.....
	Admiral Nelson Spiced Rum 70 proof 1.75 liter.....	\$14.99	Courvoisier VS 1.75 liter.....
	Bacardi Silver, Gold, Black, or Flavored Rums 1.75 liter.....	\$19.99	Disaronno Amaretto 1.75 liter.....
	(save an additional \$5 after Mail-in-Rebate)		St. Brendan's Irish Cream 1.75 liter.....
	Kahlua 1.75 liter.....	\$29.99	(save an additional \$8 after Mail-in-Rebate)
	Bushmills Irish Whiskey 1.75 liter.....	\$31.99	

See for yourself why Yankee Spirits superstores are recommended by more locals than any other adult-beverage store. What you'll save is worth the trip.

Net = No additional discount. MIR = Save more when you use Mail in Rebate. We reserve the right to limit quantities. You must be at least 21 years of age to purchase/consume alcohol. Please drink responsibly. Not responsible for typographical errors. Rebate quantities are subject to limitation by the manufacturer. These alcoholic beverages may be subject to payment of Connecticut or Rhode Island Alcoholic Beverage Tax and Connecticut Use Tax, and may be subject to seizure as contraband.

YANKEESPIRITS.COM
HOLIDAY HOURS - DEC 16 & 23: 10AM TO 8PM • DEC 24: 9AM TO 8PM • CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
SALE: DEC 1-31, 2018

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

PLACE MOTOR INC.

The "Right Place" since 1923

19 THOMPSON RD. WEBSTER, MA.
(508) 943-8012
PLACEMOTOR.COM

NEW

2018 FORD F150 XLT

Stock #8036
SuperCrew Cab, V-6

The Right Price

\$41,069

MSRP Before Discounts.....	\$54200.00
XLT Luxury Discount.....	\$1750.00
XLT Nav Discount.....	\$500.00
XLT PWR Group Discount.....	\$250.00
EcoBoost Cust Cash.....	\$300.00
Retail Cust Cash.....	\$3500.00
Ford Credit Cash.....	\$500.00
Bonus Cust Cash.....	\$2000.00
Specific Cust Cash.....	\$500.00
Fast Cash.....	\$1000.00
Place Discount.....	\$2831.00
Right Price.....	\$41,069
TOTAL SAVINGS ...	\$13,131

* Requires approved Ford Motor Credit financing. Offer Expires 1/2/2019

<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">2018 FORD FUSION</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Sedan, I-4 cyl, Low Miles</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; margin: 5px 0;">JUST REDUCED</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red; margin: 5px 0;">\$22,523</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK# 704X</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">2017 FORD EDGE TITANIUM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">SUV, I-4 cyl</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; margin: 5px 0;">\$27,923</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK# 686X</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">2018 ECOSPORT TITANIUM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Save a Ton Compared to New</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; margin: 5px 0;">\$21,923</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK# 708X</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">2017 FORD MUSTANG GT</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Convertible</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; margin: 5px 0;">\$37,523</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK# 630X</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">2017 FORD EXPEDITION EL</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Tons of Room!</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; margin: 5px 0;">\$38,923</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK# 632X</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">2016 FORD F350 LARIAT</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Crew Cab, Diesel w/Plow!</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; margin: 5px 0;">\$56,923</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK# 9004A</p>

ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER!

PLACE MOTOR INC.

OFFICIAL FISHER SNOW PLOW DISTRIBUTOR

SALES, SERVICE, PARTS, ACCESORIES AND INSTALLATION

EXPRESS

Friday, December 21, 2018

AUBURN NEWS • BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE
 SPENCER NEW LEADER • SOUTHBRIDGE NEWS
 STURBRIDGE VILLAGER • CHARLTON VILLAGER
 WEBSTER TIMES

Merry Christmas



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of Worcester, Inc.

FAMILY HEALTH CENTER OF WORCESTER, INC.

Quality primary care, dental care, and health benefits assistance for the entire family.

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Free Health Insurance Assistance

Are you uninsured?
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 Talk with one of our Health Benefits Navigators today.

Open Enrollment ends January 23rd!

32 Orchard Street, Southbridge, MA 01550
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 www.FHCW.org/Southbridge

26 Queen Street, Worcester, MA 01610
 (508) 860-7700
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 Open Saturdays 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 www.FHCW.org

CHRISTMAS SALE!

HUNDREDS OF HOT DEALS!

OPEN DEC. 22ND 8AM-10PM & DEC. 23RD 9AM-10PM

2000 APPLIANCES IN STOCK FOR PICK-UP OR QUICK DELIVERY

BETTER THAN THE BIG BOX STORES

MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: REG. \$299 - NOW \$199
 FULL: REG. \$499 - NOW \$269
 QUEEN: REG. \$599 - NOW \$299



FRIGIDAIRE
 4 PIECE STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCE PACKAGE
\$1699

ALL Samsung & LG TV's ON SALE
 ALL Refrigerators ON SALE
 ALL Washers and Dryers ON SALE

BAD CREDIT? EASY FINANCING ON EVERYTHING IN THE STORE!

GIANT TOY CLEARANCE!
 SAVE UP TO 30% OFF SELECT ITEMS

10% OFF ALL BIKES
 With this ad. Expires 12/20/2018

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!
 SKATES, SLEDS, TUBES, TOBOGGANS

40" SMART TELEVISION Reg. \$329.99 \$229.99	65" 4K TELEVISION Reg. \$1799.99 \$599.99	55" LED TELEVISION Reg. \$499.99 \$349.99
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HOME

Get your home fall- and winter-ready with 5 simple projects

(MS)—If boots, a warm hat and a tuned-up snow blower are the only items on your winter preparation list, your home maintenance plan may need a makeover. These simple home maintenance projects can help lower your energy bills, prevent more costly repairs and/or increase the lifespan of your home.

1. Heating & Ventilation — Examine your fireplace and chimney system to ensure that no soot or creosote has collected. Any cracks or voids could potentially cause a fire. Before you turn the furnace or boiler on, replace the air filter and hire a professional to inspect the unit more thoroughly. These steps will improve the efficiency and life of your furnace and will ensure stable indoor air quality.

2. Seal Windows and Doors — If not properly sealed, windows and doors can be a major culprit for heat loss. To keep the warm air inside, inspect the weather-stripping around your home's windows and doors for leaks, rot or decay.



Repair or replace structural framing, and caulk inside and out, if necessary.

3. Insulate well — One of the easiest and most effective defenses against heat loss is proper insulation. Prevent cold drafts

from entering and the loss of heated air through basement headers, which, when left exposed, can make your furnace work harder. Look for a moisture-resistant product offering high thermal performance, such

as Roxul Comfortbatt insulation. This type of mineral wool insulation makes installation simple. All that's needed is a serrated blade or bread knife. Cut the batt to fit the cavity and press into place. The insulation will

help improve energy efficiency as soon as it's in place and provide savings over the lifetime of your home. Comfortbatt can also be used to top or replace old attic insulation. Aim for an R-50 or a depth of 16 inches.

4. Backyard Care — Save your property from potential damage by trimming overgrown trees and shrubs to prevent ice-laden branches from thrashing against electrical wires and your home's exterior. Drain/shut off any exterior faucets and sprinkler systems to prevent freezing. Ensure rain or snow drains away from the house to avoid foundation problems.

5. Roof and Gutters — Inspect your roof for shingles that are warped, damaged or even missing to prevent a future leak. Use roofing cement and a caulking gun to seal joints where water could penetrate, such as around the chimney, skylights or vent pipes. Make sure that your gutters and downspouts are securely fastened. Downspouts should extend at least five feet away from the home to prevent flooding.

When it comes to preventative maintenance, a little time and effort can save thousands in energy costs and repair bills over the lifetime of your home.

Keep on going green this winter

Each season presents its own unique set of challenges. From summer heat waves to spring rainstorms to snowfall in winter, the planet throws a lot at its inhabitants.

Living an eco-friendly lifestyle is often simple. But sometimes the weather can make it hard to maintain a commitment to going green. Winter weather can be particularly challenging, as it can be hard to sacrifice convenience and comfort in the face of harsh weather. But there are ways to stay true to your eco-friendly roots even when winter weather is at its most unpleasant.

- Save your fireplace ashes. If your home has a fireplace that you like to cozy up next to in winter, you can make great use of the ashes left behind when the fire goes out. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, ashes from wood-burning fireplaces can be added to compost heaps. Once added, these ashes help to create a soil amendment that can deliver valuable nutrients to your garden. After each fire, collect the ashes rather than sweeping them up and discarding them. Then add the collected ashes to your compost pile when the weather permits.

- Install a programmable thermostat. If you don't already have one, install a programmable thermostat in your home. The Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy notes that homeowners can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs by turning their thermostats back 7° to 10° F for eight hours per day. Set the thermostat to drop 10° F when the family leaves for work and/or school in the morning, programming it to return to a more comfortable level when the family returns home at night. This saves you from sitting in a cold home

while also saving you money by making sure you are not paying to heat an empty house.

- Have your home heating system inspected before winter hits full swing. Home heating systems, including boilers and furnaces, should be inspected by a professional each year, ideally before the arrival of winter. Heating systems that are not operating at peak efficiency will cost homeowners money and waste energy. If you notice yourself frequently increasing the temperature on your thermostat just to keep your home warm and comfortable, call a local HVAC professional to inspect the system. Scheduling such an appointment prior to the arrival of winter can save you the cost and discomfort of living with an inefficient system.

- Choose an electric snowblower. Many homeowners now use snowblowers instead of shovels to remove snow from their properties. While snow shovels are the most eco-friendly snow removal tool, even the most eco-conscious homeowners recognize how snowblowers make snow removal easy and more efficient. But gas-powered snowblowers consume substantial amounts of fuel. If you must use a snowblower, choose an electric one instead of one powered by gas. Even though electric snowblowers consume electricity, the EPA notes that such products leave a smaller carbon footprint than gas-powered snowblowers because they do not emit greenhouse gases.

Harsh winter weather can make it challenging to live in an eco-friendly way. But there are many ways to withstand winter and do so in a way that does not hurt the planet.



Seeing green: How to help your lawn bounce back from winter



Winter weather, including snow, can damage lawns, leaving homeowners with some work to do when spring arrives.

Lawns are exposed to the elements throughout the year, and each season brings its own unique set of challenges. Summer heat waves can make it hard for lawns to maintain their lush green appeal, while the falling leaves of autumn can threaten root systems if not handled properly. Winter frost and snow also can pose a threat to lawns, leaving homeowners with some work to do when spring arrives.

Spring is a season of revival, and that spirit of rejuvenation extends to lawns. When the last vestiges of winter begin to disappear, homeowners can dust off their gardening gloves and start taking steps to revitalize their lawns for the months ahead.

- Look for signs of damage. Winter can be hard on lawns, so it's important for homeowners to look for signs of damage before they begin planning any spring-time landscaping projects. Salt damage can occur in areas that received heavy snowfall over the winter. Many communities use rock salt to de-ice snow- and ice-covered roads, and that rock salt is largely made up of sodium chloride, which can draw moisture from grass and cause it to brown. Salt trucks used during winter storms often spit salt out onto lawns, so don't be surprised if you notice brown spots on your grass, especially in those areas closest to the road. Winter lawn damage may also be caused by voles, burrowing mouse-like rodents that make paths beneath the snow to hide from predators and feed on grass blades and roots. Lawns with distinctly matted areas may also have been damaged by snow mold that can weaken turf.

- Consult a professional landscaper. Homeowners with considerable experience tending to damaged lawns can no doubt identify and address problems on

their own. That's because many problems are a result of the weather, which tends to be similar and produce similar problems from one year to the next. But inexperienced homeowners should consult professional landscapers before attempting to address problems on their own. Winter lawn damage may be caused by a variety of factors that can produce similar symptoms, and professional landscapers can identify the culprits behind such damage and provide the most effective solutions to restore the lawn.

- Remove debris. A light raking can help remove any debris that accumulated over the winter. Such debris, which may include fallen branches and fallen leaves left behind from the final days of fall, can prevent lawns from getting the sun and water they need to thrive. Remove this debris, but make sure the grass is not frozen when you do, as walking on frozen grass can cause further damage.

- Let the grass grow. Mowing the lawn is a chore that's reserved for spring, summer and maybe early fall, but it's important that homeowners don't jump the gun and mow too early after winter. A patient approach allows the grass to reestablish itself, so let it grow a little higher than you normally would before the first cut. When the grass is roughly 4.5 inches high, you can cut it down to three inches and then maintain your normal mowing routine throughout the rest of spring and summer.

Revitalizing lawns in springtime is a priority for many homeowners, who should always consult landscaping professionals if they feel uncertain about addressing any damage they discover during their post-winter lawn inspections.



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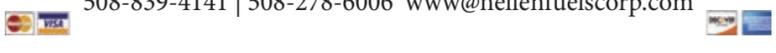
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