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Friday, December 13, 2019

New Hope UCC breaks the mold to bring families Christmas fun!



Courtesy Photo
Paige Higby (center) tries out a few Christmas Carnival activities with the Lamparth boys (left to right) Dennis, Eli and Christopher.

STURBRIDGE — New Hope United Church of Christ, “the fun church,” is once again reaching out to the community by hosting a free Christmas Carnival on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

While churches traditionally use holiday time for fundraisers, New Hope UCC wanted alleviate some of the pressure on families of all varieties and to give them gift of laughter and holiday fun by hosting this free event. There will four or five craft and science stations, four to five game stations, door prizes, a quiet corner for holiday storytelling, a simple lunch offering and a take home goodie bag for each child.

It was all the brainchild of Liz Lamparth, a busy mother of three active boys. The congregation jumped into

Local experts say “do your research” on CBD

BY GUS STEEVES
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Laura Huard has a lot of experience with cannabis, saying she’s found it helpful over the years for a range of ills, from skin to anxiety to her son’s migraines.

But that doesn’t mean she just accepts all the hype that’s come to surround the growing marijuana and hemp industry. Under the name Hole in the Wall LLC, she makes and sells CBD oils, salves and tinctures, and strongly urges people to get the paperwork to make sure whatever they use has been tested.

“You can buy this stuff in gas stations,” her husband and partner, Mark Huard, agreed. “Do your research. Some things are insanely expensive, but some are insanely cheap,” and buyers should be wary of both.

Legally, testing for CBD products isn’t (yet) required (but it is required for THC products), so “a lot of products don’t have the correct amount of CBD in them,” she notes. “Some have none, some have more” than their labels state.

Finding the right one for personal use can depend on several factors, some of them we don’t know much about yet. She notes effective dosing can vary a lot, and people should start low and work their way up to one that works for whatever they’re using it for. But there are some people for whom CBD doesn’t work, although in her experience, even those folks won’t see negative side effects.

“I have no medical training,” Huard admits. “This just comes from years and years and years of knowledge for myself and my family.”

Mark Huard agrees. He said

he’s found relief from spinal stenosis that used to require him to wear a back brace almost everywhere and caused his arms to get numb.

“We’ve seen a lot of coincidences with things,” he said, referring to people using CBD in conjunction with other treatments. “But [the real question] is why does it happen and how does it happen?”

Both of them note there are some circumstances where you should not use CBD – but many of them are also cases where mixing any substances can be dangerous. One is pregnancy, since almost anything the mother uses will pass through the placenta to the fetus. Another is when using some diabetes medications.

They also note cannabis should generally be avoided by young people, because their bodies aren’t yet fully developed. But Mark said one famous case led to the discovery that a certain cannabis strain without THC has notably reduced seizures in childhood epilepsy. It’s now called Charlotte’s Web after the girl who took it in Brooklyn.

These days, one of the more common uses Laura Huard puts CBD to is stress relief.

“I did my CBD before I came up here. No matter how often I talk, I get anxious,” she admits.

She said she sees an effect almost instantly “but for other people, it seems to take up to 20 minutes.” Curiously, her father is an exception; she said it can take two days for him to see an effect.

Regardless, Huard is a big proponent of CBD, saying it has antimicrobial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory and other effects

PFAS chemicals subject of talk

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE — As an acronym, PFAS is pretty non-assuming. As a full name, it’s a bit of a mouthful: per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

But as a group of more than 4700 chemicals, it’s increasingly being recognized as a health threat that’s in use nearly everywhere and is already in the bodies of nearly every American citizen, even infants.

According to Maia Fitzstevens, a water quality project scientist at the Silent Spring Institute, PFAS were first manufactured (they do not exist naturally) in the 1950s and have since been used in all kinds of things, including non-stick cookware, various waxes, food packaging (including cans and coated pizza boxes), fire-fighting foams, Goretex jackets and flame-retardant furniture. Although a few have been banned (particularly bisphe-nol-A) and others are under scrutiny as carcinogens, there are so many of them that corporations engage in what she dubbed “regrettable substitu-

tion,” making a slight formula change that doesn’t change its properties.

She spoke last Thursday to a small audience as part of the Festival of (Giving) Trees, although her talk was not in the festival calendars posted in many local places or on the



Gus Steeves Photo
Maia Fitzstevens talks to Rep. Paul Frost after her presentation.

Please Read **PEAS**, page **A4**

Charlton police raise funds for Harrington’s Cancer Center

SOUTHBIDGE — The Cancer Center at Harrington received a check for \$1,300 from the Charlton Police Department on behalf of its fundraising efforts for the Pink Patch Project. The Charlton Police Explorers, Police Department and Charlton Dudley Youth Football and Cheer teamed up to sell more than 100 patches, with 100 percent of the proceeds going toward The Cancer Center in Southbridge.

Retired Police Detective Mike McGrath said it was important for the group that the money raised directly supports patients in treatment. The Cancer Center has a dedicated fund that helps patients and their families with co-pay assistance, medication expenses, transportation and other helpful items. The CDYFC donated their concession stand tip jar during a few home games, and the Police also set up a table at Treehouse



Courtesy Photo
From left: Stacy Delacruz, Harrington Infusion Nurse; Heather Staniszewski, Harrington Infusion Nurse; Donna Kentley, PA, The Cancer Center at Harrington; Joseph Fantini, Executive Director of Fundraising for CDYFC; Austin Foyle, Lieutenant with the Charlton Police Explorers; Stephanie LaChance, Charlton-Dudley Cheery Director; Beth Bourassa, Treasurer, CDYFC; Graham Maxfield, Charlton Police Chief.

Please Read **CANCER CENTER**, page **A4**

Relieving the pressure one box at a time!



STURBRIDGE — New Hope United Church of Christ, the fun church, sent some smiles, goodies, and a bit of relief to their students and military personnel recently as they sent off their care boxes.

"Our youth are under so much pressure these days. sending goodie boxes serve as friendly reminders that they may be out of our sight but never out of our hearts and prayers," said

Courtesy Photo

Connie Thompson peeks over pile of Care Boxes as they get ready for shipping.

Reneé Graveline, Mission Shepherd.

The congregation donates items and treats and does their best to customize each of them. Each box includes an encouraging note from Pastor Janet. The boxes go out twice a year and are scheduled arrive just before exams. One funny note was that in the age of e-mail and social media, we've discovered that the students rarely check and may not even have a snail mail box so we let them know when it's on its way - electronically of course.

New Hope United Church of Christ, the fun church, is located at 345 Main St. (in

the Bethlehem Lutheran Building). It offers Church School from 10 - 10:45 a.m., and parents are invited to drop off or chill out with coffee. Worship is at 11 a.m.

New Hope United Church of Christ is a judgment-free Christian community who believes that everyone has important insights and gifts to offer. They sincerely welcome and value everyone, everyone, everyone. They happily partner with and serve our local and global neighbors in peace, hope and love. You can find them on the Web at www.newhopeucc.org.

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Hitchcock Happenings

BRIMFIELD — Following is the schedule of events and activities for next week at Hitchcock Academy.

Monday, December 16

REMINDER: You can sign up for all classes and find more information regarding classes on our website: hitchcockacademy.org. Please remember to like us on Facebook.

FAMILY FOUNDATION 5: Free preschooler programs sponsored by a Union 61 Family Foundation 5 Grant. Monday: Playgroup 9-11 AM; bring a snack. Questions? Contact Cheryl Cameron at union61@tantasqua.org

WEIGHT WATCHERS: Traditional Weight Watchers meetings. Weigh-in/Registrations: 5:30PM Meeting: 6:00 PM Leader: Angela Kramer. Visit www.weightwatchers.com to become a member or to learn more about Weight Watchers.

SEN-I JUDO CLUB: 4:30 – 6 PM

Develop discipline, confidence, fitness, a sense of team work and have fun. For details and registration call Sensei Israel Lopez 413 279-4330.

YOGA: 7:15-8:45 PM This 90 minute Hatha Yoga practice will relax and rejuvenate you with guided meditations. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Instructor: Sharon Palmer M.Ed. Certified 500 hour Kripalu Yoga Teacher

Tuesday, December 17

ART GROUP: 9 – 11:30 AM Bring your own art and enjoy the company of other artists as they explore and encourage each other in creative adventures.

PILATES: 5:15 – 6:15 PM A perfect class for those who wish to unwind right after work. A mat floor exercise targeting the core muscles, Pilates improves flexibility, posture, balance and strength. Instructor: Karen Larsen

PILATES: 6:15 – 7:15 PM A great way to start your evening. A mat floor exercise targeting the core muscles, Pilates improves flexibility, posture, balance and strength. Instructor: Karen Larsen

Wednesday, December 18

WATERCOLOR: 9:30 – Noon For all levels – ongoing watercolor classes with new paintings every three weeks. Instructor: Beth Parys. For more infor-

mation and to register call: 413.245.3295
FAMILY FOUNDATION 5: Free preschooler programs sponsored by a Union 61 Family Foundation 5 Grant. Music and Movement: 9 – 10 AM

Thursday, December 19

FAMILY FOUNDATION 5: Free preschooler programs sponsored by a Union 61 Family Foundation 5 Grant. Thursday: STEM Experiments 9-10:30 AM. Bring a snack. Questions? Contact Cheryl Cameron at union61@tantasqua.org

VIOLIN LESSONS: 2-5 p.m. Instructor: Linda Day Newland, violinist in the Austin Symphony Orchestra for 22 years. Lessons available for all ages and all levels

SEN-I JUDO CLUB: 4:30 – 6 PM Develop discipline, confidence, fitness, a sense of team work and have fun. For details and registration call Sensei Israel Lopez 413 279-4330.

FENCING: 6:15-7:15 Youth and adult classes with Andy Bloch.

K9 NOSEWORK® 7 – 8:30 PM. This is a sport open to all breeds of dogs and their people. Progressive training levels offered. Offered at 3 levels. (6 classes) Fee: \$145 Instructor: Laurie Merritt, MED, CPDT-KA, CNWI; Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge



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The Sturbridge 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) 909-4111 or email news@stonebridgepress.com. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

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Friday, December 20

ALCOHOLICS

ANONYMOUS: Traditional open AA meetings in a friendly setting. Come early to chat and share in refreshments. Time: 7:30 PM

December events at the Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — Following is a complete list of holiday-themed events at the Joshua Hyde Library during the month of December.

Saturday, December 14: Build a Blizzard. Children are welcome to create and decorate a snowflake. Snowflakes will be displayed in the Children's Room creating a winter wonderland! Free. 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Sunday, December 15: Build a Blizzard. Children are welcome to create and decorate a snowflake. Snowflakes will be displayed in the Children's Room creating a winter won-

derland! Free. 12:00 – 4:30 PM

Tuesday, December 17: Drop-in Story Time. Join us for stories, songs, and a fun craft activity. Children of all ages welcome with caregiver. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. 10:45 AM

Thursday, December 19: Polar Express Pajama Party. We'll enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while watching the holiday classic "The Polar Express." Children are encouraged to wear their PJs but it's not required. Pre-registration required. Adults must be accompanied by a child. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of

JHL. 6:30 PM

Saturday, December 21: Build a Blizzard. Children are welcome to create and decorate a snowflake. Snowflakes will be displayed in the Children's Room creating a winter wonderland! Free. 12:00 – 4:30 PM

Saturday, December 21: Marshmallow Snowman Craft. We'll create "Smores the Snowman" with inedible craft supplies. Pre-registration required. Supplies are limited. For children ages 4-14 years. Adult must accompany child ages 4-10. Ages 11-14 must have adult in building. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of

JHL. 2:30-3:00 PM

Sunday, December 22: Build a Blizzard. Children are welcome to create and decorate a snowflake. Snowflakes will be displayed in the Children's Room creating a winter wonderland! Free. 12:00 – 4:30 PM

Thursday, December 26: Grab Bag Craft. Kids! Stop in the Children's Room and select a bag of assorted craft material. Once home, add your own supplies and let your imagination run wild! Supplies are limited. Free. 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Thursday, December 26: Mad Science presents "Young Wizards Workshop." Learn about the physics behind Harry Potter in this fun and interactive event. For children ages 6-12 years with caregiver. Pre-registration required. Space is limited. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. 3:00-4:00 PM

Saturday, December 28:

Build a Blizzard. Children are welcome to create and decorate a snowflake. Snowflakes will be displayed in the Children's Room creating a winter wonderland! Free. 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Saturday, December 28: Family Movie Matinee. Enjoy a snack while watching "Abominable" (PG, 98 min.) with us. Free. Pre-register, please. 12:00 PM

Sunday, December 29: Build a Blizzard. Children are welcome to create and decorate a snowflake. Snowflakes will be displayed in the Children's Room creating a winter wonderland! Free. 12:00 – 4:30 PM

Tuesday, December 31: Jeannie Mack returns with her Winter Songfest! Fun, familiar, and new music to celebrate the winter season! Perfect for children ages 2-7 years with caregiver. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. Pre-register, please. 11:00 AM



Gus Steeves Photos

Laura Huard talks about her CBD-based business and related issues.

CBD

continued from page 1

on the body. That's in large part because human cells (particularly in the immune system) have natural cannabinoid (CB-2) receptors, and she argues that through much of human history, most of us had regular small doses of it from various sources (often hemp seeds, which are edible by people and were long grown as feed for farm animals).

Historically, cannabis has been traced back at least 5,000 years. The plant is native to the steppes of Central Asia, and the earliest known archeological evidence of its use was found in Chinese graves. In reality, there are three species – Cannabis sativa (by far the most common), C. indica, and the very rare C. ruderalis – plus other plants that have chemicals that mimic cannabinoids and use the same body receptors.

CBD, an abbreviation for cannabidiol, is just one of more than 200 natural chemicals found in the plants. Growers have bred many strains with varying concentrations of them, mostly for THC and CBD, the two for which we have the most research.



CBD products come in various forms, including edibles, salves and tinctures (shown here).

Testing facilities currently test for a handful of others, as well as metals, toxins, molds and pesticides to ensure purity.

Huard said the various forms CBD comes in have various uses. For skin issues and surface pains, she typically uses a soap or salve, but for deeper issues, edibles or tinctures might be better. The latter come in two main forms – oil- or alcohol-based (she prefers oils); alcohols get into the bloodstream more quickly, but the body absorbs more CBD from oils, she said.

Both of them say there's still a need for better education around cannabis, particularly for medical professionals. While some have been more-or-less quietly embracing it, others strongly reject it – something Mark largely attributes to the influence of the pharmaceutical

industry.

Last year, federal law legalized hemp growing, is working toward allowing hemp firms to use banks, and multiple bills have been filed to legalize marijuana outright. But there have also been some conflicts. In our state, for example, the government greatly restricted hemp farmers' ability to sell this year's crop after farmers had planted it. Furthermore, the rules for hemp set a very low THC limit – just three tenths of a percent – and mandate that anything above that be burned. In Vermont, he said, the state allows those accidentally-higher levels to be sold to dispensaries.

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

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New town administrator announced

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – After a brief but extensive search process the Charlton Board of Selectmen has chosen the top candidate to serve as their new Town Administrator.

In October, Charlton said farewell to long-time town administrator Robin Craver leading the town’s top board to initiate a search for a new hire with the goal of solidifying the new administrator before the end of the calendar year.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, selectmen welcomed the three finalists, Barre town administrator Andrew Golas, former Bourne Town Administrator Thomas Guerino, and Mendon town administrator Kimberly Newman to be interviewed in a lengthy question and answer

session giving each individual time to share their experience and goals for the Charlton community. In the end, Kimberly Newman was chosen as the first choice to fill the vacancy receiving the most first place rankings among the selectmen who each ranked the candidates on their own private ballots. Golas was ranked second and would be the candidate approached should negotiations between the town and Newman fall through.

Prior to revealing their rankings, the selectmen all praised the three finalists as worthy candidates for the job which several admitted made their rankings tough to finalize. In the end, though, each board member had their priorities in mind for what they were seeking in a leader for the town hall. Selectman Bill Borowski

said it came down to two factors for him, finances and relationship building.

“We have literally three fine candidates, and any one of them could do a great job for the town of Charlton,” said Borowski. “The most important characteristics that I was looking for were financial acumen, because we all know our budget constraints especially with our capital expenditures over the next few years, and as important if not even more important is around relationship building. We all know we’ve had a tumultuous couple of years between boards, citizens, administration, and those to me at the two biggest factors I was looking for – Those were the two real drivers, at least for me.”

Borowski’s sentiments were echoed by many members of

the board with several agreeing that considering the town’s budgetary situation and several controversies in the last year that have created a void between town leaders and the public having personability and financial skills were certainly at the top of their lists of qualifications. Even still, Board Chair David Singer said it didn’t make it any easier a decision and made the interviews an integral part of the decision-making process.

“I had a certain hope to come from this. I think coming in I already had the impression that I’d be looking at three incredibly talented people who could do this job or they wouldn’t have made it this far, which makes this decision difficult. I had to enter with this assumption that any one of them could do the job,

any one of them could build a budget, any one of them could manage a town. Which then in my opinion could do what I thought we really needed and would focus on that? To me that meant answers from the heart, answers that were substitutive, perhaps a bit deeper thinking about our community and also revolved around transparency, honesty and integrity,” Singer said.

Negotiations between Kimberly Newman and selectmen took place behind closed doors and were not discussed in a public forum. Police Chief Graham Maxfield has served as interim town administrator since Craver’s departure after 13-years of service to Charlton.

PEAS

continued from page 1

FOGT Web site, even after the fact. This reporter only knew of it from a flyer seen at Big Bunny about two days in advance.

The problem with these “forever chemicals” is that they are “very mobile; travel[ing] easily through the environment,” and is being found in groundwater wells in several communities in Massachusetts, including Stow, Hyannis and elsewhere (although not in Southbridge at this point). Fitzstevens said they end up in drinking water via at least four main routes: firefighting foams, chemical manufacturing sites, farm use of sewer sludge (because most sewer plants can’t test for or remove

them) and landfill leachate. Regarding sludge use, she noted PFAS have been found in Mass Water Resources Authority fertilizers – the agency that runs the reservoirs supplying Boston with water.

Nationwide, there are 610 known contaminated sites in 43 states, but she believes there are likely more, since state testing programs vary greatly. Michigan has “one of the most comprehensive testing programs,” so that state has found many sites.

Based mostly on animal tests, “these chemicals have very harmful health effects even at very, very low levels,” she said. Among them are cancers and other illnesses, changes in breast/mammary gland tissue, endocrine disruption, and even reduced effectiveness of vaccines.

For these reasons, state and federal governments are starting to look at designating safe drinking water levels, although they’re only “guidelines,” not requirements at this point. The EPA level is 70 parts per trillion (ppt), but many states are looking at much lower levels around 20 ppt. That includes Massachusetts, where the DEP started a guideline creation process last January and released draft standards at 20 ppt on six PFAS chemicals in June.

Fitzstevens said Silent Spring has three PFAS-related studies running now. One, called REACH, involves 120 children in Hyannis and Portsmouth, NH, looking at PFAS effects on

growth and immune toxicity. Next year, Hyannis and Ayer residents (1000 adults, 300 children) will be sought for an ATSDR-funded study on more general health effects. Cape Cod is also central to the third project called STEEP, which runs for five years looking at PFAS concentrations in wells and how it moves through groundwater.

In the latter case, they’ve so far found about half of the wells have detectable PFAS levels, generally in association with high nitrate levels. In some wells, they’ve found long-unused PFAS varieties, and have so far not found any above the EPA’s 70 ppt level, but some over the state’s proposed 20 ppt level, Fitzstevens said.

“We’re trying to make this pretty complex issue translatable and relatable to people,” she said.

Silent Spring’s website includes links to several recent research projects on PFAS and other contaminants. One from this year was the first to implicate use of some kinds of dental floss as a PFAS risk factor alongside various other better-known sources.

“Given their extensive use and persistent nature, it is unsurprising that PFASs have been detected in water and soil, and in the bodies of almost all Americans. Exposure to the long-chain PFASs perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) has been linked to kidney and testicular cancer, decreased semen quality, and ulcerative colitis in adults, and to thyroid disease, immune response, and lowered sex and growth hormones in children,” the study team led by Katherine Boronow wrote in the January 2019 edition of the Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology.

Later in their discussion, the team noted, “Consumer product sources of PFASs are difficult to untangle, and this study extends work identifying consumer product pathways for exposure to these chemicals and draws attention to food packaging and dental floss as modifiable sources.”

Fitzstevens noted the PFAS chemicals are just one group of the more than 80,000 chemicals now on the market and in our environment. “Very few have been tested for their ability to cause breast cancer” or other illness-

es, alone or in combination, she said. As an example, she said the US bans just 11 chemicals from cosmetics, while Europe bans 1300.

“In Europe, chemicals have to be proven safe, but in the US, we have it a little backwards,” she said. “Chemicals have to be proven harmful to be taken off the market.”

But there are some ways to inform ourselves about risks. Silent Spring offers a free Detox Me app, which offers “practical tips on reducing exposure;” one of the more effective is carbon block water filter use. She also recommended avoiding bottled water, since “PFAS levels are high in bottled water, so it isn’t necessarily safer. ... Bottled water is generally less well-tested than tapwater” because it’s under FDA rules, not EPA.

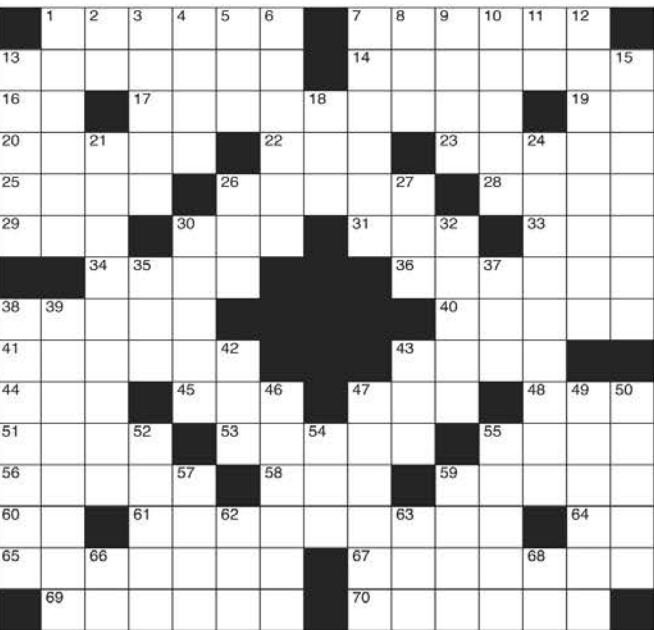
After talking, she took several audience questions. One involved Walker Pond residents finding salt and arsenic in their wells and being told to treat the latter before the state would help with the former. She connected them with State Rep. Paul Frost, who has been a legislative supporter of Silent Spring over the years.

Frost said the legislature is currently looking at earmarking \$200,000 for Silent Spring’s work, and he believes there’s a need to compare Cape Cod results to inland communities. The level had been as high as \$1 million a year, “but when we started finding what some answers are, they cut the money,” Cheryl Osimo said.

“Drinking water is very precious” worldwide, Frost said. “...These are nice conversations for us to have.”

The Silent Spring funding and several PFAS-related issues are part of the ongoing supplemental budget bill amendments, but PFAS is also subject of three specific bills. Two (S. 2284 and H. 3851) aim to create a PFAS task force to “investigate water and ground contamination,” while H. 3839 aims to ban PFAS in food packaging. As of Sunday, local Sen Ryan Fattman had co-sponsored H.3851, but Rep Peter Durant hasn’t co-sponsored any of them.

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Rope used as a lasso

7. Lomb's partner

13. North African nation

14. Rounds up cattle

16. Densest naturally occurring element

17. Home of the Brewers

19. Atomic #44

20. Vetches

22. Moved earth with a tool

23. Cavalry sword

25. Supplements with difficulty

26. Encouraged

28. Speech defect

29. Periodical (abbr.)

30. Very cold

31. __ Paulo, city

33. Former OSS

34. Approves food

36. Cars need them

38. Sweden's dominant phone company
40. Long lock of a woman's hair

41. North American natives

43. Fly high

44. One type is fire

45. Nocturnal bird

47. More than one male

48. LOTR actor McKellen

51. Employee stock ownership plan

53. Tony-winning actress Daisy

55. Tennis star Kournikova

56. Pulitzer-winning composer

58. The opposite to pro

59. Safecrackers

60. Denotes past

61. Parrots

64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)

65. Reduce the importance of

67. Stiffly

69. In a sensible way

70. Signs

CLUES DOWN

1. Capital of Zambia

2. Article

3. Country star LeAnn

4. Egyptian goddess

5. Afflict in mind or body

6. Showy but cheap

7. Belgian urban center

8. Short-winged diving seabird

9. Deploys

10. Ballplayers can legally do it

11. Centiliter

12. Contrary beliefs

13. Type of pole

15. Distinguish oneself

18. 8th month of the year (abbr.)

21. One who monitors

24. Petty quarreling

26. Fiddler crabs

27. Touch lightly

30. American state

32. Pro wrestler Randy
35. Indicates spelling mistake

37. Macaws

38. Gradually narrowed

39. Installments

42. Female sheep

43. Politician

46. Servant

47. Said to facilitate concentration

49. California ballplayers

50. Once Toledo's tallest building

52. A type of pie

54. State of southwestern India

55. Principal member of Norse religion

57. Counterspy

59. Wellness practice

62. __-de-sac: dead end street

63. Used to cook

66. Type of hospital

68. Direct message

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CANCER CENTER

continued from page 1

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NEW HOPE

continued from page 1

joyous action when she said at a gathering several months ago, “Family time is so hard to come by during the holidays, wouldn’t it be nice if we could do something to help them,” and the Christmas Carnival was born.

Everyone is so excited about this project and hope that it will become a regular event.

Once again with the hectic family schedule in mind, New Hope United Church of Christ will hold their Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 9 p.m. Everyone, everyone, everyone is invited!

New Hope United Church of Christ, the fun church, is located at 345 Main St. (the Bethlehem Lutheran Building). It offers Church School from 10 - 10:45 a.m., and parents are invited to drop off or chill out with coffee. Worship is at 11 a.m.

New Hope United Church of Christ is a judgment-free Christian community who believes that everyone has important insights and gifts to offer. They sincerely welcome and value everyone, everyone, everyone. They happily partner with and serve our local and global neighbors is peace, hope and love. You can find them on the Web at www.newhopeucc.org.



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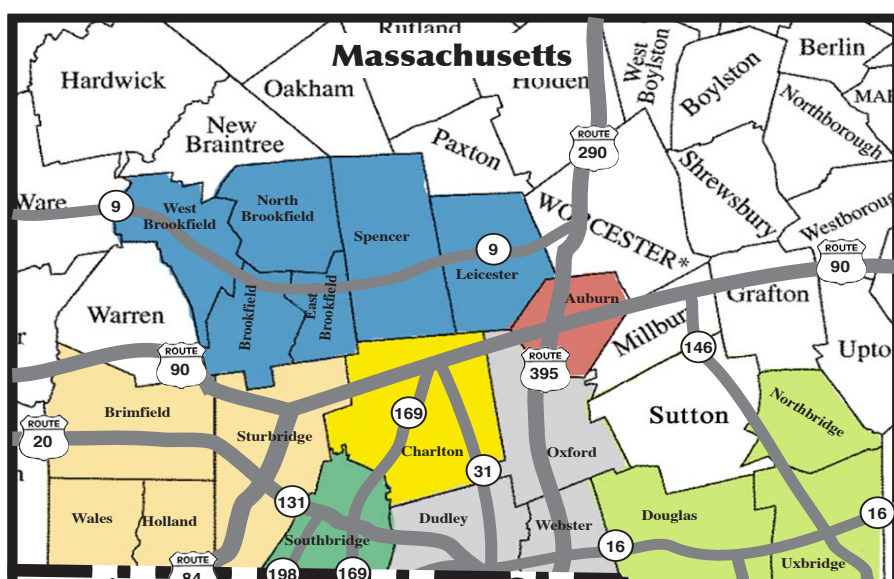
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Reflecting on shotgun season



As we swing into the final days of the Massachusetts shotgun deer season, it is time to reflect on the crazy but successful first few days. Two snow storms kept many older hunters away from the woods because of the hard walking conditions. The deer were not moving much because of the



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heavy snow Monday & Tuesday, but hunters did manage to harvest some very impressive deer. One of the most impressive bucks was harvested on opening day by Mark Kuras of Whitinsville, shown in this week's picture. The moose like antlers

were awesome.

This past Saturday, the success rate of local hunters increased dramatically as walking and tracking conditions improved in the snow, although the snow very noisy underfoot. Hunters that consisted of four or five more trackers did very well harvesting deer. My brother Ken and I hunted a small track of land on Saturday, but did not find a single deer, although there was plenty of deer tracks in the area. After hunting a few hours, we headed for the nearest coffee shop.

We decided to take our annual ride to Bob's Pro Shop in Douglas. It is one of the many checking stations throughout Massachusetts that successful hunters can check in their deer. On our way to the station in the area of the Douglas State Forest on Route 16, a very large doe bolted out of the woods in front of my car. I was able to stop in time, avoiding a car deer collision. Two more deer were spotted waiting to cross the road. One quickly darted across the road, but the second deer retreated back into the woods. When we arrived at the checking station Shawn Linnehan was checking in a real nice buck shown in this week's second picture. The eight point buck weighed in at 164 pounds field dressed. At noontime Saturday, the checking station had 72 deer checked in for the week. They normally have more than one hundred. Although the numbers were a bit low, wildlife officials are confident the harvest will be very good this year. Successful deer hunters are reminded that all deer do not need to be brought to a checking station after the first week. They do need to be checked in online at mass fish hunt within 24 hours. This year, local Environmental Police found numerous hunters failing to keep the tag on the deer, and also brought the deer to the checking station without a portion of the deer showing, as required by law when transporting the deer to a check station or transporting it to their residence. After the deer is checked in the hunter does not need to have a portion of the deer showing.

The shotgun deer season closes this Saturday in Massachusetts, followed by the primitive arms season that opens this week, Dec. 16, and runs until Dec. 31. There are a lot of deer available to the primitive arms hunter in Massachusetts this year, and it could become a record year for deer hunters. The new inline black powder guns are extremely accurate and easy to use. It will be the last opportunity to harvest a deer in Massachusetts this year. Ice fishermen were out on some small ponds this past weekend, but the forecast for heavy rain and warm temperatures this week was expected to negatively impact all safe ice. Every year, someone falls through the ice and drowns because of poor judgment. Dogs are also lost to unsafe ice. Keeping your dogs away from frozen ponds and rivers needs to be practiced at this time of year. Only experienced anglers and the adult skating public should be on what is presumed safe ice. Constant checking of ice needs to be practiced as you walk on first ice. Because it may be safe on one end of the pond or lake, it does not mean that the entire lake is safe. Sportsmen & women will need to dig deeper into their pockets in 2021 if Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife makes good on their proposals to raise hunting & fishing licenses in the state. Sources report that sporting licenses will cost \$90, and all permits will rise to \$20. Yikes! Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

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Bringing the Christmas forest indoors

Gus Steeves Photos
SOUTHBIDGE — More than 100 trees festooned with lights, baubles, gift cards, toys and countless other decorations turned the La Salle Reception Center into a holiday forest getaway last weekend, as Southbridge celebrated the 22nd Annual Festival of (Giving) Trees.
The event helps raise funds to sup-

port two very different approaches to cancer. On one side, Silent Spring Institute and the Mass Breast Cancer Coalition use it to support research into the environmental causes of cancer (currently focusing on the huge family of chemicals known as PFAS, which are in the blood of almost every American. See related story). On the other side, Harrington Hospital uses it to support

treating sufferers of various kinds of cancer.
Regardless of which part visitors favored, they turned out in droves to check out the trees, many of them featuring gifts worth hundreds of dollars. Viewers took chances to win them and dozens of donated items, including dinners, hotel stays, a collection of scratch tickets, and a Christmas village

model. On stage, several different dance troupes, a few singers and two school jazz bands provided entertainment during the day. Special events included Thursday's Choral Premiere and talk on PFAS and Friday Night Lights. For those who wandered elsewhere in the building, there were food, pictures with Santa and Mother Goose reading stories downstairs, among other attractions.



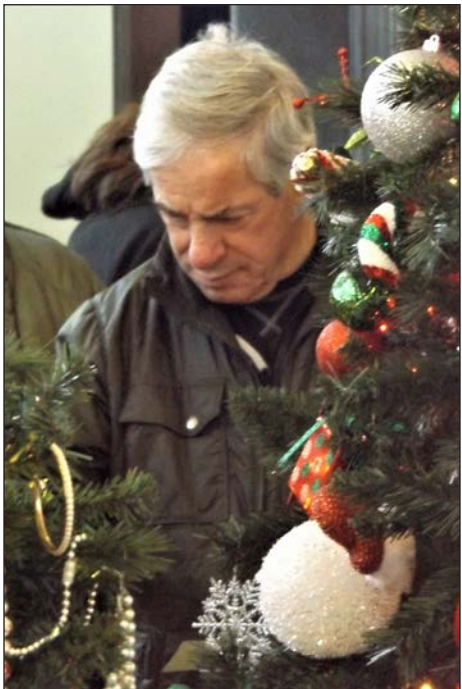
Michelle Andino and Sue Evans staffed Santa's Workshop.



Maggie the Clown moonlights as Holly the Elf.



Sarah and Camden Clarke of Brookfield take a chance on one of the trees.



A visitor is framed by the trees.



The Spotlight Dance troupe performs on stage.



Crystal and Brooke Miller and Mya Genkos let the crowd flow around them.



Youthful members of the Lee Irish Dance troupe await their chance to perform.



Mary Waters got recruited to fill in for the original person portraying Mother Goose.



Brianne, Daniel and Avalynne Downing of Sturbridge check their messages on the stairs.

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EDITORIAL

Celebrate the season with Yuletide lore

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of the Christmas stocking came from, why the traditional Christmas colors are red, green and gold, or why Kentucky Fried Chicken in Japan is so busy on Christmas?

There are endless myths and fables surrounding the Christmas holiday, but there are even more interesting facts. While researching Christmas, and digging deep, we found a plethora of fun and thought provoking facts worth sharing with our readers.

The first one notes that early images of St. Nicholas depict him as a strict disciplinarian rather than the overweight, jolly man in the red suit we see today.

Way back when, a common Christmas Eve tradition was to tell scary ghost stories by the fire; it was, in fact, this uniquely British tradition that Charles Dickens intended to hearcken back to with his classic “A Christmas Carol.”

In 1914, during the First World War, a truce between the United Kingdom and Germany was held. They decorated their shelters for the holiday and exchanged gifts and even played a game of football with each other.

When a child drops a letter in the mail to Santa in America, the mail is sent to Santa Claus, Indiana.

Thanks to the province of Nova Scotia, which has, since 1918, been sending the city of Boston an enormous Christmas tree as a thank you for supporting them during the Halifax explosion.

Pope Julius I, Bishop of Rome, proclaimed Dec. 25 as the official day to celebrate the birth of Jesus in 350 A.D. Interestingly, there is no mention of Jesus’ exact date of birth anywhere in the Gospels. The date of Dec. 25 was chosen because it happened to coincide with an existing celebration honoring Saturn, the Roman god of wealth, agriculture, and renewal, making it easier for early Christian missionaries to encourage pagan converts to make Christ, rather than Saturn, the central focus of the festivities.

For the past 40 years, people in Japan have made it a national custom to eat Kentucky Fried Chicken for Christmas dinner. There is so much demand for KFC at the holidays that customers are asked to place their family meal orders two months in advance.

British illustrator John Callcott Horsley invented the notion of the Christmas card in 1843.

In England from 1649-1660, Puritan dictator Oliver Cromwell outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols.

The first artificial Christmas trees were made in Germany out of dyed goose feathers.

X is the Greek letter “chi,” which is an abbreviation for the word “Christ” in Greek — hence, the abbreviation X-mas being used so often.

Several European countries thought that good and evil spirits were active during the Twelve Days of Christmas. These ‘spirits’ later found their way into the more family-friendly mythology surrounding the holiday as Santa’s elves.

Have you ever wondered what a ‘Yule’ log actually is? It is a large log that is burned during the Twelve Days of Christmas as a symbol of health, fertility, luck and is said to ward off evil spirits. Don’t have a fireplace? Rest assured — there is something of a cottage industry in video recordings of Yule logs on the fire that you can pop into your DVD or Blu-Ray player on an endless loop at your holiday gatherings.

In Bolivia, there is a celebration called the ‘Mass of the Rooster’ that takes place on Christmas Eve. Some people bring roosters to the mass to symbolize the thought that a rooster was the first animal to announce the birth of Jesus.

In 2010, the Columbian government hung lights on jungle trees. When the FARC guerrillas sauntered by, the trees lit up and released banners asking the terrorists to lay down their weapons. As a result, 331 guerrillas peacefully

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OPINION

Views and commentary from Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland and Wales

Annual Round of Spice Healers

With the holidays around the corner, the focus turns to homemade pies, cookies and other comfort food confections that conjure up fond holiday memories. One of the simple pleasures of churning out home baked goods this time of year is the unmistakable aroma of such spices as cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger.

The next time you’re stocking up on these “pie spices” you might want to grab an extra jar or two. Studies show popular holiday spices can benefit your health as well as your taste buds. Read on for this column’s annual review of how a dash of this and a pinch of that can spice up your life!

Note: Do not ingest spices as home remedies without proper medical supervision. Life threatening allergies, overdoses, and side effects can occur.

Nutmeg: Often sprinkled in a holiday eggnog or added to a meat pie, the nutmeg spice jar does duty beyond the kitchen cupboard, from clearing a complexion to promoting sweet slumber.

According to the Encyclopedia of Healing Foods, a little nutmeg added to a glass of warm milk can lull you off to sleep in record time.

Nutmeg has also been hailed for its anti inflammatory properties, which makes it a powerful weapon in battling blemishes. To zap a zit, make a paste of ground nutmeg and milk, and apply to pimple to reduce redness and swelling.

Cinnamon: Move over cinnamon toast and apple pie, the spice has a higher calling. Ever since a study published in the journal Diabetes Care found half a teaspoon of cinnamon daily could be helpful in reducing blood sugar levels in people with type 2 diabetes, cinnamon has been touted as an additional dietary supplement along with conventional medications to fight the disease.

The study also revealed the spice reduced triglyceride, LDL cholesterol, and total cholesterol levels among the same test group.

Want more? Research from Copenhagen University showed a significant relief in arthritis pain when patients were given half a teaspoon of cinnamon powder combined with one tablespoon of honey every morning for a week.

And another study found that the mere act of smelling the spice can boost cognitive function and memory!

Cinnamon FYI: Microbiologists at Kansas State University found that adding small amounts of cinnamon to samples of apple juice contaminated with E. coli bug killed most of the bacteria. Just one teaspoon of cinnamon killed 99.5 percent of the bacteria after three days at room temperature.

Ginger: Ginger bread and ginger snaps are familiar holiday treats, but did you know ginger has long been hailed for its power to tame a tummy ache? It’s also a well known home remedy to treat motion and sea sickness. In fact, in one study, ginger was shown to be superior to a commonly used over-the-counter and prescription drug for motion sickness. reducing dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and cold sweats.

It’s also claimed that ginger can aid in relieving arthritis and sciatica pain.

A simple Ginger tea is made by steeping one or two half inch slices of fresh ginger in a cup of hot water. Or add 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger powder too three cups of boiling water

TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR



and let steep for a few minutes.

Or, some people simply eat several pieces of crystallized ginger to help relieve joint and nerve pain.

Allspice: Christmas pudding, mincemeat and pumpkin pies all benefit from the addition of allspice, but did you know your health can too?

Allspice is famous for its ability to relieve muscle aches and pains when applied topically. To make an allspice poultice, mix ground allspice with water to form a thick paste. Apply it to the body, cover with gauze and relax for 15 to 20 minutes.

Sipping tea made from the spice can also be helpful in relieving menstrual cramps and headaches.

Allspice berries can also be used to temporarily relieve toothache pain. Simply chew one allspice berry for quick relief.

More kitchen cupboard Rx:

Soothe a Sore Throat: To relieve a sore throat, squeeze one half fresh lemon into one half cup warm water. Mix one tablespoon of salt and one quarter teaspoon of cayenne pepper. Gargle with the mixture three times per day until pain is relieved. Do not swallow this mixture.

This remedy, attributed to Dr. Jane Guiltinan, chief medical officer at John Bastyr University Natural Health Clinic in Seattle, is said to also relieve coughs and fight viral infections.

Time to Cure Cough: Did you know Thyme may help reduce coughing due to a cold? Make up thyme tea by adding a teaspoon of crushed thyme to one half cup of boiling water. Allow to steep for ten minutes, then strain and sip. As a bonus studies suggest that thyme can help maintain brain function and promote heart health.

Halt a Headache: Cayenne pepper is a proven pain reliever, especially for headaches. It is said cayenne dilates blood vessels to improve circulation. Before you reach for a pain killer, you might want to try this: Mix one half teaspoon cayenne pepper in six ounces of water and drink slowly.

Cut Congestion: For generations, cayenne has been used as a remedy to clear a head cold and relieve congestion and sinus pain. All it takes is a dash or two of cayenne powder in a cup of hot tea (preferably with honey and lemon) to do the trick!

Win Dinner for Two

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 publications? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Or e-mail kdrr@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for a three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn!

Use year-end bonus (or gift) wisely



FINANCIAL FOCUS
JEFF BURDICK

As 2019 draws to a close, you may be anticipating – or have already received – a year-end bonus from your employer. Or you might be receiving a substantial cash gift for the holidays. (If you’re really lucky, you might get both.) You can doubtlessly think of many ways to spend this money right now, but how can you use it to help yourself in the long run?

Here are a few suggestions:

Pay off some debts. Virtually all of us carry some type of debt, and that’s not necessarily a bad thing. For example, your mortgage not only gives you a place to live and a chance to build equity in your home, but the interest payments are typically tax deductible. Other debts, though, such as those on consumer items, are not so positive – you generally can’t deduct the interest payments, and the items themselves probably won’t enhance your personal wealth. Plus, the bigger your monthly debt payments, the less you’ll have to invest for your future. So, you might want to use your bonus or monetary gift to pay off, or at least pay down, some of your less productive debts.

Start an emergency fund. If you were to face a large, unexpected expense, such as the need for a new furnace or a major car repair, how would you pay for it? If you didn’t have the cash on hand, you might be forced to dip in to your long-term investments, such as your stocks and mutual funds. A much better option is to build an emergency fund, containing six to 12 months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. It will take time to build such a fund, of course, but your year-end bonus or gift money could give you a good start.

Contribute to your IRA. You can put in up to \$6,000 to your IRA, or \$7,000 if you’re 50 or older. And although you’ve got until April 15, 2020, to fully fund your IRA for the 2019 tax year, you still might want to put your “extra” money into your account right away. If you wait, you’ll probably find other uses for this money. And if you’re going to enjoy a comfortable retirement, you’ll need to maximize every possible resource – and your IRA is one of your best ones. Furthermore, the sooner you get the money into your IRA, the more potential it will have to grow over time.

Feed your college fund. If you’re already contributing to a college fund for your young children or grandchildren, you can use your year-end bonus or monetary gift to add to the fund. If you haven’t already started such an account, you might want to use this money for that purpose. You could open a 529 plan, which provides possible tax benefits and gives you control of the funds until it’s time for them to be used for college or some type of vocational school. (Depending on where you live, you might also get tax benefits from your state if you use a 529 savings plan to pay for K-12 expenses.)

To achieve all your financial goals, you’ll need to take advantage of your opportunities – and your year-end bonus or monetary gift can certainly be one of them.

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.

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SPORTS

Leicester can't complete undefeated season, loses to Abington in Division 7 State Final, 21-7



Mathew S. Plamondon photos
Leicester fans show their support for quarterback Dan Mero.



Leicester's Jack O'Neill makes a catch in traffic versus Abington.



Fans of all ages cheer on the Wolverines during their state championship game with Abington.



Jeffrey Puchalski of Leicester comes down near the sideline with an interception.



A youngster gives it his all while rooting for Leicester.



Thomas Mackenzie, Jr. of Leicester brings Abington ball carrier Gabe Spy to the ground.

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT
Editor's Note: Leicester High was the only Stonebridge Press affiliated school to reach the state championship game.

FOXBOROUGH — It wasn't the start that Leicester High's varsity football team wanted following the coin toss of the Division 7 Super Bowl State Championship game versus Abington High, played at Gillette Stadium on Saturday, Dec. 7. The Wolverines won the toss and chose to receive the opening kickoff in hopes of starting quickly, settling nerves and putting points on the board first. Their plan didn't pan out, though, as Leicester was forced to punt after its first possession.

Following the punt, it didn't take long for Abington to flash their game plan of "run the football." In just three plays senior running back Will Klein took off for 61 yards to score his first of two touchdowns in the Green Wave's 21-7 victory. "They're good," expressed Leicester head coach Tim Griffiths. "I think nerves didn't help our cause today. We did some things that we haven't done all year long. We made a bunch of mistakes A: because they forced them, and B: because we didn't execute for whatever reason. We had a great year, but this is tough." Senior co-captain Bryce Gosselin added, "giving up that first touchdown in three plays

Turn To **LEICESTER FOOTBALL**
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Leicester quarterback Dan Mero sends a pass down the field.



Bryce Gosselin of Leicester tucks the ball away from a tackling Jarae Cole of Abington.



The Leicester High football team emerges from the doldrums of Gillette Stadium to get the second half underway.

LEICESTER FOOTBALL

continued from page A10

that hurts, that hurts a team a lot and the morale early.”

Down 6-0 early after a missed two-point conversion rush with 7:52 left in the first quarter, Leicester was forced to answer, and they did — with the help of a little trickery. With 6:52 remaining in the quarter, Gosselin lined up for a direct snap with quarterback Dan Mero out wide. Mero went in motion as Gosselin received the snap. The ball was handed off to Mero in a jet sweep motion and, as Abington’s defense collapsed on the senior quarterback, he flipped it to his brother Michael Mero, who then threw a strike to Jack O’Neill in stride for a 74-yard touchdown.

The Wolverines took the lead, 7-6, on a Nolan Power extra point kick only a minute after surrendering the lead.

The trick play ended up being the only score for Leicester. They had trouble moving the ball the rest of the game, finishing with just 79 yards in the first half and 171 total. The Wolverines were 0-9 on third down, which was a huge factor in the game’s outcome.

“We practiced it during the week, but we didn’t play well offensively, explained Griffiths on the trick play and overall offensive production. “I thought our defense did enough to keep us in the game. I call the [offense] and we didn’t get it done on the offensive side of the ball, so that is on me. We didn’t execute, but maybe the play calling wasn’t good. Whatever, it is what it is.”

“We needed a sense of urgency in the first half definitely, and I told the guys that at half-time,” added Gosselin. “I think they came out in the second half with the sense of urgency that we needed in the first half to get the game going.”

In the second half Leicester



Leicester head coach Tim Griffiths attempts to fire his team up in the game’s later stages versus Abington.



The Leicester cheerleaders get excited as the Wolverines compete for the Division 7 State Championship.

started to run the ball a little more aggressively. It helped to move the ball, but the two promising drives they had both eventually stalled. Gosselin had a few good runs, ending with 51 yards on 11 carries after being held to just four yards on four carries in the first half. O’Neill finished with 94 yards on two catches to lead the passing attack.

For the Green Wave (11-2), Klein had himself a day. He finished with 207 yards on 23 carries with the two touchdowns. Gaby Spry had the final touch-

down for Abington, a 4-yard rush with 1:40 to play to ice the game.

“I said it last week, he stood out on film and he stood out today — he is a player,” Griffiths said while praising Klein. “He is a strong kid, fast, runs hard. We knew we would have our hands full with him. He is the real deal.”

It wasn’t the outcome the tailback had wanted, but Gosselin explained how amazing this run was for he and his teammates, as the Wolverines finished 12-1.

“It has been amazing with this team. It is such a special group and it is sad that it had to come to an end because we didn’t come out in the first half and fight like we wanted to,” he said. “Twelve and zero coming into this game is something I never imagined to happen ever in my life. Never in my life would I have thought I would’ve played in a state championship. It is an honor to be here, I wish we could’ve won it, I wish we could be state champions, but it is what it is.”

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Turn milkweed pods into works of art



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Homemade gifts are a wonderful way to show you care. Making them from items grown in your garden adds that extra personal touch. And just like the plant, decorations and gifts made from milkweed pods are gaining in popularity.

Considered a weed by some, common milkweed is making a comeback as more gardeners are growing this important food source for monarch butterflies. Harvest the seedpods and craft them into wreaths, stars and indoor holiday trees.

Remove the pods from the plants, separate the halves and allow them to dry as needed. If you don't have your own milkweed plants, ask a friend or neighbor if you can harvest a few of theirs.

Search the internet and craft

books for creative ways to use these. You would be surprised how a little paint can turn milkweed pods into a work of art. Paint a winter or holiday scene on the inside of the pods. Or add a bit of moss, tiny dried flowers, acorns and miniatures to create a three-dimensional piece of art.

Decorate the outside with the eyes, nose and hat of Santa Claus or one of his reindeer. Add some pinecone scales for ears and evergreen needles for whiskers and you have the start of an adorable mouse.

Even those with limited artistic talent can create pretty ornaments. Paint the pod and glue a colorful feather or string of beads to the inside. Add twine with a bead or two to the top for a hanger.

Paint the inside and outside of the pods green, gold, silver or other color of your choice. Purchase a Styrofoam cone and attach the pods, inner side facing out with pins. Place the pods in rows, covering the cone to create the perfect evergreen.

Glue the wide end of five pods together to form a star. Fill the center with a small

cone or sweet gum pod. Still more pods? Use them to decorate a holiday wreath. If you have enough you can create a wreath of all milkweed pods. Just cover the wreath form or frame with milkweed pods or use moss, burlap or greens as a base.

But don't stop with winter inspired decorations. Save some milkweed pods to craft into beautiful dahlias, birds, butterflies, fairies and more. Just start experimenting with paint, hot glue, florist wire and other natural materials.

Then next fall consider harvesting the pods before they open. You'll either contain the spread if desired or harvest seeds to share with friends. Place the pods in a paper bag in a warm location to open. Use the fluffy seeds to fill clear ornaments or separate the seeds from the fluff to plant and grow more monarch-friendly plants.

Once you get started crafting, friends and neighbors will be leaving pods on your doorstep to craft into works of art. And you may find yourself adding more milkweeds to the



Melinda Myers Photo

Common milkweed is making a comeback in part because it's an important food source for the monarch butterfly. The milkweed's seedpods can be crafted into wreaths, art and more.

garden. You'll have plenty of pods for crafting and enjoy the monarch caterpillars munching on the leaves and adult butterflies sipping on the nectar in the garden.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How

to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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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

DOUGLAS SUNSHINE CLUB

Sunny Portugal next April. The Douglas Sunshine Club is planning a trip to sunny Portugal April 21-30, 2020. This trip is with Collette Travel. An informational meeting is planned for Wed. June 12th at the Douglas Senior Center, 331 Main St., Douglas, at 6:30

p.m. If you are interested in the trip, this is a great opportunity to get a description of the travel arrangements and itinerary with a representative from Collette Travel who will also answer any questions you have about the trip. For more info call 508-476-4474.

DUDLEY SENIORS

Dudley Seniors presents a Branson Show Extravaganza, Saturday, May 2 through Sunday, May 10, 2020, \$905 per person, double occupancy. Incredible price includes motorcoach transportation, eight nights lodging including four consecutive nights in the Branson, Mo. Area, 14 meals (eight breakfasts and six dinners), admission to seven fabulous Branson shows, including New Jersey Nights, Amazing Acrobats of Shanghai, Doug Gabriel, Presley's Country Jubilee, "Noah the Musical," and the Hughes Show; and one dinner show on the Showboat Branson Belle. For pictures, video and information, visit www.GroupTrips.com/dudleyse-niors. Departure point: Dudley Town Hall, 71 W. Main St., 8 a.m. Saturday, May 2, 2020.

For more information, please call Evelyn at (508) 764-8254.

FRIENDS OF THE STURBRIDGE SENIORS

Dec. 31 New Years Eve "DAY" at the Lake Pearl in Wrentham, Mass. Let's Celebrate the New Year during the "DAYTIME". Featuring the dynamic Tom LaMark Orchestra as they cover original classics from the Swing Era, the Best in Ballroom Dancing, our Favorite Line Dances, and on up to the Best songs from the '50's, '60's and '70's. Sing along, Dance along and Party strong to this Live Band. For \$89, enjoy Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Salad, Breads, Choice of Entree, Potato, Vegetable, N.Y. Style Cheesecake, Coffee/Tea and let's not forget a CHAMPAGNE TOAST.

May 15, 2020 to May 22, 2020 Cruise 8 Days/7 Nights Boston to Bermuda aboard the Norwegian Cruise Lines "GEM" SHIP. Leave Boston Friday, May 15 and return Boston Friday May 22. Included are All of the Following, Roundtrip Transfers from Sturbridge to Boston and back. The Ultimate Beverage Package, The Ultimate 4 Night Dining Package, Specialty Restaurants for Free, Exclusive Best of Times Cocktail Party, All Luggage Handling Fees, Drivers Gratuities and Best of Times Professional Tour Director. Early Booking Discount for those people who Book a Balcony Cabin by October 1st, you will receive a 1 Category Upgrade & Special On Board Credit. Prices start at \$1,199 Double Occupancy for an Inside Stateroom, \$1,399 for an Oceanview Porthole Window, \$1,899 for a Balcony Stateroom on Deck 9, \$1,949 for a Balcony Stateroom on Deck 10, and \$1,999 for

Balcony on Deck 11. ALSO Add \$400 for Taxes, Transfers, and Gov't Fees. Single Occupancy is Available upon request. Please contact Dick Lisi at 508-410-1332 or at lisirichard15@yahoo.com for questions or information on any of the above Trips.

LEICESTER SENIOR CENTER.

Friday, Jan. 17, 2020: Foxwood Casino. Free lunch buffet or \$10 food voucher and \$10 casino slot play. Cost is \$30.

Friday, Feb. 14, 2020: Foxwood Casino. Free lunch buffet or \$20 food voucher and \$10 casino slot play. Cost is \$30.

Friday, March 20, 2020: Foxwood Casino. Free lunch buffet or \$10 food voucher and \$10 casino slot play. Cost is \$30.

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.

*Japan: March 26 to April 9, 2020
*Japan with China extension: March 26 to April 22, 2020
*USA: Wonders of Northern California Redwoods, Oregon & Washington: August 3-15, 2020
*Spain & Portugal: Sept.9-23, 2020

*Galapagos Islands: Jan 4-13, 2021
*Galapagos with extension to Peru (Machu Picchu): Jan 4-19, 2021

*Botswana, Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls: May 5-16, 2021

*Alaska (land and cruise): early August, 2021

Turn To **TRIPS** page **A15**

PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

Friday's Child



**Makaila
Age 15**

Hi! My name is Makaila and I'll be happy to show off my dance moves.

Makaila is a friendly and empathetic teenager with a big heart and a warm smile. She enjoys playing sports, and being particularly tall for her age she loves basketball. She also enjoys taking dance classes and spending time with friends.

Makaila is social teen who enjoys engaging in lively conversation with others and exploring her community. She is thoughtful, reflective and is tuned into her emotions. She gets nervous easily but can manage strong feelings once she processes them. This thoughtfulness extends to others as well, and Makaila is generally caring, considerate towards

others and has a solid moral compass. Makaila puts a lot of effort into her studies and with the right supports in place she can be successful academically.

Legally freed for adoption, Makaila maintains regular contact with her birth parents through an open adoption agreement. A single or two-parent family with a female parent is preferred for Makaila. She will do well with other children in the home if they are older than her. She is in need of a compassionate family who will work with her as she processes her past losses. Most important to Makaila is having a family that is active and spends a lot of time together.

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.mare-inc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have "a permanent place to call HOME."



To sponsor Friday's Child call Patricia at 508-909-4135 x321 or email patricia@stonebridgepress.news

Breton Tree Farm

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

Choose & Cut Your Own Fresh Christmas Tree!
Fresh Home-Made Wreaths & Sprays

OPEN Sat. & Sun. 9am-5pm | Wed.-Fri. 2pm-5pm | (Closed Mon. & Tues.)
1069 Route 171, Woodstock, CT 860-974-9103
(Across from Tractors 2 Trimmers)

OBITUARIES

Richard S. Panek, 79



STURBRIDGE - Richard S. Panek, 79, of Wells Park Rd., passed away on Monday, Dec. 2nd, in the Rose Monahan Hospice Home, Worcester, after an illness.

His beloved wife, Rita C. (Kelley) Panek died in 1992. He leaves a son, Matthew M. Panek and his wife Megan of Sturbridge; two Daughters, Kelley A Courtemanche and her husband Brian of Chelmsford and Erin F. Henry and her husband Shawn of Whitman; and nine grandchildren, Matthew Courtemanche, Casey Courtemanche, Sam Panek, Will Panek, Jane Panek, Rose Panek, Owen Henry, Claire Henry and Jacob Henry. He was born in Dudley, the son of

Samuel and Florence (Nawrocki) Panek. Richard served in the US Army.

Richard worked at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, CT for over 30 years, retiring many years ago. He was a train enthusiast of both model trains and real trains.

A funeral Mass for Richard was held on Tuesday, Dec. 10th, at 10:00am in St. Anne's Church, 16 Church St., Sturbridge. Burial followed in St. Anne's Cemetery, Sturbridge. There are no calling hours.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com



Daniel J. Gaspie, 59



STURBRIDGE - Daniel J. Gaspie, 59, of New Boston Rd., passed away at home with his loving family by his side on Wednesday, Dec. 4th, after an illness.

He leaves his beloved wife of 36 years, Jane T. (Letourneau) Gaspie; his daughter, Brenda L. Harris and her husband Timothy of Southbridge; three sons, Jeffery M. Laine of Sturbridge, Nicholas A. Laine and his wife Nicole of Hardwick and Daniel J. Gaspie Jr. and his wife Kate of Brookfield;; three brothers, Charles Gaspie of Oxford, Tommy Gaspie of Auburn and Terry Gaspie of Auburn; a sister, Tammy Gow of Auburn; eight grandchildren, Trevor, Lindsey, Sage, Nicholas Jr.,

Marissa, Taylor, Jacob and Lily; two great grandchildren, Jaysian, Nicholas III and many nieces and nephews. Daniel was predeceased by a grandson, Scott Harris in 1995. Dan was born in Worcester the son of the late Charles E. and Joanne A. (Danielson) Gaspie. He worked for American Alarm in Auburn as an alarm and communication specialist for 19 years before having to retire due to illness. Dan was an avid pool player who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He enjoyed riding his Harley and spending time with his family.

Calling hours for Daniel were held on Wednesday, Dec. 11th, from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St. Southbridge. Funeral services and Burial will be private.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com



Anne L. (Peloquin) Bouley, 62, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 with loved ones by her side.

Anne was born in Southbridge, the daughter of Charles E. Peloquin, and the late Rita M. (Dion). She leaves her devoted husband of 38 years, David P. Bouley, daughters Stephanie and her husband Chris Couturier of Strafford, NH, and Lauren and her boyfriend David O'Brien of Shrewsbury. Granddaughters, Morgan, Adrianna and Paige Couturier. Her father Charles and wife Barbara Peloquin of Sturbridge. Sisters Jeanine and husband Scott Healy of Charlton, Marie and husband Mike Ignazi of Pepperell, and Michele Keller and fiancé Rob Ferrucci of Hopedale. Many loved cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

She grew up as the eldest of four girls and graduated from Marianhill High

School in Southbridge, and Annhurst College in Woodstock, CT with a degree in Secretarial Sciences. She worked for 38 years at UMass Memorial Healthcare as an Administrative Assistant in the Rheumatology Department, leaving behind many beloved patients and co-workers.

Anne loved the ocean and spent many days on the beaches of Blue Shuttles, Ogunquit, Welfleet, and York. She enjoyed country music, crocheting, jewelry making, and became a passionate NE sports fan. Anne will be remembered for her love for her family, charismatic personality and positive spirit.

Calling hours at Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, December 12th from 5-7 p.m. Funeral service will be held at St. Christopher Parish, 16 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA on Friday, December 13th at 10 a.m. Burial will be at the convenience of the family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Boston Children's Hospital, 300 Longwood Ave, Boston, MA 02115.

Adam C. Hollender, 29



PHOENIX, AZ: Adam C. Hollender, 29, formerly of Woodstock, CT, passed away unexpectedly on, Nov. 19th, in Phoenix, AZ.

He leaves his long-time companion, Gloria Moreno and their son, Dylan B. Hollender; his mother and step-father, Norma (Cloutier) Hollender-Celico and Bruce J. Celico of New London, CT; his father, Donald W. Hollender of Arizona; his brother, Andrew D. Hollender and his wife, Meghan MacDonald of Nashua, NH; his sister, Maria A. Sochor of Nashville, TN; his step-brother, Bruce J. Celico, Jr. of Little Compton, RI; his maternal grandfather, Norman O. Cloutier of Sturbridge; his son Dylan's grandmother, Maria V. Rodriguez of Arizona; his nieces and nephews, Henry Sochor, Otis Sochor, Annie Hollender; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was predeceased by his maternal grandmother, Rita A. (Remillard) Cloutier. Adam was born in Worcester on Feb.

10, 1990.

Adam worked as a line cook for the Wildflower Bread Company in Phoenix. He also worked as the community impact coordinator and logistics coordinator at Step One Recovery Inc. in Phoenix. Adam was a soft-spoken, loving and kind father, son, brother and friend who gave freely of his warm soul. Adam loved music, especially the music of Bob Dylan. Adam was a skateboard and bicycling enthusiast and loved sports, especially the Patriots and the Celtics.

Adam adored his son Dylan and his corgis Annie and Sammy. Adam's gentleness will forever surround us.

Calling hours for Adam will be held on Saturday, Dec. 21st, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a memorial service to follow in the funeral home at 4:00pm. Burial in North Cemetery, Sturbridge, will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dylan B. Hollender at Putnam Bank, 40 Main Street, Putnam, CT 06260, to benefit Dylan's education.

Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to Obits@stonebridgepress.news



CALENDAR

Thursday, December 12

CHOCOLATE & PEPPERMINT WINTER HANDBELL CONCERT: 7 p.m., First Congregational Church of Brimfield, 20 Main St. A concert by the Brimfield Bells. Reception featuring chocolate & peppermint immediately follows the performance. Freewill donations greatly appreciated. Free parking.

ONGOING

THE STURBRIDGE FARMER'S MARKET is held every Sunday through Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Town Common.

CHARLTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 391 meets every fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Charlton Grange Hall. All veterans are welcome. We'd love to see you. We sponsor Boy Scout Troop 165, as well as three Boys Staters & assist young men interested in attending the State Police summer school. We also assist the Charlton Little League financially, as well as other things such as veteran's wakes & funerals. There's plenty we can still do to help our community.

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: First and third Thursday of each month, 2:30-3:30 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.

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.

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.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Traditional open AA meetings in a friendly setting. Come early to chat and share in refreshments. Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Hitchcock Academy, Brimfield.

K9 NOSE WORK: A sport open to all breeds of dog and their people Saturday mornings over six weeks at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield starting Jan. 19. Progressive training levels offered. Fee: \$145 per dog, per session. Instructor: Laurie Merritt, M.Ed., CPDT-KA, CNWI, Certified K9 NoseWork Instructor –

National Association of Canine Scent Work.

SEN-I JUDO CLUB: This course runs all year long on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield, and is well suited for all levels of practitioners, including beginners! Call Sensei Israel Lopez at (413) 279-4330 for more information.

WEIGHT WATCHERS: Traditional Weight Watchers Meetings Monday evenings at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield. Times: WeighIn/Registration 5:30 p.m., meeting 6 p.m. Leader: Angela Kramer. Visit www.weightwatchers.com to become a member or to learn more about Weight Watchers.

YOGA: Hatha Yoga benefits are stress-relieving. Relax & rejuvenate with postures & guided meditation to restore the body. Bring a mat and wear comfortable clothing. All levels welcome. Six weekly classes held on Monday nights at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield from 7:15-8:45 p.m., beginning Jan. 21.

FENCING : Fencing is a sport of combat that originally started as practice for dueling with swords. Since that time, it has grown into a modern sport while maintaining those virtues that made it

great: honor, valor, and grace. Bring a water bottle, sneakers and comfortable clothing. Youth and adult classes with Andy Bloch at Hitchcock Academy. Fee: \$99.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS: Is food a problem for you? Have you been worried about the way you eat? Do you resolve to go on a diet tomorrow, only to fail again and again? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? You are not alone. Overeaters Anonymous can help. No dues, no fees, no weigh-ins. Meetings are held Sundays in Worcester (St. Michael's On-The-Heights, 340 Burncoat Street) at 7 p.m., Mondays in Auburn (Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Ave.) at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays in Putnam, Conn. (Day Kimball Hospital, 320 Pomfret Strett) at 6 p.m. Want more information? Call or text Bruce P. (508) 864-0593, email him at brucep.aa@charter.net or visit aa.org

Christmas in Heaven Memorials

In the December 20th issue, we invite you to place a memorial for your loved ones not with us this Christmas in this newspaper for just \$10.

Size is 2.4" X 2" and all will run on the Obituary Page December 20th.

(Includes a photo and your own personal message.)



Sample Ad:

Ad Shown Actual size of 2.4"x2"



Deadline Friday, Dec. 13th @3pm

Please email to June at
jsima@stonebridgepress.news,
or mail or drop off by
Friday Dec. 13th to
June Simakauskas
25 Elm Street, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550.



To place a Card of Thanks
In-Memoriam, Birthday
or Anniversary Greeting,



the deadline is Friday noon
for the following week.

(Memoriams will run on the Obituary pages)

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3")
or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3").
You can add a photo at no additional cost.

To send by mail, please mail or drop off to
June Simakauskas, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm St.,
Southbridge, MA 01550.

Personal checks, Visa, Master Card, Discover and AMEX are accepted.

For more information,
please call June at 508-909-4062
or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news
and she'll be happy to help!



December is FREE WINDOWS MONTH at Renewal by Andersen.¹



Why is December one of the best times to replace your windows?

Because if you call us now, you can get your more energy-efficient windows installed and enjoy a **comfortable, less drafty** home this winter.

Our exclusive High-Performance™ Low-E4® SmartSun™ glass is **up to 70% more energy efficient.**[†] It's engineered to make your home more comfortable in the colder months.

Call before December 31st!



Andersen
WINDOWS • DOORS

Why have our customers chosen us over another window company?

1. Fibrex® Material

Our exclusive Fibrex material was **researched by Andersen** for 30 years before it was installed in even one home. **Our Fibrex material is twice as strong as vinyl.**

2. Unique Look

Our window has the **elegant look and strength of a wood window**, but our Fibrex material doesn't demand the same maintenance of wood.*

3. Accountability

There's no frustrating "middle man" to deal with. **We manage the entire process—from building to installation to the warranty—on windows and patio doors.**

Our
Fibrex®
material is
2X STRONGER
THAN
VINYL

It's almost
like getting
FREE WINDOWS
for 1 year¹

\$0 DOWN

**0 MONTHLY
PAYMENTS**

0% INTEREST

FOR 1 YEAR¹

Plus

**SAVE
\$325**

ON EVERY WINDOW¹

**SAVE
\$700**

ON EVERY PATIO DOOR¹

Minimum purchase of four. Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.

**Renewal
by Andersen.**

The Better Way to a Better Window™

**CERTIFIED
MASTER
INSTALLER**

Call for your **FREE Window
and Patio Door Diagnosis**

1-800-209-2746

¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 12/31/2019. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$325 off each window and \$700 off each patio door and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 12/1/2019 and 12/31/2019. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2019 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2019 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *Values are based on comparison of Renewal by Andersen® double-hung window U-Factor to the U-Factor for clear dual pane glass non-metal frame default values from the 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 International Energy Conservation Code "Glazed Fenestration" Default Tables. *See limited warranty for details.

TRIPS

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PAXTON SENIORS

Area Seniors are Planning Another Wonderful Trip

Our adventure will be an 11 day trip: River cruise on the Danube River plus couple of days on land. The trip begins on Thursday, Oct 8, when we will fly out of Boston.

Some details: 11 days- 24 meals, 7 day cruise on the Danube and 2 nights in Fussen(near Munich) Oner local tour from the Ship are included in each port. We fly into Budapest, Hungary and fly home from Munich.

Transportation from Paxton to and from Logan is included.

Four countries – Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany

Cruise from Budapest to Passau, then coach to Munich/Fussen.

This is a wonderful trip and we sincerely hope that you can join us on December 3 and especially next October.

Bob Wilby, 508-792-4662 or rwilby@charter.net

Please call or email me if you plan to come to the December 3 informational meeting.

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 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 9:00 to 10:00 AM or call 774 922 4049, or e-mail me jimtrips@yahoo.com

Sturbridge Recreation

New York City Holiday bus trip: Saturday, Dec. 14; depart from Burgess

Elementary School at 7 a.m. on our Lizak charter. Arrive approximately 10:30 a.m. (a rest stop will be made along the way) for a day to do as you please in the wonderful Big Apple! Ice skate at Rockefeller Center, take in a show on Broadway, do some Christmas shopping, marvel at the light displays, and more! Drop off will be as close to Rockefeller Center as possible. Depart from the city at 6:30 p.m. and enjoy a peaceful ride home. Arrive back home in Sturbridge by 10 p.m. Cost: \$50 per person. Contact the Sturbridge Recreation Department at (508) 347-2041 or recreation@town.sturbridge.ma.us for more information.

UNION SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE CHAPTER 12

Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Chapter #12, Southbridge, is sponsoring a variety of excursions for all to enjoy in 2019. 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.

2019

2019 is the Society's 27th 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.

Dec. 14 — "Festival of Christmas Lights" at Our Lady of La Salette Shrine, seasonal concert with Fr. Pat, the singing priest, visit the International Museum of Creches, Gift and Book Shop, Chapel of Light, a Bistro for refreshments and snacks, a Carousel for the children, an optional trolley ride for a small charge to view the display of more than 400,000 lights and a complete inclusive luncheon at Wright's Farm Restaurant. Cost is \$54 per person, \$44 for children three to 10, under three free. Departure is 10:45 a.m. from Southbridge and 11:15 a.m. in Webster, with the return about 7:45 p.m. Reservation deadline is Dec. 5.

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.

EDITORIAL

continued from page A8

re-entered the community to celebrate the holiday.

The Bicycle playing card company created decks of cards during WWII that revealed an escape route for POW's in Germany.

In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," the verse referring to "true love" is a reference to God. A "partridge in a pear tree" represents Christ,

and the "two turtledoves" represent the Old and New Testaments.

Did you ever wonder why the colors red, green and gold are affiliated with Christmas? The color green is a symbol of life and rebirth, red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold is a symbol of light, wealth and royalty.

Christmas trees are grown for roughly 15 years before they are purchased. In Poland, spider webs are a common decoration for trees because a spider, according to legend, wove a blanket for baby Jesus.

Alabama became the first U.S. state to officially recognize Christmas in 1836.

Mistletoe is considered sacred to the Druids because it produces fruit and remains green throughout the winter. The Druids never let the plant hit the ground and believed that it was a cure for infertility and warded off evil spirits.

Proto-environmentalist Teddy Roosevelt banned Christmas trees from the White House in 1901.

Apples were the first Christmas tree decorations.

Why do we hang stockings by the chimney with care? Apparently, there were three sisters who were too poor to afford a marriage dowry and were bound to end up on the streets. Bishop Saint Nicholas filled their stockings with gold coins, and their lives were forever changed.

We hope you enjoyed these fun Christmas facts and hope that you have a happy holiday season filled with endless laughter and memories to last a life time.



Dining & Entertainment

Visit these fine establishments
for great food
and entertainment

Call Mikaela at 508.909.4126 to advertise

Book Your Christmas Parties Now!

Spencer Country Inn

**Buy 1 Entree
Get 1 1/2 price**
(dine-in only) Cannot be used
on holidays or private parties
With this ad. Exp 1/31/20

WEDNESDAYS ITALIAN BUFFET
All You Can Eat \$12.95 5-8pm (plus tax & gratuity)

SUNDAY BRUNCH
All You Can Eat \$14.95 10am-1pm (plus tax & gratuity)

**500 Main St., Spencer, MA
508-885-9036
www.spencercountryinn.com**

HOURS
Lunch: Wed. through Sat. 11:30-2:00
Dinner: Wed. through Sat. 5:00-Close
Sun. Brunch: 10am-1pm
Function Rooms for 5-250 guests

**It's National
Ugly Sweater Day!**

Friday Dec 20th, soooo...
Let's have some fun!

Wear your favorite
Ugly Sweater
when you
dine-in with us on
Friday, Dec 20th
and enter a chance
to win an
E.B. Flatts Gift Card!
HaHa oh what fun it is!

E.B. Flatts
245 W. Main E.Brookfield 508-867-6643

Salem Cross INN
RESTAURANT & TAVERN
260 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585

~ Gift Certificates ~

FIREPLACE FEASTS
Now-April
1700's Style Feasts, Prime Rib prepared on the open hearth
of a great fieldstone fireplace. Advanced Ticket Sales Required
View & reserve dates on website or call

Christmas Memories
December 21
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MSRP \$37,129LEASE
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36 MOS.10k Miles/Year
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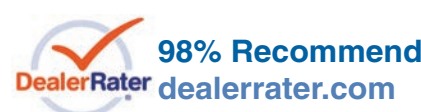
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Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Brimfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing, on the following:
The Brimfield Planning Board will be holding a Site Plan Review Public Hearing for Sunpin Solar Development, LLC for the proposed project of a Gravel access drive and utility connections for a solar project located in the Town of Warren which is located at **Brookfield Road** (parcel id: Map #4B Block# A, Lot 18) on **January 8, 2020** at the Brimfield Town Hall (21 Main Street) at **7:30pm**. Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Brimfield Planning Board or appear at the time and place designated above. A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Board Office in the Town Hall, please call 413-245-4100 x1153 or email planning@brimfieldma.org.
December 13, 2019
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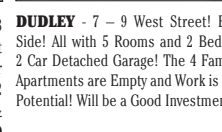


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DUDLEY – 9 Nellies Way! TOBIN FARM ESTATES! 10 Rm Colonial Set on 1.2 Acres! Applianced Dine-in Granite Kit! 3 Season Sun Rm off Kit! Din Rm, 2 Story Fam Rm w/Pellet Stove, Bdrms, Full Bath w/Laundry & Gleaming Hrdwds Round Out 1st Flr! 2nd Flr Features an Open Balcony to the Liv Rm! Plenty of Space for an Office, Playroom or Reading Area, Use Your Imagination! Master w/Tray Ceiling & 3 Closets! Master Bath w/Dual Sinks, Shower, Whirlpool Tub & Makeup Counter! 2 Additional Bdrms & Full Bath! Huge Finished Walk-out Lower Level Perfect for Entertaining! Wet Bar w/Wine Cooler & Fridge! Half Bath w/Tile Flr! Irrigation! Shed! JD Riding Mower! Don't Miss Out! **\$469,900.00**

DUDLEY – 7 – 9 West Street! Brick 4 Family plus a 2 Family! Side by Side! All with 5 Rooms and 2 Bedrooms! Gas Heat! All Separate Utilities! 2 Car Detached Garage! The 4 Family with Beautiful Natural Woodwork! All Apartments are Empty and Work is Needed in Several Apartments! Excellent Potential! Will be a Good Investment for the Right One! **\$399,900.00**



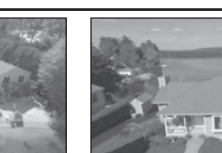
ON DEPOSIT



SOLD



THOMPSON – 299 Quaddick Rd! Beautiful Custom Cedar Log Home Privately Set on 5.47 Acres! Stone Wall Entry Leads Up the 700+ Driveway! Nestled in the Woods! 6 Rms of Gorgeous Cedar! Applianced Granite Kit w/Soft Close Hickory Cabinets! Ideal Open Flr Plan w/Soaring Beamed Cathedral Ceilings w/Skylights! Gleaming Hrdwds! Liv Rm w/Spectacular Stone Frplc w/ Pellet Insert! 1st Flr Master w/Full Whirlpool Bath & Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms & 2.5 Baths Total! 3Z Buderus Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! **\$399,900.00**



SOLD



WEBSTER LAKE – 250 Killdeer Island Rd! North Pond's Sandy Shore! 9 Rm Ranch in Meticulous Condition! Absolutely Beautiful 100' Waterfront Lot! Stainless Applianced Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets, Granite Counters, Hrdwd Floor & Dining Area w/Slider to Deck! Formal Dining Rm w/Hrdwds! Front to Back Living Rm Overlooking the Lake w/Cathedral Ceiling, Custom Built Cabinets, Gas Frplc & Hrdwds! 1st Flr Lake Facing Master Bdrms w/Slider to the Deck & Access to the Screened Hot Tub, w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Whirlpool Tub, Separate Shower & Commode Closet! 1/2 Bath & Separate Laundry Rm Nearby! Walk-out Lower Level w/Full Kitchen, 22' Lake Facing Family Rm w/Sliders to the Patio/Lake! 2 Lake Facing Bdrms w/Sliders to the Patio/Lake! Full Bath! Oversized 2 Car Garage! LP Gas Heat/Hydro Air! Generator! Private Boat Ramp! Docks! Don't Delay! **\$910,000.00**



SOLD



DUDLEY – 94 Tracy Road! 7 Rm 4 Bdrm Colonial On 1.24 Acres! Privacy! Many Upgrades! Hrdwds Throughout! Frplc Liv Rm w/Recessed Lights! Formal Din Rm! Eat-in Kit! Updated in 2015! Cherry Cabinets, Granite Counters, Center Is! & SS Appliances! Sunroom w/Skylights, Hrdwd Flrs & Slider to Deck! 1st Flr 1/2 Bath w/Laundry! Master Bdrms w/Dble Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2nd Flr Full Bath! Lower Level Game Rm/Office! Utility/Storage Rm! 16X21 Deck! Garage Under! Save on Your Electric Your Bills, 2015 Solar Panels! Level yard w/Shed! Call now! **\$349,000.00**



SOLD



SUTTON – LAKE SINGLETON WATERFRONT! 5 West Sutton Rd! 8 Rm Cape! 3 Bedrooms! Screen House at Waters Edge! Gradual Access to the Water! Well Maintained! Kit, Formal Dining Rm! Spacious Fireplace Living Rm! Den! Sun Rm! Updated Windows! Brand New Furnace w/Hybrid Hot Water System & New Septic Just Installed! Quick Closing! **\$449,000.00**



ON DEPOSIT

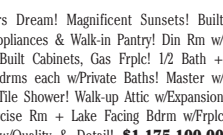
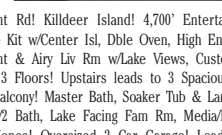


SOLD



CHARLTON – GLEN ECHO LAKE! 3 Sunset Dr! Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic 105' Waterfront! Ideal 15,941' Gently Sloping Lot! Comfortable 9 Rm Ranch! Stainless Appliance Eat-in Granite Kit! Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Panoramic Water Views! 4 Bdrms, 3 Lake Facing including the Spacious Master! Full Hall Bath! Enjoy the Sun Rm w/Lake Views! 32' Walk-out Lower Level Frplc Fam Rm w/Wet Bar & Convenient Half Bath! Nicely Landscaped Front & Back! Lake Level Deck, Dock & Rear Shed! Benefitted by Town Sewer! Start Packing! **\$499,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 50 West Point Rd! Killdeer Island! 4,700' Entertainers Dream! Magnificent Sunsets! Built 2016, Has It All! 2 Story Foyer! Granite Kit w/Center Isl, Dble Oven, High End Appliances & Walk-in Pantry! Din Rm w/ Wet Bar, Sliders to 14x30' Deck! Bright & Airy Liv Rm w/Lake Views, Custom Built Cabinets, Gas Frplc! 1/2 Bath w/ Laundry! An ELEVATOR to Service All 3 Floors! Upstairs leads to 3 Spacious Bdrms each w/Private Baths! Master w/ Tray Ceiling, Walk-in Closet & Private Balcony! Master Bath, Soaker Tub & Large Tile Shower! Walk-up Attic w/Expansion Possibilities! Lower Level w/Full Kit, 1/2 Bath, Lake Facing Fam Rm, Media/Exercise Rm & Lake Facing Bdrms w/Frplc & Private Bath! Slider to Patio! 13 Zones! Oversized 2 Car Garage! Loaded w/Quality & Detail! **\$1,175,100.00**



SOLD



WEBSTER LAKE – 68 W Point Rd! Western Exposure - Spectacular Sunsets! 75' Waterfront w/Expansive Views! 6 Rm 1 1/2 Rm Ranch! Ideal 2nd Home! Renovate or Enjoy As Is! Open Flr Plan! Applianced Cabinet Packed Kit! Lake Facing Din & Liv Rms w/Water Views! Sliders to Screen Enclosed Porch! Master w/Ceiling Fan & Dble Closet! 2nd Bdrm w/Dble Closet! Full Bath off Hall! Finished Walk-out Lower Level w/25' Fam Rm w/Door to Lakeside Patio, Bdrms, Full Bath & Utility/Storage Rm! 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths Total! Oil Heat! Covered Entry Ramp & Electric Chair Lift! Shed! Dock! Summer Will Be Back – Don't Delay! **\$499,900.00**



SOLD

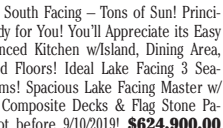
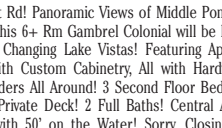


SOLD



CHARLTON – 105' WATERFRONT! Baker Pond! 63 Lincoln Pt Rd! East Facing = Fantastic Sunrises! Custom 9 Rm Colonial! Beautiful 1/2 Acre Lot w/Lawn to Water's Edge! 2 Story Foyer! Natural Woodwork! Open Flr Plan! Appliance Granite Kit w/Is, Recessed Lights, Tile Flr & Water View! Din Area w/Slider to Deck! Sunken Frplc Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Water Views! Din Rm w/Hrdwd! 1/2 Bath w/Pedestal Sink! 2nd Flr w/4 Bdrms, 3 w/Water Views! Master w/Cathedrals, French Dr to Balcony, Bath w/Separate Tub/Shower, Walk-in Closet & Laundry! Hall Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Finished Walk-out Lower Level w/31' Fam Rm! Full Kit! Full Bath & Laundry! Includes **NEW A/C SPLIT SYSTEM!** Enjoy Outdoor from the Farmer's Porch, Deck, Patio, Screened Porch or Dock! 2 Car Garage! Full Recreational Use! **\$524,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 50 Union Point Rd! Panoramic Views of Middle Pond – South Facing – Tons of Sun! Principal Residence or as a Second Home this 6+ Rm Gambrel Colonial will be Ready for You! You'll Appreciate its Easy Access and Taken Back by the Ever Changing Lake Vistas! Featuring Applianced Kitchen w/Island, Dining Area, Lake Facing Fireplaced Living Rm with Custom Cabinetry, All with Hardwood Floors! Ideal Lake Facing 3 Seasons Rm w/Tile Floor & Anderson Sliders All Around! 3 Second Floor Bedrooms! Spacious Lake Facing Master w/ Cathedral Ceiling & 2 Sliders to its Private Deck! 2 Full Baths! Central Air! Composite Decks & Flag Stone Patio for Your Enjoyment! 7,405' Lot with 50' on the Water! Sorry, Closing not before 9/10/2019! **\$624,900.00**



NEW LISTING



WEBSTER LAKE – 506 Beacon Park! 1,280' Custom WATERFRONT Townhouse, Ideal End Corner Unit w/Panoramic Lake Views! Overlooks Lakeside Pool & Sandy Beach! From the Private Entry this Unit is Like No Other! Being Sold Fully Furnished & Appointed! 1st Flr w/Beautiful Maple Hrdwds! SS Applianced Silestone Kit! Recessed Lighting! 2 Bdrms! Master Bath! 2.5 Tile Baths! Recent A/C & Heat! Garage! **\$369,900.00**



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**We Want
Your Listings!**

Featured – New Construction!



THOMPSON, CT - 6 LILLIAN AVE, LOT #1

There is **No Place Like Home!** ~ beautiful newly constructed home! Split level style home has an attractive modern flare! Open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, tile floored baths, & master full bath w/ extra wide shower & walk in closet, plus 2 more spacious BRs & a full hallway bath. 24' lower level family room, half bath w/laundry hookups! Two car garage! Central AC. **\$299,900.**

WOODSTOCK, CT - 64 LYON HILL RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Estate like long paved driveway! 3158 Sq Ft Colonial! Geothermal built. Open floor plan, ash flooring throughout! Granite and s/s applianced kitchen! Large master bedroom, coffered ceiling, master bath, w/attached tub! Walk in closets. Two car garage. Radiused curbwalk on upper level! A walk up attic. Walk out lower level! The third garage is accessed from the lower level. Generator hookup. One beautiful property! assisted sale **\$499,900.**

DUDLEY - 71 EAGLE DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!

Wow! Young 8 room Center Hall Colonial! Better than new! 3 bedroom, 3 full bath! 23' X 23' Cathedral ceiling Family Room! Hardwood & Ceramics throughout. Heat by forced hot air/oil, Central air! 2880 Sq Ft of living area. In one of Dudley's finest developments with underground utilities! **\$420,000.**

WEBSTER - 16 WEST AVE



SORRY, SOLD!

Spacious ranch 3-4 bedrooms. 1-1/2 baths, 1 car attached garage. Newly remodeled kitchen. Partially finished basement just waiting for carpet or laminate flooring. Hardwood & Tile throughout 1st floor. Flat level lot. Town water & sewer. Potential to finish a studio above garage **\$267,000.**

POMFRET, CT - 280 RIVER RD



Cape gutted to the studs and remodeled, 3 Br, 1 bath, 1.7 acres. New kitchen cabinets w/granite counters and center island. New electrical/plumbing. Large Gambrel Post & Beam. 2 bay garage w/hot. New septic. **NEW PRICE \$249,500**

WEBSTER - 212 SCHOOL ST



SORRY, SOLD!

Large 4 Family! 3 car garage! Off street parking. 2 bedrooms each unit! Walk-up attic with a lot of potential! Solar panels! Fully Rented. **\$369,900.**

WEBSTER - 3 STEFANIAK AVE.



ON DEPOSIT

Cute 2 Bedroom Ranch! All hardwood floors, gas fireplace living room! 2 baths. Appliances included. 2 zone heat. Large deck! Young asphalt roof. Walk out lower living level. Town Water & Sewer, City Gas **\$219,900.**

SOUTHBRIDGE - 79 N.WOODSTOCK RD



SORRY, SOLD!

FRESHLY PAINTED 3 BEDROOM RANCH HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER! ALL HARDWOODS THROUGHOUT! REMODELED BATHROOM! 3 SEASON ENCLOSED PORCH. KITCHEN/ DINING AREA HAS A VERY SPACIOUS OPEN LAYOUT! BEDROOMS WITH DOUBLE CLOSETS! CORNER LOT WITH SIDE GARAGE UNDER! CLOSE TO SHOPPING AREA AND MAJOR AMENITIES. Town Water. **New Price \$214,900**

WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS



Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Possible potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer, City Gas! Nice level lot. **\$70,000**
Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres of flat land that abouts Douglas State Forest **\$132,900**
Webster - 3 Lots Cooper Rd. Attention Developers! 3 abutting house lots, potential to divide into 5-6 Buildable lots! water/sewer access **\$129,400**
Webster - 85 Union Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre,artisan well, Septic Design, Etc. **\$130,000.**
Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly possible to be subdivided. **\$99,900**

WEBSTER - 17 PINWOOD DR



SORRY, SOLD!

Location, Location, Location! Close to I395. Split Entry with 6 rooms. 3 bedrooms & 1-1/2 baths. Many Updates! Fireplace living room. Wood floors! Recent Asphalt Shingled Roof & Solar Panels. **ASSISTED SALE \$289,900.**

WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD



Attention Developers! 3 abutting house lots, potential to divide into 5-6 Buildable lots! Lake Residential area, Water/Sewer access **\$129,400.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE - 118 POINT BREEZE RD

Excellent Opportunity to Finally Own Your Own Webster Lake Waterfront Property! Prime Location, 5,697+/- SF Lot, 50' Rd & Water Frontage at a Great Price! Contemporary Ranch offers 996+/- SF of living area w/2 BRs & 2 full baths. Plus, convenient, indoor access to Walkout Lower Level w/tremendous potential for additional living area. Main level features Open Floor Plan w/sliders to full front deck! Spectacular Westerly views across Middle Pond! Additional land & shore frontage available. **NEW PRICE \$299,900**



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE – 32 JACKSON RD

AN INTRIGUING OPPORTUNITY TO OWN AN EXTREMELY UNIQUE 3.32 ACRE WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT PROPERTY! Charming, year-round, 2 BR, 2 bath Ranch, located at the Southern most end of Webster Lake's South Pond beyond Cedar Island! Extremely private w/direct lake access. The home offers a full finished LL w/walkout access, a screened-in 18x20 patio, 18x26 det'd garage & 8x8 storage shed. Park like grounds! **New Price \$375,000**



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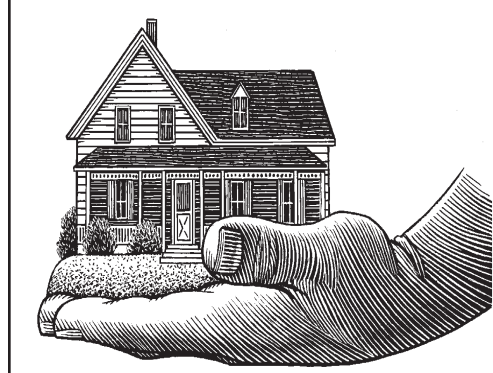
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South Worcester County
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Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
Maureen O'Connor 508-981-4902

Licensed in MA & CT

SAVE THE DATE: December 14 • Noon-1pm
LOCATION: Booklovers' Gourmet 55 E. Main Street, Webster
WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN?
JOIN ME: JoAnn Szymczak, Realtor, Real Estate Instructor
FOR A REAL ESTATE COFFEE HOUR
Let me assist you by making the home buying, selling, or the financing process a breeze and save you money in the process. Information on VA, FHA, USDA, and conventional Loans
RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED – SEATING LIMITED
508.943.7669 or 774.230.5044

ReMax Advantage 1
25 Union Street
Worcester MA 01604







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REDUCED

WEBSTER: MOTIVATED SELLER! Well maintained w/3bdrs, hardwoods, 24' LR, porch and garage. On 1/2 acre lot w/town services — a must for easy highway access to 395, Rtes. 196, 290, 12, and 20

\$239,900



WEBSTER: HIP ROOF RANCH! 3 bedrooms, 20' family room, fireplace w/pellet insert, 1 full, 2 half baths

30 Stoughton Ave. – \$269,900



SZYMCAK SELLS!

SOLD!

4, br, 2.5 baths, family room, new construction.

24 Normandy Ave– 16 Francis Dr ~ \$419,000



LAND FOR SALE

DUDLEY
Lot on Alton Dune
\$75,000

Subdivision Jesse Pond
\$575,000

BUYERS FREE COFFEE HOUR WORKSHOP DEC. 14 • NOON-1

BOOKLOVER'S GOURMET MAIN ST. WEBSTER, MA



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Patrick Sweeney
774-452-3578

FEATURE PROPERTIES



PENDING

OXFORD, MA - \$234,900
44 Depot Road
3 Bedroom, Ranch
Recently Remodeled



PENDING

STURBRIDGE, MA - \$299,900
234 Podunk Road
Antique Colonial, 4 bed, 2 bath, Remodeled



FOR SALE

New Construction

WEBSTER, MA - \$289,900
90-A Sutton Rd.
3 Bedroom, Raised Ranch. Come Choose Your Colors & Finishes Now!



PENDING

DUDLEY, MA - \$249,900
5 Fairview Ave
Under Priced, Needs Work



COMING SOON

WEBSTER, MA - \$259,900
56 Chase Ave
2-Family
Completely Renovated



NEW CONSTRUCTION PROPERTIES COMING SOON
BUILD TO SUIT

We Have Qualified Buyers, Always Looking To Sell, Any Type! Contact Us Today!



Open House Directory

(C) Condo (B) Business (P) Land	(X) Condo (U) Duplex (L) Mobile Home	(M) Multi-Family (S) Single Family (A) Apartment	(T) Townhouse (D) Adult Community (W) Waterfront
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ADDRESS STYLE TIME PRICE REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

SOUTHBRIDGE

20 Hartwell Ter.	S	Noon-3	\$239,900	Aucoin Ryan Realty 508-765-9155
483 Alpine Dr.	S	Noon-2	\$269,900	Aucoin Ryan Realty 508-765-9155

*To have your open house listed in this directory.
Please contact Patricia Owens 508-909-4135*

**AUBURN - 2 ACRE LOT
FOR SALE**

Abuts Eddy Pond. Well & Title V
2 BR septic installed.
Conservation approved location
& maximum house size.
\$75,000

Call John 508-789-8230

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BROOKFIELD: Gorgeous WATERFRONT! Move in ready 6 room 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath Colonial! New septic system! Town Water! Level yard to dock w/docking. First floor 2 bedrooms & full bath. Second floor great room with sliders to deck plus two more bedrooms & bath. Magnificent views of the water! 2 car garage. Year built very deceiving. This property updated throughout. Full recreational lake! **\$389,900.**



**OPEN HOUSE 12-3PM SAT
SOUTHBRIDGE • 20 HARTWELL TER.**
Impeccably maintained Cape Cod Style home! 6 rooms 4 bedrooms 2 baths. Beautiful kitchen with appliances. Wonderful heated sun room with deck for barbecuing. Hardwood floors. Central Air. Updated boiler and hot water. Professionally landscaped yard. Located at the end of a dead end street. **\$239,900.**



**OPEN HOUSE 12-2PM SAT
SOUTHBRIDGE
483 ALPINE DR.**
Country Living at it's BEST! Private oasis! Great Colonial with 6 rooms 3 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths. Large kitchen/dining room combo with tile floor. Half bath and first floor laundry. Master bedroom with large walk in closet and master bath. 2017 Pellet stove to keep you warm. Cozy three season sun room which leads to patio deck and a large flat yard. New roof in 2019. **\$269,900** Weather permitting.



WEBSTER: INVESTORS TAKE NOTICE!
Fully rented! 2 Large 3 bedroom apartments and one 2 bedroom apartment. Exceptional large & level yard! Centrally located for commuters. Tenants pay their own utilities. Washer & dryer hook ups. Newer hot water tanks. Enclosed staircases. Large off street parking lot. **\$219,900.**



SOUTHBRIDGE: INEXPENSIVE! Bargain Hunters take a look at this Antique Colonial with 8 rooms 4 bedrooms 1 1/2 Baths. Hardwood floors. Economic gas heat. Newer roof, boiler, & HW heater. Front & rear stairways to go upstairs. Fireplace. Needs some paint & updating but well worth it! Garage. **\$149,900.**



STURBRIDGE: Desirable Double Wide Mobile Home in Sturbridge Retirement Co-op Park! 5 rooms 2 bedrooms 2 baths! EXCELLENT LOCATION being the last home on dead end! Privacy! Large master bedroom with master bath! Vaulted ceilings in living room/dining room combo. Eat in kitchen. Large enclosed porch too! Shed. **\$70,000** plus park share!

**ACTIVELY SEEKING LISTINGS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:
SOUTHBRIDGE, STURBRIDGE, DUDLEY, CHARLTON, WEBSTER, HOLLAND. PLEASE CONTACT US!**

A Place To Call Home...



ASHFORD: Cape Cod style home sitting on a prime 28+ AC lot. Great location for commuting anywhere and distance to Uconn. This home features 3 bedrooms 1 full bath, a great living room and den area with raised paneling wood surround, fireplace, eating space kitchen and plenty of access to the private backyard. There is a 1+ car over sized garage, a great back patio area, an in-ground pool and a large paved driveway. The home features wood floors, a walk-up attic first floor laundry and an automatic propane Generac whole-house generator. **\$279,900**



PUTNAM: East Putnam Cape style home located in a convenient commuting location sits on 4 acres. The home has 4 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, an eating space kitchen and large living room with wood stove. The walk-out basement has great potential for finishing, workshop or much more. This home has just had a nice facelift and is ready for new owners. **\$219,900**



KILLINGLY COTTAGE: This 636 sqft., furnished seasonal lake front cottage, will enable you to canoe, sail, fish and swim all summer long. This home provides you with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath and open living space. Morning coffee to evening night caps with a view from your deck or screened in porch. A thermostatically controlled gas stove will take the chill off in early spring and autumn. Canoes and paddle boats convey, as well as a storage shed. Approximately 17 years left on a 20 year land lease. Minutes to I-395. **\$167,900**



POMFRET: Located on 4.6 mostly wooded acres and abutting Conservation land, this 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial resides in a quiet rural location, yet is a reasonable drive for the Hartford and MA commuter. The open kitchen and family room has an oversized slider opening onto a 2 tiered backyard deck overlooking nature in every season. Formal living and dining rooms are located off the front foyer. The generously sized master suite provides 2 walk-in closets and a full bath. The wide open walk out basement can be made into a workshop, playroom, office, yoga studio, or all of the above! Newer hot water heater, boiler, well pump and Central A/C round out the picture of this house that you will want to call home! **\$348,000**



THOMPSON HILL: This Federalist Colonial style home with 4 bedrooms also features kitchen with wood floor, butcher block kitchen-island, granite counters with a farm sink & s/s appliances. The dining room & living room have painted wide wood floors, plaster walls, and are good sized. The family room/office features an impressive brick fireplace with raised paneling, built-in bookcases and french doors out to the fireplace stone patio. The grounds are pristine with stone walls, and a large side patio with pergola. Having once been a working farm the barn has evidence of a tack room, horse stall, and even an old 3 seater outhouse. There is room for a car and much more. **\$324,900**



THOMPSON: Fully rented with established tenants, this duplex style 2 family home is located on Route 12 within a few minute's walk of town hall, banking, convenience stores, restaurants and library. Each unit has 3 bedrooms, though 2 of the bedrooms have no closets. Unit A has 1 full bath while Unit B has an additional 1/2 bath and a mudroom/office/playroom. Separate utilities for each unit which is the responsibility of the tenant with the exception of water/sewer. Exterior is vinyl sided, driveway easement in place. **\$154,000**

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

LADIES & GENTS The stockings are hung. The wish lists are done.



Join us at Cormier Jewelers for a sequel evening of fun! Join us for Free Refreshments & Appetizers including Beer from local Breweries * Exclusive One Day

Raffles
*Must be 21 years old 5:30-7:30pm
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

WHISKEY NIGHT
(playing) 9pm
308 Lakeside
308 East Main Street
East Brookfield, MA 01515
774-449-8333

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15



LUNCH WITH SANTA CLAUS
11am-2pm
Kids 7 and under eat free from kids menu
308 Lakeside
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Holiday hosting in small spaces

Gatherings of family and friends are a big part of the holiday season. Hosting such gatherings can be a great way to show loved ones how much you appreciate them, and hosting also saves hosts the trouble of traveling during one of the most hectic travel seasons of the year.

When hosting a large crowd at home, space can be a difficult hurdle to clear. However, a few helpful strategies can help space-starved hosts pull off a holiday soiree where everyone is comfortable.

- Pare down the menu. Holiday feasts don't have to resemble medieval banquets with excessive amounts of food and drink. Hosts with small kitchens and tiny dining quarters can pare down the menu, limiting offerings to just a single entree and a few simple side dishes, so everyone feels comfortable at the table and has ample room to eat. A small menu also gives hosts more time to spend with their loved ones during the festivities.
- Don't overdo it on drinks, either. When planning the

drinks menu, avoid offering cocktails, which take time to prepare and often require guests to visit the kitchen for refrigerated ingredients. Limit drinks to wine, beer, water, and soft drinks, storing cold beverages in a cooler kept outside on a front or back porch or in an area outside the kitchen so cooks can work without interruption.

- Move some furniture. If your main living space is small, consider moving some bulky furniture into a bedroom or office where guests won't

be spending time. Then make better use of the open living space by placing folding chairs or other accommodations to ensure there's ample seating for everyone. A single recliner can only be enjoyed by one person, but removing it from a room may create enough space for as many as three folding chairs.

- Go small on decorations. If you know you'll be hosting in advance of the holiday season, decorate with guests in mind. That might mean skipping a

six-foot Christmas tree in favor of one that takes up less space. Avoid leaving any fragile decorations out, as adults or over-excited kids may knock them over as they try to navigate a cramped space.

Holiday hosting can be fun, even in small spaces. A few simple tricks can make even the smallest spaces accommodating.



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