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Friday, December 14, 2018

Selectmen plan to add firefighters to budget

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – As budget season begins selectmen are following up on previous conversations in November about the fate of five firefighter jobs with a SAFER grant currently funding the positions running out.

Fire Chief Ed Knopf appeared before selectmen for the second meeting in a row on Dec. 4 to discuss possibly funding the five firefighter positions as part of the town budget. As was the case in November, the chief received a warm response from selectmen, who expressed their desire to maintain the positions but acknowledged that it will take some creativity with the budget to do so.

This begins with department requests for budget funding. Each year Town Administrator Robin Craver asks town departments for their needs and budget requests and started that process by examining what it would take for the firefighters to be inserted into the town's spending plan.

"Not knowing whether the board is supportive of assuming the five firefighters in the budget leaves approximately \$260,000 in limbo," Craver said. Pending support from selectmen she said she was willing to reserve the money and work with what is left on funding requests from other departments.

Selectmen simply voted to make the firefighters a priority for the upcoming budget talks in 2019 with several selectmen openly stating their intent and desire to keep these positions to allow the fire department to continue to operate effectively.

Selectman Joe Szafarowicz was the first to speak up, echoing his previous comments from the meeting in

November.

"Going into the budget season I personally would like to see this as one of our priorities. I don't think anything can be written in stone. It is the beginning of the budget season. We still don't know state aid or any other funding levels. I think going into it I would feel comfortable saying, coming from me personally, that this would be a priority," Szafarowicz said.

Selectman Karen Spiewak agreed, "I would like to make this a top priority moving forward. Whatever we need to do."

Chief Knopf said that these firefighters have paid for themselves since being brought on board. The said that the savings in overtime alone have reached \$400,000 and ambulance receipts have seen an increase over that time as well bringing more income into the community. He also explained the town has invested a lot in making these firefighters a staple of the department and that there are some hidden costs if these jobs were to be cut.

"I came up with a rough number of \$25,000 per person that we have invested in these individuals just in the first year of their employment here and that includes everything from orientation to any training, physicals, the fire academy, classes and the like," the chief said later talking about the risks of failing to maintain the jobs. "The hidden costs, if you will, are the unemployment costs that would be incurred moving forward if those positions were not filled, which is obviously a cost to the town and would be moving forward."

Charlton selectmen plan to continue budget discussions in upcoming meetings as the 2019 calendar years quickly approaches.



Courtesy photo.

In his recently completed memoir, author Tim Parker discusses his career in aerospace engineering.

Fly me to the moon: memoirs of a space engineer

VIN FLANDERS
NEWS STAFF WRITER

WARE – Writing a book isn't exactly rocket science...unless you're writing about rocket science.

In his recently completed memoir, local author Tim Parker discusses his lengthy career as a rocket scientist and aerospace engineer. Titled Touchdown, the memoir focuses heavily on Parker's team that contributed to the development and construction of the space suits used in the 1969 Apollo 11 lunar landing.

The mission was the first ever spaceflight to successfully land astronauts on the moon. Throughout the preparation process, Parker and his team faced many challenges that had never been previously addressed.

"I listed a number of examples in my memoir on how we addressed new requirements, as NASA learned more about the effects of cosmic rays, thermal extremes, and surviving in the vacuum/zero gravity of space. This needed to be done while keeping everything else on schedule for the next launch," Parker told the New Leader.

The memoir also highlights Parker's accomplishments in the years following the lunar landing. When he was still just 26 years old, he gave an inter-

Turn To PARKER, page A10

Traffic Commission expands scope beyond Route 20

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – As motor vehicle accidents continue to be a concern in the town the community's still-young Civilian Traffic Commission has compiled a report for town officials after their first year of research into local traffic trends.

Police Officer Richard McGrath represented the commission before selectmen on Dec. 4 and presented data that showed that over the last five years, motor vehicle accidents have not only increased, they've increased exponentially year to year especially in regard to the intersections of Stafford Street at Brookfield Road and Center Depot Road which were among the biggest areas of concern in the report.

"In a five-year period, we're looking at almost 50 accidents at each intersection, which is pretty substantial," McGrath said. "Those different intersections and different areas have been addressed in our traffic commission meetings. As recently as last month we were able to get some signs after reading through the incident reports to see what some people were saying

regarding the reason they were in the accident."

The Brookfield and Stafford street intersection has recorded 47 accidents over the past five years while the Stafford Street and Center Depot Road intersection has been the site of 48 recorded incidents in that same time period. Officer McGrath explained that some of the factors leading to these accidents indicated in the reports include confusion over stop signs, distracted driving and excessive speeds.

The Civilian Traffic Commission was created late last year in response to traffic concerns along Route 20. However, it's clear the focus has broadened to include much of Charlton. That was reflected in McGrath's report in which he indicated motor vehicle accidents town wide have grown greatly in five years by over 50 percent.

"In 2013, we booked 271 motor vehicle accidents during the course of that year. The next year in 2014 was 316 which was a 17 percent increase. The next year was 340 which was an 8 percent increase over the prior year then 369 in

Turn To TRAFFIC, page A5

Security task force seeking updates to security study

BY JASON BLEAU
STONEBRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Security looks to be a priority for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District in the foreseeable future as the committee's Security Task Force is looking into updating a report previous conducted to determine safety procedures and security needs throughout the district.

Committee member Catherine Kabala gave an update on the task force during a School Committee meeting in mid-November after the task force had met to discuss how they would like to proceed with ensuring the district is as safe and secure as possible.

"We were pleasantly surprised to find that back in 2015 our school resource officer did a wonderful comprehensive study of all the schools. He took pictures, noted what we have and what he thinks we should have," Kabala said. "It's very comprehensive so rather than reinvent the wheel we thought we'd work off of that."

That study has provided the base for what's to come in the district and while the task force is already aware of some improvements, they may want to examine Kabala said she could not delve into those details in a public forum. Obviously, sense the point of the task force is safety and security, talks about what they would like to improve are confined to executive sessions for now.

The one thing Kabala could explain however was that the task force doesn't plan on approaching this study alone. They want administrators and staff involved to get input directly from those who know the schools the best.

Turn To SECURITY, page A10

Exploring partnership with MARS for reorganization

BY JASON BLEAU
STONEBRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

As the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee continues to consider the possibility of restructuring and reorganizing offices and administration within the district, it first needs to decide how and when it would like to approach making those adjustments or if it would like to do so before a new permanent superintendent in place.

The School Committee previously instructed Interim Superintendent Dr. Kristine Nash to approach the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) to determine a cost for

working with that organization on the process, and how much it would cost for such a partnership.

Dr. Nash said the focus of the reorganization would be the central office, administration and support staff, finance and related operations and facilities.

"I've had a number of conversations with Steve Hemman, who is the assistant executive director for MARS, who was able to provide me with a preliminary cost estimate. He indicated to me that MARS charges a flat rate of \$90 per hour plus transportation and that while he could not provide a specific

cost, because that would be based on a number of factors," Dr. Nash said. "But, he was able to give me an estimated cost. This estimated cost would cover only central office, finance, and technology. That estimate is a low of \$12,000 to a high of \$15,000."

Dr. Nash also offered some alternative options if the price seems too high for the School Committee at this time. She said the committee could decide to postpone the process altogether and wait for a new superintendent to come in or approach it in a more collaborative manner where department heads would play a role in the examination

of their own department. She voiced concerns with both of these options however with time being a factor and complications expected from having employees grade how they run their own departments. Dr. Nash said the School Committee "has momentum" and she doesn't want to lose that.

The options received mixed responses from committee members as some felt it was more appropriate for the School Committee to wait for a new permanent administration while others agreed they had made ground and

Turn To MARS, page A13

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POLICE LOGS

Arrests/Summons: Nov. 25-Dec. 8

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

Police agencies can no longer print the names of people who are arrested or charged with domestic assault related charges. The new law is designed to protect victims, so they are not re-victimized through indirect identification.

Karrie Iozzo of Southbridge: control substance obtained by fraud; larceny of a controlled substance

Joel Fernandez of Leicester: unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle; operating an unregistered motor vehicle

Andres Garcia of Southbridge: marked lanes violation; operating an unregistered motor vehicle; unlicensed operation of

a motor vehicle; attaching plates; operating an uninsured motor vehicle

Ismael Fontanez of Southbridge: failed to wear a seat belt; unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

Ronald Gaboury of Charlton: malicious destruction of property

Unnamed male from North Oxford: assault & battery on a family/household member

Jennifer Proia of Belchertown: shoplifting (3rd offense)

Elizabeth Malouin of Sturbridge: operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license

Joel Santos-Martinez of Southbridge: operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration

Daniel Davenport of North Brookfield: failure to stay in marked lanes; OUI-alcohol; negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

CHARLTON CAPSULES

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

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Town of Douglas wins outstanding citizenship award

Senator Louis Bertonazzi Foundation - Citizenship Award

Rank	Town	2017 Local Election	2018 Local Election	2018 Sept Election	2018 Nov. Election	Final Total
1	Douglas	1.89%	44.93%	13.20%	61.56%	30.40%
2	Mendon	21.35%	12.20%	17.57%	67.71%	29.71%
3	Upton	18.78%	11.01%	16.79%	70.32%	29.23%
4	Uxbridge	25.74%	9.20%	20.17%	60.82%	28.98%
5	Millville	14.10%	20.57%	19.73%	57.93%	28.08%
6	Grafton	17.35%	13.10%	16.86%	64.33%	27.91%
7	Hopedale	13.97%	4.38%	19.36%	71.11%	27.21%
8	Sutton	12.60%	11.06%	16.67%	67.91%	27.06%
9	Milford	17.35%	17.71%	14.70%	57.27%	26.76%
10	Oxford	15.74%	16.14%	15.81%	59.14%	26.71%
11	Auburn	9.25%	12.78%	16.99%	64.88%	25.97%
12	Bellingham	10.38%	2.73%	25.35%	65.19%	25.91%
13	Westborough	12.42%	9.03%	16.60%	63.78%	25.46%
14	Northbridge	2.99%	9.94%	14.01%	71.45%	24.60%
15	Blackstone	15.96%	2.31%	19.87%	54.94%	23.27%
16	Charlton	7.46%	8.48%	14.40%	59.68%	22.50%
17	Southbridge	18.82%	13.70%	10.03%	41.21%	20.94%
18	Dudley	6.81%	4.17%	14.20%	58.20%	20.84%
19	Webster	11.05%	9.57%	12.30%	50.36%	20.82%

The elections of 2017-2018 have been held. The votes have been counted and finalized and the winner of the Senator Louis Bertonazzi Outstanding Citizenship Award with an average voting percentage of 30.40% is the town of Douglas.

The award is earned by the town that turns out the highest percentage of voters in each community who actually voted in the four 2017-18 elections. It enables the town to be officially recognized as the "Best Voting Community" of the 19 competing towns for that time period. Past winners of the award have been Sutton, Upton twice, Mendon and Northbridge twice.

As a result of their victory the Douglas Town Clerk and Board of Registrars will receive a check from the Foundation for \$1000 to be used as they see fit to increase future voter turnout. The Douglas Board of Selectmen will

be presented a plaque to be displayed for the next two years in the Douglas Town Hall. And the people of Douglas, who earned the award, will receive a huge banner proclaiming Douglas as the "Best Voting Community" 2017-2018 to be displayed as they see fit.

As the accompanying chart shows, Mendon, Upton, Uxbridge, Millville, Grafton, Hopedale,

Sutton, Milford and Oxford comprised the upper tier of challengers. The middle group of finishers was Auburn, Bellingham, Westborough, Northbridge, Blackstone and Charlton. Southbridge, Dudley and Webster trailed the field.

The chart also shows that the winning final average was 30.40% while the lowest final average was 20.82%. All 19 towns but the winner were in the 20% range.

The aim of the contest is to offer

another small incentive for people to exercise the privilege of voting: a privilege won and maintained by the courage and sacrifice of so many over the history of our country.

Arrangements will be made through the Douglas Town Clerk to make the presentation to the Douglas Board of Selectmen in January.

The Senator Louis Bertonazzi Foundation Board of Directors is made up of Dr. Carl DiGregorio, Chairman; Michael Diorio, Treasurer; Atty. David Bertonazzi, Clerk and members Gail Crimaldi, Cynthia Casey, Joseph Nigro, Janice Guerriere, Julie Richards, Tom Cullen and Louis Bertonazzi, Ex Officio.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Charlton Villager is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner. If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4130 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

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Gun buy back this Saturday

The 17th annual Goods for Guns Buy Back is happening on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 10am - 2pm at the Charlton Police Department!

We've know all too well the carnage and heartbreak associated with the killing of Police Officers in Massachusetts by people whose criminal record prove they should not have had access to firearms; or the tragic reality of suicide in which a person has taken their life by the use of a gun.

These types of horrific events in our communities have prompted The Office of the Worcester County District Attorney and UMass Memorial Medical Center to sponsor another Gun Buyback program.

This voluntary and anonymous program gives owners of unwanted guns the opportunity to turn them over to Law Enforcement personnel in exchange for gift cards to a local grocery store. We will also be giving away free gun locks.

Participants will receive gift cards for each operable gun turned in.
\$25 for rifles
\$50 for pistols
\$75 for auto and semi-automatics.

You may also turn in inoperable guns, ammo and accessories but no gift cards will be exchanged for these items.

No questions asked. All guns must be unloaded and wrapped or in a contained bag/ case. No FID or LTC is needed if you are turning in a firearm, rifle or shotgun as a part of this program.

Dudley Womans Club announces scholarships

The DWC is pleased to announce four \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded to female residents of Dudley, Webster and Charlton. Three scholarships will be offered to graduating female senior students residing in the three towns. One of these will be offered strictly to a Dudley resident, and the other two will be selected from the three towns. In addition, one scholarship will also be offered to a non-traditional adult woman student returning to college or accredited training program who resides in the towns of Dudley, Webster or Charlton, or who is a current DWC member in good standing.

Applications are available online on

the DWC website: <http://dudleywomansclub.org/> or by emailing Diane Perry at dwcscscholars@gmail.com.

All applications should be submitted via email by February 15, 2019 to dwcscscholars@gmail.com.

The high school scholarship winners are not limited to SHRHS, BPRVHS, or Bartlett High School. Any qualified students from any high school who reside in Dudley, Webster or Charlton are eligible. The Dudley Woman's Club's mission is public service, with an emphasis on literacy and learning. In our 11th year, the DWC is excited to be able to continue our scholarship award program



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Tips to turn forestry finds into rustic holiday décor

The holidays are here and that means decking the halls (and front doors) for the yuletide season. With a “back to basics” movement in full swing, there’s never been a better time to consider creating natural wreaths and swags from locally sourced “found” materials. In fact, nearly everything you need to pull together a rustic holiday décor is likely as close as your own backyard (or back roads)! The New England forest is a valuable source of evergreen branches, pinecones, bark and other materials that form rustic forest wreaths - rich in fragrance, texture, and old fashioned eye appeal. Read on for tips to choose, adorn and create a holiday wreath!

Fresh Evergreens: Nature’s evergreens, vividly apparent among a blanket of fresh white snow, are celebrated by bringing their festive fragrance and natural beauty into the home at yuletide. Pine and fir varieties are plentiful in New England, and each brings their own qualities to the decorating mix. When foraging through your local woods (be sure to ask owners for permission), seek out broken or fallen branches, as this not only eliminates chopping chores, it’s an ecofriendly choice. Choose (or prune) branches from about six inches up to foot long, and always bring home more branches than you think you’ll need. Fuller wreaths always look better; and any leftover branches can be made into swags or used to adorn the holiday table!

Boxwood, laurel, fir, arborvitae, juniper and pine are all classic holiday evergreens. If the preference is for strongly scented greens, choose juniper, pine, or balsam fir varieties. Spruce, and yew also emit a fresh tree fragrance but not as strong. Some of the best wreaths are

constructed of mixed evergreens. Look for healthy branches with little or no needle loss. Careful pruning won’t harm the trees and shrubs, but be sure to look for fallen or broken branches before cutting. Don’t have woods nearby? Local Christmas tree farms often have spare branches for free or purchase.

If greens cannot be used immediately, store branches outside (preferably in the snow) until ready to use. Pliable greens, such as princess pine and arborvitae can be rejuvenated by dipping or spraying with water prior to use. Once you’ve collected the greens, shake them clean and lay them out on a clean floor or large table space (expect plenty of fallen needles and debris). Snip off sections of each branch to form generous “bundles” of greens.

Natural Embellishments: pinecones, holly, bittersweet, and wild yew branches with their distinct bright red berries are just some common “forest freebies” that are very festive. If your search is started early in the season, look for acorns, seed pods, pig nuts, and miniature crabapples, all of which add texture and color to holiday wreaths. The addition of dried fruits, such as dried apples and lemons also contribute an impressive dose of eye appeal.

Keep in mind holly, yew berries, mistletoe berries, ivy plants and bittersweet are only some forest materials that are poisonous. Any of these plants used on wreaths and swags should be kept out of the reach of children and pets.

Wreaths with



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Swag: Fresh, moist greens with a strong fragrance and pliable needles make the best wreaths. To construct a wreath, cut the greenery into six inch sections. Use your creativity when assembling a wreath and don’t be afraid to merge an array of evergreens. Greenery will be attached to a wreath form, such as a 3D wire wreath form, which is hollow inside, a double wire frame, or simply a homemade wire circle made from a coat hanger. Even narrow grapevine wreaths can serve as a suitable form, as the evergreens are both wired and tucked into the wrapped grapevine. Tie bundles of greens together to form a bouquet. Place each bundle on the form, overlapping each bouquet to produce a thick, full wreath. Attach each individual bouquet to the form with a florist wire. Twist around each bundle a two or three times to fasten it to the frame, working your way around the wreath. No florist wire? Improvise with metal trash bag ties.

The crowning glory of a wreath is its embellishments. Wrap wire around pinecones, bittersweet and berry branches, etc. to fasten them to the wreath. Dried fruits can be stabbed with metal wig picks and attached to the lush greenery. Or, if you prefer, most materials can be hot glued onto greenery. Just be sure to attach to a thick, stable bundle. Homemade bows

are easily tied or glued onto the completed wreath.

If you plan to hang the wreath on an outside door that also has a screen door attached, be sure to measure the allowance between the two doors. While a fluffy balsam wreath is a holiday beauty, a narrower princess pine wreath may deliver just as much festive décor and better fit into your space.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I’m in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

Tri-Valley joins Meals on Wheels America and Subaru in Sharing the Love

11TH ANNUAL SUBARU EVENT WILL HELP DELIVER NUTRITIOUS MEALS

Tri-Valley’s nutrition program is proud to announce it will be participating in the annual Subaru Share the Love Event as a member of Meals on Wheels America — one of four national Share the Love charitable partners for the 11th year running. From Nov.15 to Jan. 2, Subaru will donate \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased to the customer’s choice of participating charity.

Participating Meals on Wheels America members, like Tri-Valley’s nutrition program, will receive a share of the revenue raised by Subaru in their state. Tri-Valley has partnered with Long Subaru in Webster to raise awareness for the popular year-end sales and giving event, and drive support for Meals on Wheels through a number of community activities that included: a kick-off event at Tri-Valley’s office in Dudley and publicity events at area senior centers.

Kristin McCarthy, nutrition program director, said, “The people at Long Subaru are very cooperative and genuine in wanting to give back to the community. They were eager to work with us again this year and to help us make the Share the Love event a success.”

“Meals on Wheels America is thrilled to partner with Subaru of America for the Subaru Share the Love Event for the eleventh year in a row,” said Ellie Hollander, president and CEO, Meals on Wheels America. “Since 2008, the Subaru Share the Love Event has helped local Meals on Wheels programs deliver nearly two million meals to vulnerable seniors nationwide. We remain proud and grateful to have the generous support of Subaru in helping us ensure that homebound seniors receive the daily nutrition and companionship they need to thrive.”

Over the last 10 years, Subaru of America and its participating retailers have donated more than

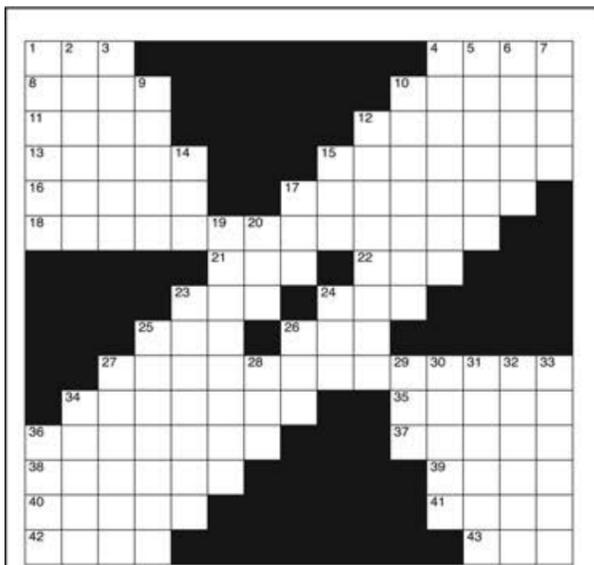
\$118 million to its charity partners. This year’s Subaru Share the Love Event is on track to bring that total to over \$140 million, proving there’s no limit to the amount of love we can all share.

By purchasing or leasing a new Subaru during the Event and selecting Meals on Wheels America as your charity of choice, you can help deliver nutritious meals and other important services to seniors right here in your own community.

For more information, visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/sharethelove.

Tri-Valley is a private, non-profit agency. The agency receives funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and from the Federal government, under the Older American’s Act, processed through the Central Mass Agency on Aging. Funds are also received from other public and private sources. All donations are welcome and memorials may be established. For more information about services or volunteer opportunities, please call Tri-Valley at 508-949-6640.

Meals on Wheels America is the oldest and largest national organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger. This network exists in virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million staff and volunteers, delivers the nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that enable America’s seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity. By providing funding, leadership, education, research and advocacy support, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time. For more information, or to find a Meals on Wheels provider near you, visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A great lunch
- 4. German composer
- 8. Expresses pleasure
- 10. Unit of energy
- 11. Genus of beetles
- 12. Type of respect
- 13. City in Netherlands
- 15. Showing lack of skill
- 16. Irish surname
- 17. Exaggerated or affected sentiment
- 18. Diversion
- 21. Journalist Tarbell
- 22. Wrath
- 23. Current unit
- 24. Sixers’ Simmons
- 25. Makes honey
- 26. Tributary of the Rhine
- 27. Once home to a notorious wall
- 34. Gets back
- 35. She was beheaded in France
- 36. Cheer
- 37. Tropical Asian palm
- 38. Darker
- 39. Figures
- 40. Old World trees
- 41. Protects a broken bone
- 42. Dried-up
- 43. An enclosure for swine

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Blab
- 2. ___ Bacall, actress
- 3. Declaration of an intention to inflict harm
- 4. The most direct route
- 5. Affirm to be true or correct
- 6. Rift
- 7. Oil company
- 9. Alphabetic character
- 10. Large marsh bird
- 12. Hollywood event
- 14. Scottish port
- 15. French river
- 17. Something frustrating (abbr.)
- 19. More in time
- 20. Payroll company
- 23. Pokes holes in
- 24. A way to steal
- 25. Blacken with dirt
- 26. Autonomic nervous system
- 27. A lab tech’s tool
- 28. A place to stay
- 29. UK school
- 30. Moroccan
- 31. Where rockers work
- 32. Most friendly
- 33. In a state of turbulence
- 34. “Bridget Jones” actress
- 36. Hebrew liquid units

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A	L	S				E	R	E	S			
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Help for home heating available

WCAC’s Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) fuel assistance and Energy Efficiency programs assist homeowners and renters

with home heating bills, past due balances on utility bills, and in some cases receiving forgiveness credit and making monthly payments. Energy efficient weatherization, heating system repair and upgrades can help to stretch energy dollars.

All first time applications must complete a face-to-face interview. New applications can be submitted at the Worcester Office located in the Denholm Building, 484 Main St., Worcester without an appointment weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. New applications also accepted by appointment at outreach sites in Southbridge, Webster, Spencer and West Warren. Please refer to WCAC’s website for details information about required documentation to apply.

CITIES/TOWNS WCAC SERVES: Worcester, Auburn, Brookfield, Boylston, Charlton, Charlton City, Charlton Depot, Douglas, Dudley, East Brookfield, Holden, Jefferson, Leicester, Cherry Valley, Rochdale, Millbury, North Brookfield, Oakham, Oxford, North Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Fiskdale, Sutton, Manchaug, Warren, West Warren, Webster, West Boylston, West Brookfield.

If you or someone you know is struggling with home heating bills, WCAC may be able to help!

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bankHometown kicks off 16th annual Pajama Drive

OXFORD — bankHometown kicked off its 16th annual pajama drive on Nov. 26 with a challenge to residents to help support local children in need of new pajamas or slippers.

Until tomorrow, Dec. 15, all 13 bankHometown branches will be accepting pajama donations for children sizes 4T and up, as well as small and medium sizes in men and women. Pajamas must be in complete sets (top and bottom) or an appropriate nightgown. The pajamas and slippers will go to local shel-

ters throughout central Massachusetts and northern Connecticut.

"We believe in giving back to our community all year round, but especially for children during the winter and holiday season," said Matthew Sosik, President and CEO of bankHometown. "This initiative is to give children in our communities the warmth and comfort they may need during the cold winter nights."

The pajamas and slippers are sent to local schools in central Massachusetts

and northern Connecticut, as well as the TEEG (Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group) in Thompson, CT.

bankHometown was founded in 1889 and is headquartered in Oxford. bankHometown has 13 branches located throughout central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. For more information, please visit www.hometowncoop.com.

Hometown Financial Group (HFG), a \$2.1 billion mutual holding company

headquartered in Easthampton, is the parent company of bankESB and bankHometown. Both banking franchises offer a complete line of commercial, business, and consumer products to customers throughout its 24 branches located throughout western and central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. For more information on Hometown Financial Group, please visit www.bankhfg.com.

AREA HOLIDAY FAIRS

Saturday December 15

SANTA VISITS THE FARM: December 15th from 1pm to 7pm. Holiday open house at the Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas with hot mulled cider and holiday cookies. Come get your holiday shopping done. Unique gifts at the country store. Santa wants to hear what you want for Christmas! Come tell Santa your wishes and get your photo taken with Jolly Ol' St. Nick. Photographer Kayla of Kayla Photographer & Art will be there to capture the moment. Santa will be in a private room.

HOLIDAY BASKET FESTIVAL: Grace Episcopal Church, 270 Main St, Oxford will hold its annual Holiday Basket Festival on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9 AM to 1 PM in the parish hall. Chances on Baskets will be \$1 each or

6 for \$5. A free ticket will be given for a donation of food, hats or gloves/mittens which will be given to the Oxford Food Shelf. In addition to Baskets, we will have Christmas hats and stockings which can be embroidered with a name for \$5. A hearty lunch will be available for \$5 as well as a bountiful bake table. Tours of our beautiful sanctuary on request. Contact Carol Uppgard for more info at 508-987-5680.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR: the sixth annual holiday craft fair, presented by the Auburn Recreation and Culture Committee is planned Saturday, Dec. 15 with a snow date of Dec. 16; at the Auburn High School, 99 Auburn St., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 80 craft vendors to get you into the spirit, Santa will make an appearance, and other activities for the kiddos as well. Food available, schedule of events at www.auburnguide.com.

CHARLTON CHRISTMAS

(To include your services email ruth@stonebridgepress.news)

SPECIAL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

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

AREA CHURCHES

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

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

TRAFFIC

continued from page 1

2016. In 2017 there were 390 and just this year we have 425 and we still haven't finished out the year. That represents a 57 percent increase over the last five years from 2013 to 2018," McGrath explained.

The presentation came with a few requests the commission felt would be essential to

assisting in preventing future traffic incidents in Charlton. Selectmen approved a purchase of a portable traffic data collection system called a JAMAR radar recorder for \$5,350. They also approved \$14,000 worth of new solar-powered blinking stop signs for the intersections discussed during the meeting. The money for these purchases is coming from the Cassella Donation account.

As for Route 20, the origi-

nal focus of the commission's studies, Officer McGrath noted the intersection of that route and Route 169 as the location of most of the major accidents and injuries in town. He also discussed how the addition of a new dedicated officer to that route has impacted traffic and incident response.

"The chief of police has signed a deployed a traffic officer in October once we were able to get our manpower back

up, unfortunately the data isn't there to see what that impact is," Officer McGrath. "I can tell you there are a lot of citations being written and they're being written at the high end of egregious driving were some people are going 80 miles per hour through Route 20."

Selectmen complimented McGrath and the rest of the Civilian Traffic Commission on their good work with Selectman Deborah Noble not-

ing that obviously, traffic is a much larger issue than initially expected.

"When we formed this civilian traffic commission a year ago it was in response to the traffic that was happening along route 20 around Zorba's and Treehouse. It's obviously broadened its scope," Noble said.

Friday's Child



Selena

Age 5

Hi! My name is Selena and I like to color!

Selena is a sweet, smart and determined five-year-old girl of Caucasian descent. Her favorite activities include doodling, coloring and counting. She is able to count up to 20!

Selena is on the Autism Spectrum. She has some words, but is not yet able to utilize expressive language. Selena has impressed her caregivers with her ability to retain information like letters and colors, as well as her ability to follow directions that she is given. Selena is currently enrolled in a public school setting where she is receiving extra supports.

Legally freed for adoption, Selena's social worker is open to exploring a family of any constellation where Selena can be the youngest or only child in the home. An ideal family for Selena will be able to advocate for Selena's needs, seek appropriate resources, and provide her with unconditional love and support. They must also be willing to maintain contact with Selena's birth parents in Massachusetts.

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."

Photo by Judy West.

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Santa pays annual visit to Dudley

The town of Dudley hosted its annual visit from Santa Claus Nov. 29. The Christmas icon arrived in style on top of a Dudley fire truck to take part in the town's annual tree lighting festivities which included food, games, crafts, Christmas music from the Shepherd Hill marching band, a viewing of the classic film "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and of course visits with Santa after the official town Christmas tree was lit. It's Dudley's annual holiday kickoff tradition and once again helped families ring in the holiday and get in the spirit for 2018.



Jason Bleau photos

Brothers Liam, Nikolas and Ryan Mason of Dudley were among the first to pay Santa Claus a visit



Members of the Shepherd Hill Regional High School color guard passed out candy canes in costume to celebrate the Christmas spirit



The Shepherd Hill Regional High School marching band plays a Christmas tune to kick off the ceremonies



Dudley incorporated some very new crafts into their annual Christmas celebration this year including letting kids make their own hand-crafted Christmas tree to match Dudley's official town tree.



Santa poses for a photo with Richard and Mary Carmignani of Dudley.



Sevie Speck of Charlton dances to Christmas music while she waits for Santa's arrival



Local high school students from Shepherd Hill enjoy a meal after the tree lighting ceremony

Kicking off the season

WEBSTER – Webster kicked off the holiday season in style Dec 1 with an afternoon bazaar and evening tree lighting/choral concert, both at Town Hall. The events were originally planned to be outside, but shifted into the auditorium when choral leaders realized the students wouldn't be able to read their music in the darkness. Despite that, things went off well, with three groups of students taking turns on stage to sing a few carols each to a few hundred people. Afterward, many attendees filed out the side door to see Santa turn on the gazebo Christmas tree.



Park Ave School Principal Robin Parmley, lower right, leads her schools chorus in several impromptu carols.



Gus Steeves photos

Anh Dao Nguyen and Parker Dinh hang out while waiting for the carols to start.



Rose Bell passes out bells for Park Ave School's performance of "Jingle Bells."



Middle School chorus members Aiden Wolfman (in Santa hat), Kaiden Young, Jordan Rosey and Amber Gracewell.



Cheryl and Audrey Dolsey attended in festive garb.



Sarai David, left, and Sarah Desrosiers share a hug after the 8th grade chorus finished its songs.



Santa awaits the countdown to turn on the town's official Christmas tree on the gazebo beside town hall.



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RUTH DEAMICIS
 EDITOR

OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM CHARLTON, CHARLTON CITY, CHARLTON DEPOT AND BEYOND

EDITORIAL

Traditions

What are holiday traditions in your family?

Some of that depends on whether your family observes a religious aspect to the holidays or not of course; and therefore which of the holidays matter to you.

The end of the calendar year is rife with holidays. They are, whether they mean something deeply and truly important to us or not, part of our lives.

The modern world is inundated with messages bombarding us 24 hours a day, some of them so subtle we aren't even aware of them. Some of them engrained into us; to the point we think everyone else around us must do and think the same we do and we are startled when we discover they don't.

Example: we all know, or think we know, Santa Claus.

But there are people who would prefer not to have that tradition in their homes.

Yet how do they keep it out? And, how do they justify their reasons for the choice not to play into it?

It's a small thing in it's way. But we do it. We all do it. And the expectations are huge.

One of the hugest (like that word?) is that Santa brings the biggest, most expensive gifts...and they are monstrous. TVs; video equipment; bicycles; even puppies. The concept is that Santa brings what the parents can't or won't. He's something that guy.

But what happens when the kids compare notes later. When someone finds out Santa managed a mega-toy or huge pile of toys at one house; but could only manage a single, smaller toy at a less affluent house? Why the disparity? How is that fair?

How do the kids justify it? Do they get it? Do they blame the parents? Or an unfair practices Santa?

Which is why there are people in the world, especially the USA, who have quietly told their children that Santa skips their house altogether. That no matter what they have been told about Santa, it isn't entirely so, and their own family just aren't part of it.

It can be done. It has been done. It is being done.

It isn't easy.

And there can still be gifts.

It is between the members of a household who want to acknowledge one another with a token of respect and love. Not with an obligation and an expectation.

So what is your tradition?

Christmas Cookies

In that great time, there was a hand mixer on sale and I thought it would complement my cookware for under \$15. There was a cheaper hand mixer with less power, and the sales lady said it was the one she used, and why pay more for something that works well and is less expensive? But when I worked renovating houses, Alan warned me that if the price was close, always buy the more powerful engine... it would pay for itself over time. So I spent the few extra bucks and got the mixer with higher wattage and more RPMs.

Yesterday I decided to unbox the mixer and make maple walnut cookies. The recipe was simple. I had all the ingredients, and the smell of cookies would make for a festive air.

"Butter and margarine should be at room temperature." While I followed this direction, it was only later that I realized that I was in a down jacket and that my regular kitchen temperature was subarctic. No problem. It might have been a tad cooler than requested but as I turned on the oven, the temperature was destined to rise as with global warming. I was ready.

I glanced at the instruction pamphlet. Next to the mixer "safeguards" (which could have been labeled "electrocution made easy") was the common sense admonition for first time users to always begin with the lowest speed and work up. Of course. Mixing flour and butter would make thick dough, so a lower speed would tax the engine less. There was manly logic to this baking.

Braced with this knowledge, I began to mix the ingredients.

Imagine my surprise when the mixer jumped out of my hand and began to throw flour and dough across the kitchen at the lowest speed. An alien observer would have seen both surprise and uncoordinated flailing as I sought to halt the flying goo...

(You might ask at this point why an alien observer would be focused on a humble kitchen in the first place. Let us not presume on the interests of aliens.)

The jet whine increased, as did the splats of dough now smacking into walls.

There was no Red Power Off button! All the buttons looked the same!

Ah, there was the answer... a button marked Ejector! I hit the ejector button...the jet engine whine climbed a little higher. Flour and dough continued to fly. Somehow I had moved the rotation speed of the beaters up



IN THAT GREAT TIME
 PATRICK MOON

the scale... to number 6 in fact. On a flight deck, this was the equivalent of a 6G takeoff. Great for jet flight, not so much for baking. In a panic, I pressed the ejector button harder... again... and again... finally, the whirring beaters shot to the floor.

I took a deep breath and surveyed the kitchen.

The even dispersal of white gobs sticking to the walls and ceiling was a satisfactory indication of RPM power. Excellent tool choice, I thought. But perhaps I should have familiarized myself with the mixer a little more by reading the directions. Perhaps there was a little more sophistication attached to this baking thing. Perhaps...ah what the hell. A little clean up and the Nabisco factory would be back on schedule!

I stepped gingerly to wipe more dripping dough from the wall but failed to notice a Brylcreem sized dab on the floor. Any physics student could predict that this dab of lubrication would transfer my weight quickly and efficiently. I thought of this as my feet rose above my head and gravity completed my head thumped journey.

Gazing up from the floor at the globular mayhem that was now my kitchen, I noted that I had been at work less than ten minutes and yet, like some mythical force, like the Star Thrower of legend, I had managed to spin dough clumps into spiral galaxies. I had started to bake cookies but had transmuted myself into the god of a dough-spun universe.

Or perhaps dark forces were at work. The voice came unbidden in a whisper: "Use the force, Pat."

What, to add the walnuts? Let us skip the description of the final product.

Suffice to say that my cookies could replace the heat tiles on a space shuttle.

I have concluded that baking cookies is not my forte. It is not my five-te either. I'm pretty sure my baking prowess ranks up there with jet engine maintenance. That is a skill I am unlikely to master as I have added the whine of a jet engine to my list of auditory anxieties. On the plus side, it has reintroduced centrifugal force as a subject of interest.

I am conscious of iconic scenes in British war movies where one soldier turns to another as they watch a human silhouette disappear into no man's land. "My God, Sergeant...he's just a cook!"

"Don't be daft, Harry," says the gruff sergeant in close-up. "He baked maple walnut cookies. The Boche are done."

Perhaps computer repair at a nuclear facility is a better match for my skills...

Three factors to consider when making charitable gifts

The holiday season is here, which means gift-giving is probably on your mind. In addition to making gifts to your family and friends, you also may be interested in contributing to charitable organizations. But before you donate



FINANCIAL FOCUS
 JEFF BURDICK

financial assets, such as stocks, you will need to consider several factors, including taxes, your portfolio balance and the reputation of the charity.

Let's look at these areas:

Taxes – Your donations to qualified charities (those that are considered 501(c)(3) organizations by the Internal Revenue Service) can give you tax deductions – if you itemize deductions on your tax return. However, due to recent tax law changes, the standard deduction for 2018 has almost doubled, to \$24,000 for married couples, and to \$12,000 for single filers. As a result, you may be less likely to itemize deductions, so you could have less incentive, at least for tax reasons, to make charitable gifts. However, if you give appreciated stocks, you may be allowed a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the gift on the date of the transfer, even if your original cost was only a fraction of today's value. Plus, you may not be subject to the capital gains tax you might have to pay if you eventually sold the stocks.

Also, depending on your age, you might be able to use your traditional IRA as a charitable-funding vehicle. Once you turn 70-1/2, you generally must begin taking withdrawals – called required minimum distributions or RMDs – from your traditional IRA. (Roth IRAs are not subject to RMDs during your lifetime.) These RMDs from your traditional IRA are taxable, but you may be able to exclude up to \$100,000 of RMDs per year from your taxable income if you transfer the funds directly to qualified charitable organizations.

In any case, consult with your tax advisor before donating appreciated assets to a charity.

Portfolio balance – When you donate financial assets to a charity, you are also taking them away from your portfolio. This could be an issue, especially if you repeatedly donate the same types of assets. For example, if you're donating some growth-oriented stocks, will you lower the overall growth potential of your portfolio?

You may want to consult with a financial professional to ensure your charitable gifts will still allow you to maintain a portfolio balance appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance.

Reputation of the charity – You may want to do some homework to make sure you are giving to a reputable charity. Many experts on charitable giving say that a worthwhile charity should spend at least 75 percent of its income on programs, rather than administrative costs. You may be able to find this type of information on a charitable group's annual report and its website. You can also browse the web for the names of agencies that evaluate charitable groups.

By considering the aspects of charitable giving described above, you can get more satisfaction from your generosity – because you'll know that your gift not only supports a good cause, but also fits well into your overall financial picture.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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

Fly, my darling, fly:

A note on divorce for the holiday season

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



MIND OF A CURIOUS GIRL
 ANNIE SANDOLI

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

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

Divorce isn't easy for any child, at any age. It doesn't matter what day of the year it is, it is always complicated and never painless. However, there is something about the holidays that brings up just a little more sadness, a little more heartache, and a little more longing for your parents to be together, or at least be friendly with each other for your sake. I spent year after year wondering why my parents loved me so much even when I made mistakes, but couldn't do the same for each other.

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

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

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

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

My parents, like many couples, had a complex and agonizing divorce. My mom and dad are not friendly or cordial, probably for their own good reasons, nor are they currently okay with seeing each other at any holiday or event, even if it is for my sake. It wasn't my marriage nor my decision to have a child, yet I'm the one who had to find them completely separate seats at my most recent graduation even though my guests were supposed to be in one section. I'm the one who either misses out on seeing one of them on a given holiday or uses two tanks of gas to dodge from place to place, trying to make sure they're both happy.

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

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

Yet here I am at age 22, and as I

was driving down Route 49 going from my mom's family to my dad's family on Thanksgiving Day, I thought to myself, "I can't believe I was so convinced that this whole divorce thing would get easier with time."

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

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

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

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

It took me nearly two decades to begin to truly accept that it really is their problem. It has always been their problem, not mine. I think that's the hardest thing for children of divorce to finally come to terms with. Every day, you're told it's not your fault, but you're also caught in the middle like a tree in a lightning storm, not causing the uproar but likely to get struck by it. How could you not be? You're made of them. You're what they have to remind them of each other.

During this holiday season and

Turn To SANDOLI page A10

DON'T MISS A BEAT
 CHECK OUT THE SPORTS ACTION!



Shotgun season yields magnificent harvest



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

The shotgun season ended this past Saturday for Massachusetts deer hunters, but there is still time to harvest some venison during the primitive arms season which opened this past Monday. The season will end on Dec. 31. Deer hunters are hoping for a few inches of snow for tracking deer during the last segment of the primitive arms season.

This week's pictures show Ralph Godin with the first buck of his life, although he has harvested numerous other deer over the years.

The second picture shows a very happy deer hunter with a magnificent buck taken locally.

This year has had deer hunters take 200 pound deer that had some very magnificent antlers. Although there were very few acorns for the deer to feed on, most were in good health and were doing well on grass and other browse available to them in the woods. Fortunately, no serious accidents were reported. Hunting has become a very safe sport for deer hunters after the regulation of wearing blaze orange for deer



Ralph Geddes with the first buck he's managed, despite years of hunting. He has a bevy of does to his credit, but this is his first buck.

hunters was passed!

The news of a dog being found shot in the woods, was an act that is outrageous, and needs to have the person held responsible and prosecuted. There is always one idiot that makes the sport of hunting look bad. The owners of the dog also need to have some sense of guilt after they allowed their family pet to roam free during the hunting season or at any time of the year. Most towns have a law that requires dog owners

to keep their pets under their control at all times. There is also a state law that requires dog owners to keep their dogs from running free. As the owner of two dogs, I need to have them under my control at all times. They are like family, and allowing them to roam free could have them being hit by cars, or meet some other form of dangerous incident that could cost them their life. The family must be heart broken and I feel their pain!!

The cold weather predicted this week could have some ponds safe for ice fishing, but extreme caution needs to be practiced on first ice as I mentioned in last week's column. Ice fishing with a jig stick is this writer's favorite method of fishing. It requires cutting a lot of holes, but when a school of yellow perch are found the action can be fast. Using a Swedish pimple lure with a single hook baited with a piece of garden worm is usually the best way to catch the first perch. Removing the eye from the perch, and attaching it to your hook is the best method to catch numerous perch and other fresh water fish. During a feeding frenzy pickerel, bass, and other fresh water fish are often caught and need to be retrieved slowly to avoid breaking the line. Numerous 4 lb. bass have been caught by anglers using jig sticks. A few years ago an ice fishing angler caught a large pike on a jig stick at Manchaug Pond which required some tricky maneuvering to get the huge fish thru the hole.

Next week we will discuss some of my favorite fishing spots, and the methods



Courtesy photos

This is a local hunter with a magnificent buck taken locally.

that I use to catch numerous species of fresh water fish through the ice. My first catch of yellow perch often has my wife cooking them the next day. An order of shrimp fried rice and vegetable chow mein from the Food Works Chinese Restaurant in North Uxbridge makes for a great meal with the pan fried perch.

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CALENDAR

Monday December 24

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

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

ONGOING

BUSINESS NETWORKING: Join us for a FREE Business Networking Meeting! Thursdays - 7am at Old Sturbridge Village Oliver Wight Tavern - Grecian Room, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd, Sturbridge, For more info call Tia @ 774-200-6740

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Please come join us for a fun evening of exercise and basketball at the Heritage School gym in Charlton. We play pickup basketball from 7-9 PM every Monday evening from September to June based

on the school schedule. There are no set teams and participation is free for women 18 years and older. Please contact Deb at 508-248-3600 for more information.

Pilgrimage to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje

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

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: third Wednesday each month, 6-7 p.m. at the Overlook Independent Living Building, fourth floor Solarium, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton. The intent is to build a support system, exchange practical information, talk through issues and ways of coping, share feelings, needs and concerns and to learn about community resources. Contact Kathy Walker at (508) 434-2551 or kawalker@overlook-mass.org for more

information. Presented by Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter, visit (800) 272-3900 or alz.org.

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

Free Playgroup at the Hitchcock Academy; sponsored by Union 61 Family Foundation Five Grant. It includes: Music & Movement on Wednesday 9-9:45 a.m. and Playgroup on Monday & Thursday 9-11 a.m. For more information about these and a variety of other

classes visit us at www.hitchcockacademy.org or call 413-245-9977

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

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

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

Holiday dinner

Members of the St. Louis League of Catholic Women gathered together at The Lodge for a wonderful meal and an afternoon full of Christmas activities. Games with lots of laughter were led by Ellie Arsenault.

Music and a special sing-along were provided by Arsen Entertainment, led by Nick Arsenault. Donations were brought to be given to the Blessed Backpack Brigade. We wish everyone a very Merry, Blessed Christmas Season.

Courtesy photos



PARKER

continued from page 1

national press conference on his involvement in the first lunar landing preparations. In recognition of his work, he received the Apollo Achievement Award and was also photographed for the World Book Encyclopedia's aerospace and engineering section.

Now an author of mystery and romance novels, Parker enjoys looking back on a serpentine career that sounds more like the plot of one of his novels. After his work on the Apollo 11 team, Parker helped develop materials, designs and processes that were used in conventional manufacturing.

Reflecting on where it all began, Parker is fascinated by how everything fell into place.

"Becoming an aerospace engineer or rocket scientist wasn't in my long-term game plan because neither term or position really existed at the time," added Parker, who majored in chemical engineering in college.

"Working on the evolution of military and aerospace products in research and development was thrilling when I stumbled into it by answering an advertisement. The initial objective was to make a decent living for my family, but it was invigorating on a daily basis."

Growing up on a farm in rural western Massachusetts, Parker knows he never would have succeeded in the pressure-packed space race of the 1960s if not for his ability to solve problems and manage challenges. Throughout the 1960s, when the space race between the U.S. and Russia was in full flight, time was the constant opponent for Parker's team. Determined to meet President John F. Kennedy's goal of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth by the end of the decade, the pressure on the entire space program was immense.

And as a member of the team entrusted with designing the suits that would keep astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin safe in space, Parker felt the full

weight of high expectations.

"Working at high speed to solve one problem and jump to the next one with inadequate funding and time was gratifying and a lot of fun," Parker recalled. "Building teams to meet seemingly impossible goals in short intervals was an extremely rewarding experience."

For Parker, who has written mystery novels *Wispa* and *Missing in Switzerland*, the transition from fiction to memoir writing brought unique challenges. Now that the memoir is complete, he is eager to return to familiar territory.

"Trying to remember the details of exactly what I did 50 years ago to write the memoir wasn't easy, but there was nobody else to do it. Now I can get back to writing mystery novels," Parker said.

Parker hopes his memoir will be released sometime next year, which represents the 50th anniversary of the first lunar landing. To learn more about the author, visit www.TimParkerNovels.wordpress.com.

SANDOLI

continued from page A8

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

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

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

"Fly, my darling, fly."

SECURITY

continued from page 1

"We decided at the next meeting we'd send a section of each school to that particular principal because this report was from 2015. Things may have been updated that we're not aware of. The principals may have concerns that we're not aware of.

Basically, we're going school by school to see what we have and what we should have," Kabala said.

The task force also hopes to include town officials in the discussion as well. Police, fire and building officials will all be approached as discussions continue to try and make sure the Dudley-Charlton schools are as safe as can be.



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Festival of Giving Trees delights visitors

Four days of raffles and gorgeous (or fun) trees decorated for the holidays by local businesses or organizations enticed visitors during the weekend. Everything from kids toys to elegant ribbon and lace and crystal made for a variety not to be missed.



Sarah Champagne photos

"Come Play with Us" by Charlton Street School



"Dexter Crystal Blue Christmas"



"For the Kids" by Kara Anderson's Dance Studio



"Have a Ball" by the Tri-Community YMCA



"Santa is coming to Hyde" by Hyde Tools



A Unicorn Christmas by Ashley & Sandy Kemp



A wall of raffles represented just a small part of the raffles available during the four-day event.

OBITUARIES

Edward C. Prunier, Sr., 90



CHARLTON – Edward C. Prunier, Sr., 90, died Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at home after a period of declining health. His wife, Nancy M. (Stone) Prunier, died in 1992.

He leaves 3 sons, Edward C. Prunier, Jr. & his wife Sylvia of Albuquerque, NM, Gregory J. Prunier & his wife Paula of Germantown, MD and Wayne S. Prunier & his friend Suzanne Bourque of Charlton; a daughter, Dawn M. Myers & her husband Thomas of Charlton; 10 grandchildren, Aaron Prunier, Heather Abrego, Karen DeMarco, Melanie Cooper, Laura Alden, Edward Prunier, Elizabeth Myers, Kelsey Prunier, Stephen Myers and Claire Myers; 6 great-grandchildren; 3 sisters, Shirley Wolfenden & her husband Wesley of Lutz, FL, Barbara LePage & her husband Paul, and Bernadette Davidson & her husband Donald all of Sturbridge; nephews and nieces.

He was born and raised in Worcester, a son of Edward A. and Jennie (Wroblecka) Prunier. He was a Charlton resident since 1938.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving on the Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Leyte. After the war the Leyte was involved in a Good Will Mission Cruise. He was one of the organizers of the Leyte Group, which met every year in different parts of the country. He was a member and past commander of the Charlton American Legion Post #391.

Mr. Prunier was employed as a die sinker with Wyman-Gordon in

Worcester for 40 years retiring in 1991. After retirement he worked as a limousine driver and a funeral attendant at several funeral homes, including Sitkowski & Malboeuf Funeral Home. He served on the Dudley Charlton Regional School Board from 1970-1974 and was part of the building committee that was responsible for planning and building of Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley.

He was a communicant of Saint Joseph Church. He enjoyed traveling and fishing and sailing on Narragansett Bay. His greatest joy came from the time he spent with his family.

The family would like to thank Dr. Paul Harrington, Dr. Christopher Seidler and Suzanne Bourque for their exceptional care for Ed since he became ill.

The funeral was held Monday, December 10, with a Mass at 10:30 AM in Saint Joseph Church, 10 H. Putnam Road Extension. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Visiting hours were held on Sunday, December 9, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the Sitkowski & Malboeuf Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster and again from 9:30 to 10:30 AM, Monday in the Narthex of Saint Joseph's Church, prior to the Mass. Donations in his name may be made to Harrington Hospital Cancer Center, 55 Sayles Street, Southbridge, MA 01550.

www.sitkowski-malboeuf.com



Viola M. (Barnes) Cicetti, 99



CHARLTON-Viola M. (Barnes) Cicetti, 99 years and 8 months, passed away peacefully in her home at Overlook Health Center in Charlton, with the support of her family, on November 27, 2018. Her husband,

Armand J. Cicetti predeceased her on January 2, 1985. Viola leaves her 4 loving children, Armand L. Cicetti and his wife, Camille, of Crossville, Tennessee, Viola B. Whiteman of Warrington, Pennsylvania, Richard A. Cicetti of Santa Monica, CA, and Deborah C. Campbell and her husband Edward J. of Sturbridge, MA. She also leaves her 4 loving grandchildren, Susan W. Nordlof and her husband, John Nordlof of Phila., PA, John E. A. Whiteman of Hellertown, PA, Christy C. Simpson and her husband, Andrew Simpson of Ware, MA, and Scott E. Campbell and his wife, Jill C. Campbell of Grafton, MA. She also leaves 4 great-grandchildren. Viola was predeceased by her son-in-law, Hugh M. Whiteman and several beloved pets.

Viola was born in Vailsburg section of Newark, NJ on St. Patrick's Day, 1919 the daughter of Amelia L. (Hollister) Barnes and LeRoy A. Barnes. She studied music and was coached in opera at Arts High School until 1937. Soon after

she married the love of her life and then devoted her life to supporting her husband's dream of owning his own floral shop and caring for her family in Livingston, NJ. In retirement, she and Armand resided in West Palm Beach, FL and Yarmouthport, MA. Viola volunteered her time as a Cub Scout Den mother, Girl Scout leader, was a deacon at Trinity Covenant Church, Livingston, NJ and Federated Church of Hyannis, MA. She was also a member of the Livingston Women's Club, their choral group and the NJ chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In later years Viola worked at the Turtle Back Zoo, South Orange, NJ, Buttner's in Hyannis, MA and Cape Cod Hospital Thrift Shop. Viola's favorite pastimes included researching her extensive genealogy, reading historic biographies, traveling, most fondly to Hawaii, and basking in the sun. Her family will most miss her charm, sense of humor and the twinkle in her eye.

The family asks that donations be made to the Overlook Communities and Overlook Hospice of Charlton, MA.

There will be no calling hours. A memorial service will be held on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 1:00pm in the Overlook Chapel, Charlton, MA. A private burial will take place at Ancient Cemetery in Yarmouthport, MA at a later date. Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield.

James R. Soares, 58

DUDLEY- James R. Soares age 58 died Tuesday, December 4, 2018. He leaves his wife Julie E. (Norton) Soares. Jim leaves a son, Scott Tirrell and a daughter Jacqueline Chandy. He also leaves a step-son Nicholas Almond of Lincoln, RI a step-daughter Cassandra Beauregard and her husband Edward of Bellingham and three grandchildren, Victoria Almond and Hailey Lucas. James also leaves brothers, Jose of Milford, Manuel of Whitinsville and John of Framingham, sisters, Valademira Pimentel of Fall River, Angie Ferreira of Northbridge, Aldina Newcomer of NC and Tina Smyth of CA. He was born in Calheta, Portugal son of the late Nael Doares and Maria (Muniz) Soares and lived in Dudley for the past eleven years

prior to that living in Charlton. James formerly worked for General Dynamics as a Logistical Engineer. He was a member of the Army National Guard. One of his joys was his Harley. Calling hours at the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA were Thursday Dec. 13, 2018, from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm with a graveside service with military honors at 1 pm, Corbin Cemetery, Dudley. Please omit flowers and donations may be made in his memory to the Webster, Dudley Veteran Council, Webster, MA. Burial with military honors will be private for the family in Corbin Cemetery. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

Jeannette L. Gelineau, 84



Jeannette L. Gelineau, 84, of Dudley died Friday, December 7, 2018 at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge, MA. Jeannette was born September 3, 1934 in Dudley, one of 12 children of Wilfred

and Annette (Bousquet) McDonald. She was predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Armand E. Gelineau.

She is survived by two daughters: Lynn Gelineau of Dudley, Gail Bazinet and her husband David of Vero Beach, FL and one son: Brian Gelineau and his wife, Kelly of Dudley, and daughter in law, Tina Gelineau of Oxford.

She is survived by two sisters: Noella Farraday of Dudley and Connie Wagner of Webster and four brothers: Norman McDonald of Sedona, AZ, Richard McDonald of Charlton George McDonald of Sturbridge, MA, Roger McDonald of Sturbridge, 8 grandchildren Nathan, Nicholas and Allison Bazinet, Megan Andrzejewski, Matthew and Marialaina Gelineau, Brady and Cooper Gelineau. She also is survived by 4 great grandchildren and many

nieces and nephews.

Jeannette was predeceased by her son, David A. Gelineau and by 4 brothers and 1 sister.

She worked at A.O. in Southbridge for 25 years and retired from Stevens Linen in 1993. She was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua and a member of the Daughters of Isabella. She loved playing cards and yahtzee, attending her grandchildren's sporting and musical events and playing board games with family. Jeannette was blessed with a large circle of many close friends and went on special trips with them.

Her funeral was held Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 10:00 AM from Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel, 33 Schofield Avenue with A Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 am in St. Anthony Of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Rd., Dudley. Burial followed in St. Anthony Of Padua Cemetery, Webster.

Calling hours at the funeral home were on Monday, December 10 from 4 to 7 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to The Center of Applied Behavioral Instruction, 345 Greenwood St. Worcester, MA 01607. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

Donald C. Wolfe, 88

OXFORD- Donald C. Wolfe, 88, died Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at the Southbridge Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, following an illness.

His wife of 29 years, Shirley M. (Proulx) Wolfe, died March 14, 2011. Donald was born in Worcester, MA on January 2, 1930, one of five children of W. Rudolph and Doris A. (Girouard) Wolfe. He is survived by three sons, Donnie Wolfe of Boulder, CO; Richard Wolfe of Washington; and Gerald Wolfe of Charlton; his step-daughter, Patricia Ziemba of Southbridge; 11 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren. Donald was predeceased by his step-son, Robert

Desaulniers.

Donald graduated from Worcester Vocational High School. He retired as a Heat Treat Room supervisor from Hyde Manufacturing in Southbridge. He enjoyed boating, woodworking, and traveling.

Donald's calling hours will be Friday, December 14, 2018 from 9-10:30AM at Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550, immediately followed by a graveside funeral service at 11AM at New Notre Dame Cemetery, N. Woodstock Road, Southbridge, MA. www.sansoucyfuneral.com

MARS

continued from page 1

wanted to explore what MARS had to offer. However most of the board agreed the price presented by MARS was a big concern, especially with the district still being in a contentious budget situation.

Committee member Elaine Rabbitt said she has recently had the privilege to learn about how the town of Dedham approached their own reorganization, and she opined the Dudley-Charlton district needs to narrow down exactly what they want to get from this reorganization process.

"I really started to think along the lines of our need to really clarify what it is that we're looking to do," Rabbitt said. "It's very easy to disconnect and think that the central offices are a separate thing regarding the education that's happening in the classroom, but they are the backbone. I know the cost

of what MARS has presented, we can first focus on that. I would like to think that we would like to work a little further on clarifying what our target is, what our mission is. First and foremost, we really need to look at what is our focus, what is our mission with doing this work."

Rabbitt added she believes the conversation needs to continue, but that it should not be limited to just the MARS option.

School Committee Vice Chair Mary Antocci, who also sits on the Policy Subcommittee, offered her take and said she was more in favor of utilizing the services of MARS even at a higher cost than utilizing district employees to evaluate their own departments, which was one of the alternate options presented by Dr. Nash.

"I think this is a critical point in our district where we have several very key positions with interim people in place. I can tell you from the Policy

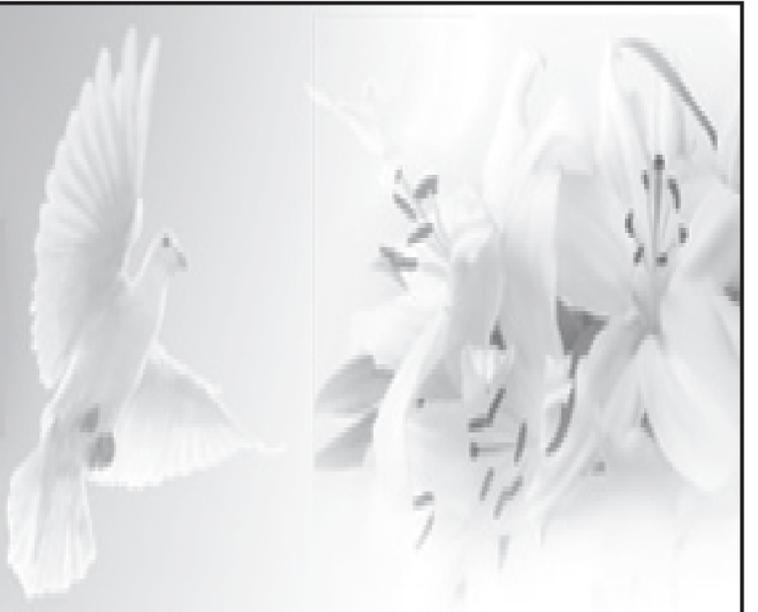
Subcommittee review standpoint that anytime we attack any policy we hit up against inefficiencies and how we're doing business. That's not to say that we don't have really great people doing a lot of really great work, but we keep coming up against things where we ask 'why are we doing it that way?', 'why does it take three people to do that job?', 'Why can't we do this more efficiently?', and it's bigger than just a subcommittee can take a look at," Antocci said.

"I think that utilizing people in the district to evaluate their own jobs is a really difficult and challenging thing to do and pretty impossible. I think if we're looking at it from a money saving standpoint where perhaps it's more expensive per hour for MARS to come in and do the evaluation it would take us twice or three times or ten times as long to do the same amount of work over a lengthier period of time utilizing people who already have a full-time job."

Still cost seemed to be a consistent issue for other members of the committee, who could not justify such an expense while others voiced continued concerns over beginning a reorganization process with the prospect of a new full-time superintendent coming in and walking into a changing district they have no input in adjusting. Dr. Nash said it is possible that negotiations could bring the cost of MARS' services lower, maybe down to around \$10,000, but that the \$15,000 stands as the maximum the district would be expected to pay.

With that in mind, the School Committee decided the next best course of action would be to continue discussing options with MARS. Dr. Nash was instructed to request that representatives of MARS visit with the committee at an upcoming meeting so that everyone can be at the table to examine the potential for a partnership.

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



SPORTS

Experience paves way for Minutemen to beat Southbridge



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path's Alexus Afriye beats her Southbridge counterpart to the basket on a dribble-drive.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

CHARLTON — Experience was the name of the game for the Bay Path Regional girls' varsity basketball team when hosting Southbridge High on Monday, Dec. 10. The Minutemen's opening five boasted over a dozen years of starting experience, and it showed during their 55-25 victory.

"There's one sopho-

more and four seniors — very experienced," said Bay Path head coach John Selen. "This is their year to shine. They have high expectations for themselves this year and they want to go as far as they can. They have a lot of chemistry together. It's a great unit."

Sophomore Madison Paulhus is a two-year starter, while seniors Alexus Afriye and Nekelle Waskiewicz are

four-year starters. Senior Kiara Coates is a two-year starter, and senior Emily Wong Kam has three years of experience while taking the jump into the starting rotation.

The Pioneers, meanwhile, lack experience at every position.

"We're young. I have no juniors, no seniors," said Southbridge head coach Elvin Rodriguez. "I have nine girls on my team. We're going to have our growing pains, speed bumps throughout the season."

"I just want to see improvement from game to game and I definitely saw that today from certain individuals," continued Rodriguez.

The Minutemen opened up a 4-0 lead and, after a Pioneers' 3-pointer, they proceeded to score the next 16 points to grab a 20-3 lead. Bay Path led, 24-5, after the initial eight-minute quarter.

The aforementioned starting five made its mark almost immediately. Once Paulhus made a layup with 4:30 to play in the first quarter, all five had found the scoring column.

Then, in the second quarter — where many substitutes got valuable minutes on the court — the Minutemen scored nine points to



Nekelle Waskiewicz of Bay Path dribbles the ball down the length of the court.

Southbridge's five to take a 33-10 halftime lead.

Bay Path's starters played a majority of the third quarter — a frame they won, 13-7 — before giving way to the bench in the fourth, which they also won, 9-8, to produce the 30-point victory.

Coates finished with team-best totals of 15

points and 8 rebounds, with Paulhus right behind her with 9 points and 7 rebounds. Afriye added 6 points, Wong Kam 5 and Waskiewicz 2, with Emily Margoupis coming off the bench to drain a pair of 3-pointers for 6 points.

The win improved Bay Path's record to 2-0, but Selen mentioned that the game had added significance because they renewed a rivalry with the Pioneers.

"This was a special game for them. We haven't played Southbridge in a few years and a lot of these girls are from Southbridge," explained Selen. "It's a friendly rivalry so it was a lot of fun for them."

The Minutemen hope to take the momentum this victory produced and parlay it into many wins throughout the season.

"We hope to make districts again — three years in a row in districts, so we hope to make it a fourth," said Selen. "This group has never not known a year where we didn't go to districts. They hope to have a really good record and maybe host a home game for districts."

And although the Pioneers dropped to 0-2, Selen predicts some success for them down the road.

"Southbridge is very young, there's some good things to come for them," he said.

Rodriguez noted that Ashanti Morales and Jomarieliz Lebron — the only two Pioneers with "extensive varsity time" from last season — will be called upon to provide bigger roles this winter.

"She's going to have to carry the load," Rodriguez said of Morales, who finished with a game-high 16 points. I'm hopefully getting Jomarieliz to be the [recently graduated] Julitza [Delgado] of the team as far as bringing the ball up and running the offense to keep [Morales] in the corner and just let it fly with her 3-point shot."

Morales canned three triples versus Bay Path and made eight treys in a game last season versus David Prouty Regional, so her shooting skills are high.

Lebron (5 points) and Aleysha Cruz (4 points) were the Pioneers' other point producers.



Emily Wong Kam of Bay Path prepares to release a free throw attempt.



Bay Path's Kiara Coates focuses on the rim while shooting through defensive traffic.



Defender Nalin Koo of Bay Path keeps her arm high to disrupt a potential pass by Southbridge's Aleysha Cruz.



Bay Path's Madison Paulhus catches a pass in transition while getting ahead of a Southbridge defender.

SPORTS

Cross-country, track specialist James to continue career at UMass-Amherst

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — When Rebekah James was 5 years old she would accompany her mother to various team sports practices in which her older sister Michaela was participating.

Often during these practices, because someone had made a mistake or the team was putting forth a lethargic effort, Michaela — now a sophomore at Salem State University — and her teammates were told by their coaches to go run a lap and come back ready to practice harder and smarter.

Every time this happened Rebekah's eyes would light up, she would quickly

get to her feet and pester her mother Corrine to let her go running with the big girls. Corrine explained to her middle daughter why the team was running and there was no need for her to participate, but Rebekah would plead with her mom until Corrine relented and told her she could go run with the big girls.

"They were running as a punishment, but to me it was like, 'great, another chance to run,'" James said when recalling the story last week. "My mother would say, 'no, honey, you don't have to do that.' And I would say, 'but I want to.' And my mother would say, 'well, OK. Go ahead then.'"

James, a senior at Shepherd Hill

Regional, has never stopped running since those early days of her youth, and she will continue to do so for at least four more years. Last week James signed a National Letter of Intent to attend UMass-Amherst on an athletic scholarship.

When James signed on with UMass last week, she did so in front of family, friends and members of the Shepherd Hill administration. They all crowded into the school library, wanting to be on hand for the momentous occasion. Sean Burke, the Rams' Athletic Director, told perhaps the best story.

"I remember Rebekah running long before she ever got here to Shepherd Hill," Burke told the crowd. "When she was 7 or 8 she and I participated in the same 5K road race in one of the local towns and I got to be honest — she beat me pretty bad. I wasn't even close."

James recalls running her first 5K at age 7, and then running any time she had the chance. It's a part of her that continues even today.

"I've loved to run ever since," James said. "When I was younger it was fun for me. I like the scene and the adrenaline that went through my body when I would run. As I got older it was still like that — it's always been fun — but it became a big stress reliever, too. It was a way to clear my head. And if I was mad, I ran fast. Afterward I would feel calm and relaxed."

"Now, when I don't run, I feel really stressed out," James explained. "My week off between seasons [cross-country to indoor track] seemed really long. When practice finally started back up I was so relieved. I said to my coach [Nicole Fossas], 'can I go run now?' I was so thrilled to be back running."

James put the finishing touches on a stellar high school cross-country career last month, finishing second overall at the Central Mass. Division 1 Championships and sixth overall at the Massachusetts Division 1 Meet.

James chose UMass from a list of three schools that also included the University of Rhode Island in South Kingstown and Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn. She said she felt for a while that she would probably end up at UMass, but an official visit to the school and the fact that the UMass coach [Julie LaFreniere] was on hand at the State Meet really confirmed what she knew all along — she was Amherst-bound.

"On my visit I really seemed to click with the team. Just hanging out with them I felt really welcomed. There was a certain vibe that I got from the team and it gave me the feeling that UMass was the school for me," James said. "I visited the other schools and they were fine. They were in the mix until I visited UMass, but I just knew coming out of my visit I was going to UMass."

"Then, seeing the coach at the All-State Meet, and her call to me afterward to tell me that they loved having me up for a visit and were excited about the possibility of my joining the team, confirmed things," James said. "But I still needed a little more time to think about it and process everything before I was absolutely sure. Deciding where you're going to go to college, that's a big step."

James lives with her family in Dudley, but she is looking forward to the large-school atmosphere of the Amherst campus of UMass, not to mention an excellent pre-med academic program that will allow her to begin to pursue her dream of working in the field of holistic medicine.



Ken Powers photo

The James family at Rebekah's signing of her National Letter of Intent to attend UMass-Amherst, where she will run cross-country and participate in indoor and outdoor track. In front, from left, Matt James (father), Rebekah, Corrine James (mother) and Olivia James (younger sister). Standing behind Rebekah and Corrine is Judy Heney, Rebekah's maternal grandmother.

SPORTS BRIEF

Worcester State University to hold baseball clinics

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

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

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All leases are 36 months/12k a year except the Tacoma which is a 24 month/12k. All leases are pending credit approval and valid through 12/03/2018. Tax, title, registration, \$459 documentation and \$650 acquisition fee not included in the \$3,999. Total down includes fees based in MA. Offer(s) end 12/31/2018

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<p>2006 Toyota Camry Solara</p> <p>Coupe, V-6 cyl, 5 spd auto, FWD, 106K miles A271605A \$8,998</p>	<p>2012 Hyundai Accent GLS</p> <p>Sedan, I-4 cyl, 6 spd manual, FWD, 44K miles A271283A \$8,998</p>	<p>2016 Scion iA Base</p> <p>Sedan, I-4 cyl, auto, FWD, 12K miles A5096 \$14,998</p>	<p>2016 Toyota Corolla LE</p> <p>Sedan, I-4 cyl, auto, FWD, 31K miles A271669A \$16,998</p>	<p>2016 Toyota Corolla S Plus</p> <p>Sedan, I-4 cyl, 4 spd auto, FWD, 30K miles A5092 \$16,998</p>	<p>2016 Volkswagen Beetle 1.8T Dune</p> <p>Hatchback, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, FWD, 31K mi. A271846A \$16,998</p>
<p>2013 Toyota Sienna LE</p> <p>Van, AWD, V-6 cyl, 6 spd auto, 67K miles A271733A \$17,998</p>	<p>2016 Toyota Camry SE</p> <p>Sedan, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, FWD, 6K miles A5093 \$18,998</p>	<p>2015 Toyota Camry XSE</p> <p>Sedan, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, FWD, 68K miles A270323A \$19,998</p>	<p>2016 Nissan Rogue SV</p> <p>SUV, I-4 cyl, CVA trans, 34K miles A5105 \$20,598</p>	<p>2016 Toyota RAV4 LE</p> <p>SUV AWD, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, 31K miles A271470A \$20,998</p>	<p>2016 Toyota Camry SLE</p> <p>Sedan, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, ash leather, FWD, 44K mi. A5097 \$20,998</p>
<p>2016 Audi A4 Premium quattro</p> <p>Sedan, TRSI 4-cyl, auto, black leather, 56K mi/ A271884A \$20,998</p>	<p>2015 Toyota RAV4 LE</p> <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, 49K miles A5093X \$21,598</p>	<p>2016 Honda CR-V</p> <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, CVA trans, 30K miles A271142A \$21,598</p>	<p>2015 Chrysler Town & Country Touring-L</p> <p>Van, V-6 cyl, multi-speed auto, FWD, 36K mi. A271129A \$21,998</p>	<p>2016 Toyota RAV4 XLE</p> <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, 28K miles A5069 \$22,598</p>	<p>2017 Toyota RAV4 XLE</p> <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, 34K miles A5073XX \$22,598</p>
<p>2015 Toyota RAV4 XLE</p> <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, 16K miles A5081 \$22,598</p>	<p>2013 Toyota RAV4 Ltd</p> <p>SUV, 4x4, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, ash leather, 34K mi. A5099XX \$22,598</p>	<p>2016 Toyota RAV4 XLE</p> <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, black leather, 26K mi. A5080 \$22,998</p>	<p>2015 Toyota Avalon XLE</p> <p>Sedan, V-6 cyl, 6 spd auto, FWD, 58K miles A5101XX \$23,998</p>	<p>2016 Toyota Tacoma SR</p> <p>Dble Cab, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, 4x2, 34K miles A271820A \$24,998</p>	<p>2016 Jeep Wrangler JK Black Bear 4x4</p> <p>V-6 cyl, 6 spd manual, Dual Top Group, 54K mi. A271796A \$24,998</p>
<p>2017 Toyota Prius Prime Advanced</p> <p>Hatchback, I-4 cyl, CVA trans, black leather, 16K miles A5089A \$25,998</p>	<p>2016 Ford Explorer XLT</p> <p>SUV, 4x4, V-6 cyl, 6 spd auto, black leather, 23K mi A5058A \$30,998</p>	<p>2014 Toyota Sequoia SR5</p> <p>SUV 4x4, V-8 cyl, 6 spd auto, 56K miles A271591A \$30,998</p>	<p>2016 Toyota Tacoma TRD Sport</p> <p>Dble Cab 4x4, V-6 cyl, 6 spd auto, 26K miles A271594A \$33,598</p>	<p>2016 Toyota Highlander XLE</p> <p>SUV, AWD, V-6 cyl, 6 spd auto, blk leather, 17K mi. A5100XX \$34,998</p>	<p>2017 Toyota Sequoia SR5</p> <p>SUV, 4x4, V-8 cyl, 6 spd auto, 3rd row seat, 30K mi. A271827A \$34,998</p>

Not responsible for typographical errors

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REMINDER OF THE LOCAL ARTS OR WORKS THAT YOU WON'T
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Funding for this project has been provided by the Collaborative Workspace Program Administered by
Mass Development, a grant provided by the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts,
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HERE & THERE → **Local Events, Arts, and Entertainment Listings**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

FREE CONCERT AT MARY QUEEN OF THE ROSARY CHURCH
60 Maple St., Spencer, Ma
The Anna Maria College Music Department presents a "Christmas Festival Concert" from 2-4 p.m.
The concert features the Bel Canto Chamber Choir, Wind Ensemble and Concert Chorus.
All are welcome to this FREE concert.

ONGOING

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

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

TRIVIA SATURDAY NIGHTS
7:00 p.m. register
7:30 p.m. start up
HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB
325 Pleasant St., Leicester, MA
508-892-9822

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

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY NIGHT
HEXMARK TAVERN
AT SALEM CROSS INN
260 West Main St., West Brookfield, MA
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FRIDAY ACOUSTICS IN THE BAR AND SATURDAY ENTERTAINMENT EVERY OTHER SATURDAY
308 LAKESIDE
308 East Main St.
East Brookfield, MA
774-449-8333

THE CENTRAL MA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED meets the first Monday of every month from September through May.
We discuss a variety of conservation programs to improve the local cold water fisheries, local fishing opportunities, our annual High School Fly Fishing Championship (open to all MA high school students) And our annual fund raising banquet.
Auburn Sportsman's Club
50 Elm St., Auburn, MA

Do Something FUN This Weekend!




Welcome to the Sturbridge Marketplace

Shop • Eat • Drink • Play

Small businesses and communities across the country put focus on proving to their local community members that everything they want or need can be purchased without driving out of town. Small business owners look forward to seeing you, calling you by name, and helping you find what you need. Plan to do some old fashion Holiday shopping, go out to eat, run errands, or do your weekly shopping, come visit the Sturbridge Marketplace!



559 Main St., Route 20
Sturbridge, MA 01518

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Got the Holiday Blues?
CBD Oil is working wonders for pain/anxiety. Come in & try a sample. Perfect Stocking Stuffers! CBD Tea & CBD Pet Oil COMING SOON!



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Personal Safety Self Defense Class!
Limited space available.

Classes start Friday, January 18 6:30-7:30pm (Ages 13+)

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Seasons Greetings & Happy Holidays to All



DUDLEY - 5 Corbin Road! Welcome Home! Beautiful Tri-Level Home Set on 4.5 Acres! 9 Finished Rooms, 3-4 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths! Huge Oak Cabinet Packed Kitchen w/Gorgeous Granite & Pelia Slider to Enormous Trex Deck & In-ground, Heated Pool! Dining Room w/Bay Window, Hardwoods, Wainscot & Crown Molding w/French Doors Leading to the Sunroom which has Heat & AC where You Can Enjoy Your Morning Coffee Watching the Wildlife Around Your Pond or Take a Walk Across the Bridge to Check on Your Blueberry Bushes! Fireplace Living Room w/Large Bow Front Window, Custom Built-ins & Hardwoods! 3 Large Bedrooms w/Lots of Closet Space! Office Could Be Easily Made into 4th Bdrm! Master has Private Balcony Over Looking the Pool! Master Bath has W/D Hookups, Double Vanity & Walk-in Closet! Finished Walk-Out Lower Level Would Make a Great Game Room! 2 Car Garage which Leads to Rest of Basement which Houses the Utilities, another W/D Hook-up and Storage Garage! Too Many Updates to List Here! A Must See House! **\$459,900.00**

DUDLEY - 73 Tracy Rd! Majestically Perched on a Knoll, 1.47 Acres Beautifully Landscaped, Spacious 2252' 8 Rm Colonial! Stainless Appliances Eat-in Country Kit w/Center Isl, Pantry Closet, Recessed Lighting, Tile Flr & French Dr to Deck! Formal Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Classic 3 Windowed Bumped-out Wall! Entry Foyer! Formal Living Rm w/Hrdwd Flr! The Fireplace Family Rm w/Wide Plank Hrdwd Flr will Keep the Family Close! Side Entry Hall Dble Closet, Half Bath w/Laundry Closet! Upstairs 4 Comfortable Bdrms, 2 w/Hrdwds, 2 w/Wall to Wall w/Plenty of Closet Space! 18 Master Bdrm w/Hrdwds, Ceiling Fan, Walk-in Closet, Master Bath w/Granite Vanity & Tile Flr! Off the Hrdwd Hall the 2nd Full Bath w/Dble Sinks, Granite Vanity, Tile Flr & Linen Closet! Breezeway Attached 2 Car Garage! Quick Closing Possible, Start Packing! **\$369,900.00**

THOMPSON - 854 Thompson Rd! Appealing 9 Room Split! Beautiful 63 Acre Lot! Applianced Granite Kitchen! Dining & Fireplace Living Rm w/Hardwoods! 17x18 Cathedral Ceiling Great Rm w/Tile Floor! 3 or 4 Bedrooms, 3 w/Hardwoods! Fireplace Family Rm! Updated Full Bath! 1.5 Baths Total! 2 Car Garage! Recent Furnace! 18x24 Deck! Convenient to 395 in both Directions, Close to Raceway Golf Course & Thompson Speedway! **\$249,900.00**

WEBSTER - 35 Spring St! 5 Rm Ranch on Quiet Side Street! Walk into the 3 Seasons Rm w/Tile Flr, Ceiling Fan & Slider to Deck! Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kit! Spacious Liv Rm w/Hrdwds! 3 Bdrms! Finished Lower Level w/Tile Flr, 10' Bar w/Drop Lights! Vinyl Siding! Replacement Windows! **\$249,900.00**

NEW LISTING
WEBSTER - 23 Lincoln St! 3 Family w/ Great Curb Appeal! Owner Occupied or Investor! 54 Rooms! 2/2 Bedrooms! Hardwood Floors in Most Rooms! First Floor Apart Freshly Painted! Replacement Windows! Off Street Parking! 2 Car Garage! Easy Highway Access! Conveniently Located! **\$239,900.00**

NEW LISTING
WEBSTER - 7 Oak St! 2 Family! 5/5 Rms! 2/2 Bdrms! Both Flrs w/Eat-in Kitchens! Liv Rms w/Wall to Wall! Bdrms w/Wall to Wall! 3 Season Porches! Gas Heat w/Recent Buderus on 1st! Electric Heat on 2nd! Recent Roof, Siding & Windows! Off Street Parking! Owner Occupied or Investment! **\$169,900.00**

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

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

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

WEBSTER - 21 Spring St! 6 Rm Ranch! Eat-in Applianced Kit w/Mahogany Cabinets & Tile Flr! Liv Rm w/Carpet over Hrdwd! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! Master w/Walk-in Closet! Full Tile Bath! 14X40' Fam/Game Rm! 2nd Bathrm w/Laundry! Workshop! Utility Rm! 2 Z Oil Heat! C/Air! 2 Car Garage! Porch! Don't Miss Out! **\$219,900.00**

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

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

SUTTON - 30 Jones Rd! 9 Room 2,156' Colonial! 5.31 Acres of Privacy! Long Circular Driv! New Granite Kitchen! Dining, Living & Fireplace Family Rooms w/Hardwood Floors! Year Round Sunroom w/2 Skylights! 3 Bedrooms! 2 1/2 Master w/Master Bath! 2.5 Bathrooms Total! 12x24 3 Season Porch w/3 Skylights! Expandable Attic! Wraparound Deck! 2 Car Garage! Central Air! Generator! Super Easy Access to Rte 146! **\$464,900.00**

DOUGLAS WATERFRONT! 36 Cedar St! Badluck Pond (110Acres) aka Cedar Lake or Laurel Lake! Western Expo - Beautiful Sunsets! 2.74 Acres! 633' Waterfront! 471' Road Front! Beautiful Private Setting! Huge 2836', 2,688' Custom 6 Rm Cedar Ranch w/Hrdwd Flrs Throughout! Spectacular, Open Din Rm & Great Rm w/Stone Frp! Soaring Beamed Cedar Cathedral Ceiling, 6 Sky Lights, Recessed Lighting, 1/2 Bath & 3 Sliders to 96' Lake Facing Screened Porch! Custom Kit w/2 Skylights, Recessed Lighting, Slider to Porch, Wall Oven & Center Island w/Trip!le Bowl Sink, Cooktop & Dishwasher! Mud Rm Entry w/2 Dble Closets, Tile Flr, Door to Kit & Door to Full Bath! 2 Lake Facing Bdrms w/Walk-in Closets, Skylights & Sliders to Porch! Full Tile Bath w/Separate Shower & Whirlpool Bath w/Door to Master & Hall! Office w/Dble Closet! 2.5 Baths Total! Cedar Lined Closets! Full Basement! Plus 36X72' 2 Story Heated Boat House/Garage/Work Shop w/Half Bath! Upper Level 5 Rm Caretaker/In-Law Apartment w/2 Full Baths! Game Rm w/Full Bath! 5 Full + 2 Half Baths Total! One of a Kind Waterfront Home! **\$599,900.00**

DOUGLAS WATERFRONT! 36 Cedar St! Badluck Pond (110Acres) aka Cedar Lake or Laurel Lake! Western Expo - Beautiful Sunsets! 2.74 Acres! 633' Waterfront! 471' Road Front! Beautiful Private Setting! Huge 2836', 2,688' Custom 6 Rm Cedar Ranch w/Hrdwd Flrs Throughout! Spectacular, Open Din Rm & Great Rm w/Stone Frp! Soaring Beamed Cedar Cathedral Ceiling, 6 Sky Lights, Recessed Lighting, 1/2 Bath & 3 Sliders to 96' Lake Facing Screened Porch! Custom Kit w/2 Skylights, Recessed Lighting, Slider to Porch, Wall Oven & Center Island w/Trip!le Bowl Sink, Cooktop & Dishwasher! Mud Rm Entry w/2 Dble Closets, Tile Flr, Door to Kit & Door to Full Bath! 2 Lake Facing Bdrms w/Walk-in Closets, Skylights & Sliders to Porch! Full Tile Bath w/Separate Shower & Whirlpool Bath w/Door to Master & Hall! Office w/Dble Closet! 2.5 Baths Total! Cedar Lined Closets! Full Basement! Plus 36X72' 2 Story Heated Boat House/Garage/Work Shop w/Half Bath! Upper Level 5 Rm Caretaker/In-Law Apartment w/2 Full Baths! Game Rm w/Full Bath! 5 Full + 2 Half Baths Total! One of a Kind Waterfront Home! **\$599,900.00**

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NO MONEY DOWN PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE! CALL US FOR INFORMATION!

OPEN HOUSE 12-2PM 19 MARVELLEN LN, SOUTHBRIDGE
Pride of Ownership. Expandable cape with updated, kitchen, bath, roof, furnace. "Drop Dead" gorgeous Kitchen with all the appliances included! Two bedrooms BUT finish the second floor at your leisure for another Huge Master bedroom! Hardwood and tile throughout. One car garage. **\$214,900.**

SOUTHBRIDGE \$74,900!
Convert to Single Family? Great Commercial Space with fixtures & Real Estate included! 572 SF of space. Former Beauty Salon-2 chair. 3 dryer stations. Reception desk. Vinyl sided. 2012 roof. New flooring in 2011. CB. Gas heat. Parking two cars. Could convert to other uses. Town approval would be required. Just off Main St. **\$74,900.**

LAND FOR SALE
Springfield. **\$189,900!**

STURBRIDGE: Land for Sale with frontage for 4 lots! BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME! Country Location on dead end Street. Almost 11 acres. If subdivided, each lot would have over 2 acres. Literally minutes to Rt 84 to Hartford & Mass Pike to Boston or

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

REAL ESTATE

PUT YOUR TRUST IN US
TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE

Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
Maureen O'Connor 508-981-4902

ReMax Advantage 1
179 Shrewsbury St., Worcester MA 01604

OPEN HOUSE • SAT. 10-NOON

Webster: Veterans Great Opportunity! 4 bedrooms, 1st flr, family room, 2.5 baths, 1+acre, "0" Down Payment No PMI Insurance.
11 Blueberry Ln ~ \$329,900

Dudley: Call these 6.7 acres, home! Privacy!, 2400 sq. ft. brick cape w/ gourmet kitchen, formal dining room, library.
7 Dudley Oxford Rd ~ \$449,900

Southbridge: Buy me, now! 2 baths, central air, in-ground pool, motivated seller, 4 bedrooms, family room, AGENT BONUS!
153 Highland St ~ \$276,900

Oxford: Land! Jo-Ann negotiated this sale by bringing the buyer 1.38 acres!
30 Sullivan Blvd ~ \$72,500

East Brookfield: Water-front! be ready for winter activities or spring, 1800 sq. ft., New Septic being installed
142 Gleason Ave ~ \$335,000

Shrewsbury: Westbrook Crossing 55+Community, 2 baths full basement, club house
6 Essex Dr ~ \$354,900

THANK YOU to all those who donated Sat., Dec. 8th for the Webster-Dudley Food Share Drive at Dudley Park N' Shop. Your donations were generous and greatly appreciated!

"We Solve Real Estate Problems"
Re/Max Professional Associates

ConradAllen.com
Licensed in MA & CT

Conrad Allen 508-400-0438
Patrick Sweeney 774-452-3578

48 Hillcrest Ave. Southbridge, MA \$179,900
Estimated Payment \$1371 per month
NO MONEY DOWN!

Two Family!!! Central Air Commercially Zoned 43 - 45 Thompson Rd Webster, MA \$234,900
RENT TO OWN!!!!

Large Industrial Rental!!! 2 Hawksley Drive Oxford, MA \$6 per SQFT First Month Free!!!
FOR LEASE

Dudley, MA 22 Aldea Ave \$295,000
COMPLETE REMODEL Nothing like it on the market today!

Open House Directory

(C) Condo	(X) Condo	(M) Multi-Family	(T) Townhouse
(B) Business	(U) Duplex	(S) Single Family	(D) Adult Community
(P) Land	(L) Mobile Home	(A) Apartment	(W) Waterfront

ADDRESS	STYLE	TIME	PRICE	REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE
SATUDAY, DECEMBER 15				
DUDLEY				
22 Aldea Ave	S	Noon-2	\$295,000	Re/Max Professional Assoc. Patrick Sweeney 774-452-3578
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16				
SOUTHBRIDGE				
19 Mary Ellen Ln	S	Noon-2	\$214,900	Aucoin Ryan Realty 508-765-9155
WEBSTER				
6 Brookside Ave	S	2-3:30	\$269,900	Hope Realty /Laurie Sullivan 508-525-0611
WOODSTOCK, CT				
158 W. Quasset Rd	S	1-3	\$1,299,000	Hope Realty/ June Cazeault 860-377-2044



REAL ESTATE

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE AT PUBLIC AUCTION

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

3:00 PM-DUDLEY

180 Ramshorn Road

sgl fam, 3,332 sf liv area, 6.57 ac lot, 10 rm, 5 bdrm, 2 bth, Worcester(Worc): Bk 38497, Pg 289

TERMS: \$5,000 cash or certified check at the time and place of the sale. The balance to be paid within thirty (30) days at the law offices of Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851, Attorney for the Mortgagee.

Auctioneer makes no representation as to the accuracy of the information contained herein.

BAY STATE AUCTION CO, INC.

NORTH CHELMSFORD (978) 251-1150 www.baystateauction.com

MAAU#: 2624, 2959, 3039, 2573, 2828, 1428, 2526, 2484

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Your ad will be mailed to 50,000+ households throughout Southern Worcester County.



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1-800-367-9898

FOR LEASE RETAIL or OFFICE SPACE

Beautiful water views with over 2400 SF of space available in a standalone brick building with a full kitchen & 3 bathrooms located on busy Rt. 16 in Uxbridge, MA

**PLEASE CONTACT
Capron Corp. at 508-278-9191**



kids' corner

Creative Coloring

Celebrate the shopping season.
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1791:** THE UNITED STATES BILL OF RIGHTS BECOMES LAW.
- **1906:** THE LONDON UNDERGROUND'S GREAT NORTHERN, PICCADILLY AND BROMPTON RAILWAY OPENS.
- **2001:** THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA REOPENS AFTER \$27 MILLION IS SPENT TO STABILIZE IT.



MANY SHOPPING MALLS DESIGNATE THIS AREA FOR CUSTOMERS WHO WANT TO REST, RECHARGE AND DINE.

ANSWER: FOOD COURT

New Word

CREDIT

obtain goods with the promise to pay later

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Buy

SPANISH: Comprar

ITALIAN: Comprare

FRENCH: Acheter

GERMAN: Anschaffen

Did you know?



DURING THE HOLIDAYS, MANY STORES OFFER TO WRAP PURCHASES FREE OF CHARGE. THIS SAVES CUSTOMERS TIME.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SHOPPING BAGS

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The OVERLOOK
Your future looks great from here

OPEN HOUSE
at the Overlook in Charlton
We are Hiring!

CNA's – PT/FT, HHAs – PT/FT, Nurses PT/FT

**Shift differentials for all 2nd, 3rd, and weekends for CNA and Nursing shifts in the Health Center*

Tuesday Dec 18th • 1:30PM - 5PM
in the Main Lobby of the Health Center

Receive a \$5 Dunkin Donuts gift card for filling out an application!

Why choose the Overlook? The Overlook offers a great working environment. Each team member's contribution is valued as an important member of our care team. Our CNA to patient ratio is one of the best in Massachusetts. We offer excellent benefits including medical, dental, vision and life insurance, a 401(k) retirement savings plan, tuition reimbursement and paid time off for all team members hired for 24 hours or more on Day One of your employment. We also have a daycare and fitness center on site for all team members.

88 Masonic Home Rd, Charlton, MA 01507 • 508-434-2365

For a complete listing of Open Positions, and to apply online,
Visit www.overlook-mass.org today!
We have many interesting opportunities at our growing organization.
Join us!

 **First Place Senior Community Living**

STEBBINS

Auto Repair

COMPETITIVE, GROWING BUSINESS SEEKING TO EXPAND

Immediate openings for a Service writer and Technicians.

Open to all levels of experience. Wages based on skills and experience in the field.

Call Will
774-200-3640
384 E. Main St., Southbridge

283 PETS

AKC STANDARD POODLE PUPPIES born Sept. 20, cream. UTD on shots & worming. Lifetime genetic guarantees. Prestigious bloodlines. Males \$1500, Female \$2000. 413-436-7556
elyse_hen@msn.com, www.meadowpoodles.weebly.com

300 HELP WANTED

310 GENERAL HELP WANTED

DIESEL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN Ahearn Equipment Inc. is an agricultural and construction equipment dealership. We are seeking a fulltime position for a Diesel Service Technician to join our team. 3 years' experience is must. Competitive wages and a full benefit package is included. Resumes can be sent to Human Resources, Carrie Girard at cgirard@ahearnequipment.com or dropped off at 460 Main St. Spencer, Massachusetts. For further questions you can call 508.885.7085, Ext. 104

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

284 LOST & FOUND PETS

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



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

Town-To-Town Classifieds
508-909-4111

287 FEED

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

298 WANTED TO BUY

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

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

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

PIANO MOVERS WANTED: Fresh Start. 774-745-0590. Must have valid driver's license. The Lord is my strength and my song!

311 PART-TIME HELP WANTED

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

500 REAL ESTATE

505 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

STURBRIDGE \$995, 4 Rooms, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, Main Street Location! Easy Access to Mass Pike, Walk to Restaurants and Shopping, Hot Water & Heat Included, Non-Smoking, Security Deposit Required. Please Call 508-347-0810

510 COMMERCIAL/BUSINESSES

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

546 CEMETERY LOTS

Pine Grove Cemetery, Whitinsville. Double plot for sale, lower than the going price. \$2,500. Call owner 774-602-8211

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

576 VACATION RESOURCES

CAPE COD TIME SHARE FOR SALE: Edgewater Beach Resort, 95 Chase Avenue, Dennisport, MA 02639. On the water, Studio (Unit 706). Permanent Week 33 (August). Deeded rights. You'll own it for a lifetime & can be passed down to your children and grandchildren. \$5000. (508)347-3145

Local Heroes



FOUND HERE!
WANTED: 24' Pontoon Boat & trailer (used). Webster area. 617-750-0969

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

225 INSTRUCTIONS

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

265 FUEL/WOOD

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

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

NOW HIRING

CNC Programmer Operator

- Minimum 3 years of experience required
- Solidworks/Camworks experience a plus
- Set-up, tool changes and program offsets required
- Drawing interpretation, measuring tools and first piece inspection required
- Must work independently with minimal supervision (Okuma-OSP and Hurco controls)

Full time position, EOE, 1st shift

Benefits include:
Paid medical & life insurance, paid holidays, paid personal days, 401k, annual bonus

ERW, Inc.

Interested applicants may apply by sending resume to:
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Or Email resume to resume@erwinc.com

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Machinist

- Minimum 3 years of experience required
- Must be able to perform milling/turning operations as required
- Knowledge of related shop equipment a must
- Drawing interpretation, measuring tools and first piece inspection required
- Must work independently with minimal supervision

Full time position, EOE, 1st shift

Benefits include:
Paid medical & life insurance, paid holidays, paid personal days, 401k, annual bonus

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Or Email resume to resume@erwinc.com

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454 HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

576 VACATION RESOURCES

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

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

Local News



FOUND HERE!

ARTICLES FOR SALE

010 FOR SALE

BEAUTIFUL DW MOBILE HOME IN GATED SENIOR MOBILE HOME PARK \$16,000. 2 bdrms, 2 baths, working kitchen, dining room, LLR & 2 Florida rooms, completely furnish. 863-682-6473. Lakeland, Florida

2 LAZY BOY LEATHER- swivel rocker recliners, beautiful rich mahogany color. Less than 1 year old, perfect condition. \$500 each. 774-280-2639

2 TWIN BEDS: Complete, in Excellent Condition. 508-423-4824

2008 ZODIAC and 14' CANOE, excellent condition. ACTI-V 9'4", electric pump/all accessories, air floor. 2009 Honda 8HP, serviced. \$2,195 Canoe: oars/ seats, no leaks. \$275 860-983-0800 Sturbridge

225 GALLON WATER STORAGE TANK - used 6 months. \$350 508-867-2523

24 FOOT POOL, ABOVE-GROUND, 4 years old, filter, motor, all supplies included (except liner) Ready to go \$950 or best offer 508-498-0166 leave message

4 SNOW TIRES -235/50 R18 101T used 2 months- paid \$800, asking best offer. 508-414-2474

ABOVE-GROUND SWIMMING POOL, 24' x 54", filter system, 1 season. \$1,000 or best offer. 508-943-8769

ACORN STAIRLIFT - 3.5 years old; like new condition. 11 feet long. Asking \$1400 or best offer. Call 508-277-6568 if interested.

ANGLE IRON CUTTER For Shelving 4W296, HK Potter 2790. Normally Sells For \$700. \$50 OBO. Call 5pm-8:30pm, (508)867-6546

Beautiful Southwestern style sectional sofa, gently used, L-shape 112" x 86" Please call to set up time to view 508-885-9962. \$150 firm.

BUNK BEDS, black (youth) with mattresses (includes like-new bedding) \$350. Other furniture also available. Call Pat 508-949-9049

COFFEE & TWO END TABLES - Cherry finish w/glass tops. Very good condition. \$125 Call 508-735-2560

Couch, 84 inches long. Dark red fabric with pillows, good condition. \$150. 508-410-5167

CUB CADET SNOWBLOWER. 13hp Tecumseh OHV. 45 in. width, trigger steering, 6FRWD, 2 REV, new condition. Hardly used! \$1,600.00. 508-347-3775

ELECTRICAL MATERIAL: Industrial, Commercial, Residential. Wire, Pipe, Fittings, Relays, Coils, Overloads, Fuses, Breakers, Meters, Punches, Pipe-Benders. New Recessed Troffer, Fluorescent 3-Tube T-8 277V Fixtures Enclosed \$56 Each. Call 5pm-8:30pm. (508)867-6546

FINLAND BLUE FOX JACKET: By Michael Valente Size 8, very good condition. \$100 OBO. Vintage Black American Sable Coat, sz. small \$50 OBO 508-864-4075

FLY RODS - 2 ALBRIGHT A/5 490 9 FT. #4 RODS. 2 Orvis reels Battenkill BBS II. Asking \$200 each set or best offer. 508-347-3145

010 FOR SALE

FULL LENGTH MINK COAT: Size 12. New \$2,400. Asking \$300. 508-612-9263

GARAGE CLEARANCE: ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE, bush trimmer, glass top table, etc. 508-728-5559 (Spencer)

GARDEN MANURE, delivered. 4 yards, \$130. Call Prindle Hill Farm 508-320-3273 or 508-248-7335

MOTORS: 1/2HP 230/460V 1725RPM, 56 Frame \$30. 5HP, 230/460V 1740RPM, 184T Frame/TEFC \$100. 5HP, 230/460V 3495RPM, 184T Frame/TEFC \$100. 4 Motor Speed Controls Hitachi J100, 400/460V Best Offer. Call 5pm-8:30pm 508-867-6546

MOVING - MUST SELL 3 piece electric reclining living room set, brown. \$300 free-pedestal table w/4 chairs 508-612-6485

NORDIC TRACK TRL625: Recumbent cycle w/stabilizing floor bar for secure balance. TREADMILL - for therapeutic fitness (walking & jogging) (for up to 400 lbs.) \$250 each both in excellent condition. 508-892-3998, 508-723-4452

REMEMBER YOUR SWEET-HEART: Collection of Victorian Era hand-painted items ALL with roses: vases, rose bowls, pitchers, chocolate pot, cake sets, planters. No reasonable offer refused. 508-237-2362 Auburn

SMALL BUREAU \$75. Printer's Antique Drawers \$20 Per. Fake Brick Fireplace With Heater \$140 Kitchen Chairs. Spare Tire P225/60R16 Eagle GA With Rim \$45 Vanity Table & Chair \$135. Car Sunroofs \$100. Per. Homemade Pine Coffee Table & 2 End Tables \$100. Antique Lamp Jug \$40. Antique Croquet Set \$40. Wood Truck Ramps 8 Foot \$100.00. Drop Leaf Cart \$50. End Table W/Drawer \$50. End Table W/Drawer \$60. Elvis Presley Silhouette \$50 (he talks!), Indian canvas painting \$60, 9 golf clubs \$100. Call 1-508-764-4458 or 1-774-452-3514

SNOW PLOW, Myers, 6 1/2' all controls and lights, great condition. Can be seen at Old Cider Mill, Rt. 9, West Brookfield or call 774-232-9382

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

SNOW TIRES: Like new (4) Firestone Winter Force 215/60-15. \$240. BECKETT BURNER, CONTROL AND AQUASTAT: Runs great, Instruction, wiring and owners manual \$250. ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE WITH STAND - 6 FT. Storage box included. Excellent condition \$50. CAST IRON CHRISTMAS TREE STAND: Beautiful \$20. SUNBEAM WHOLE HOUSE HUMIDIFIER: Used, works great, 6-7 gallon, faux wood cabinet on casters. \$50. 14" SNOW CHAINS: Used, very good condition \$25. 15" CABLE SNOW CHAINS: New \$45. Call Ed. 508-479-9752

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

010 FOR SALE

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

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

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

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

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

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

100 GENERAL

105 BULLETIN BOARD

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

130 YARD SALES

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

200 GEN. BUSINESS

205 BOATS

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

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

225 INSTRUCTIONS

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

265 FUEL/WOOD

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

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

TRIPS OFFERED

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

CHURCH PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje

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

CHARLTON SENIOR CENTER

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

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

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

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

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

April 25: Dancing Dream an ABBA tribute band!

Be transported back to a similar time when gas was under \$1 per gallon, when music was fun, inspiring and uplifting and disco was king! Performing ABBA's greatest hits from 1973 through 1983, DANCING DREAM, the Tribute to ABBA — precisely recreates all of the excitement and passion of their record-breaking 1979-80 world concert tour. With beautiful harmonies, elaborate costumes and exciting choreography, every show is to be remembered. \$92 includes: lunch, show and transportation. (Driver gratuity not included). Payment due March 25, 2019 Make check payable to: Best of Times

DUDLEY SENIORS

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

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

Also next year, Sept.13-21, we will be going to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Included is transportation, lodging, 14 meals, guided tours of Acadia National park, Halifax, Peggy's Cove, Lunenburg, Prince Edward Island including Anne of Green Gables' home, admission to

King's Landing Historical Settlement, admission to Hopewell Rocks, and a visit to St. John. Tips for driver and step-on guides are included. Games, drinks and snacks will be provided on travel days. Cost is \$1065 pp/ double occupancy. Call Evelyn Grovesteen for info at (508) 764-8254

LEICESTER SENIOR CENTER

Contact Leicester Senior Center, Joan Wall, (508) 892-3967 for information and reservations.

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

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

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

MARY QUEEN OF THE ROSARY PARISH

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

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

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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

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

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS

2019 TRIP SCHEDULE OPEN TO PUBLIC

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, May 19, 2019: Newport rail tour.

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

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

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

⊙ ✱ ☽ ☼ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to business.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 13 = t)

A. 18 23 21 1 22 13

Clue: Area of commercial dealings

B. 20 5 22 6 13 20 13 9

Clue: Defining characteristics

C. 7 16 23 12 2

Clue: Desired results

D. 14 21 16 3 20 13

Clue: Earnings

Answers: A. market B. identity C. goals D. profit

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Automotive

700 AUTOMOTIVE

725 AUTOMOBILES

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

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

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

725 AUTOMOBILES

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

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

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

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

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

725 AUTOMOBILES

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

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

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

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

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

725 AUTOMOBILES

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

740 MOTORCYCLES

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

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

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

740 MOTORCYCLES

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

Local News



FOUND HERE!

740 MOTORCYCLES

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

745 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

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



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

750 CAMPERS/ TRAILERS

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

760 VANS/TRUCKS

2000 GMC 2500 SIERRA 4-door cab & 1/2, 4-wheel drive, no rot, with plow + truck mount slide-in Fleetwood Alcom camper (2001) w/bath, fridge, a/c, kitchenette. \$5900 508-341-6347

2006 Ford E150 Van, good condition. 65,952 miles. \$3,300 Call 508-765-4738 x 322

765 HEAVY EQUIPMENT

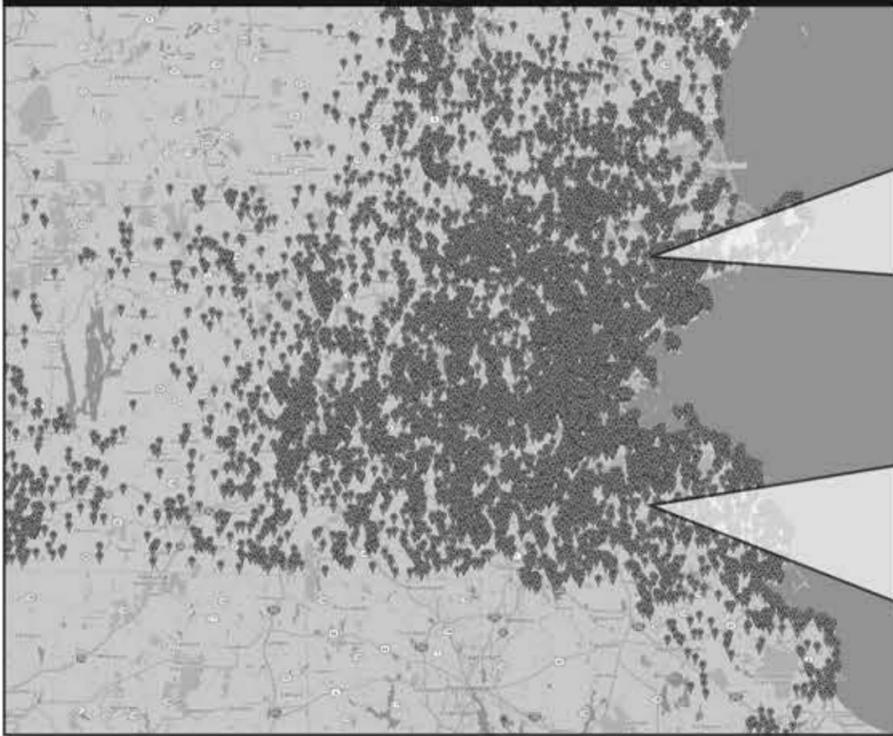
1997 BOBCAT 763 skid steer loader in great condition. 1800 hours, 46hp. Auxiliary hydraulics \$2100. 617-706-6736

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payments

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<p>2015 Ford Escape</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$273 per month</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18247</p> <p>1/6 liter, 4 cyl, 6 speed auto., 4WD, leather, back-up camera</p> <p>29,647 MILES \$16,990</p>	<p>2015 Chevrolet Equinox</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$273 per month</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18317</p> <p>2.4 liter, 4 cylinder, 6 speed automatic, All Wheel Drive</p> <p>29,179 MILES \$16,990</p>	<p>2017 Chevrolet Trax</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$267 per month</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18315</p> <p>Moonroof, power seats, auto. starter, 6 spd., AWD</p> <p>7,429 MILES \$17,490</p>	<p>2016 Buick Verano</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">SOLD!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$13 th</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18187</p> <p>under, 6 speed automatic, Front Wheel Drive</p> <p>37,398 MILES \$16,990</p>
<p>2015 Jeep Renegade</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$239 per month</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18286</p> <p>1.4 liter 4 cylinder Manual 4-Wheel Drive</p> <p>28,424 MILES \$14,990</p>	<p>2017 GMC Savana</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$365 per month</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18430</p> <p>4.8 Liter 8 cylinder 6 speed automatic Rear wheel drive</p> <p>14,775 MILES \$22,990</p>	<p>2016 Chevrolet Malibu</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$239 per month</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18093</p> <p>1.50 Liter, 4 cylinder, 6 speed automatic, Front wheel drive</p> <p>10,364 MILES \$14,990</p>	<p>2017 GMC Terrain</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$293 per month</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18401</p> <p>2.4 Liter 4 cylinder 6 speed automatic All Wheel Drive</p> <p>27,611 MILES \$18,990</p>
<p>2015 Ford Edge Sport</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$382 per month</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18233</p> <p>6 Spd. auto, AWD, Pwr. brakes, Pwr. windows, Pwr. steering</p> <p>30,477 MILES \$24,990</p>	<p>2015 Mazda 3</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$225 per month</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18274</p> <p>2 liter, 4 cylinder, Automatic, Front Wheel Drive</p> <p>24,160 MILES \$13,990</p>	<p>2013 Ford Explorer</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$257 per month</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18335</p> <p>3.5 liter, 6 cyl., 6 spd auto, 4 Wheel Drive, Leather, Moonroof, NAV, 3rd Row</p> <p>80,773 MILES! \$15,990</p>	<p>2018 GMC Sierra Z71</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">SOLD!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$4 th</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18471</p> <p>6 Liter, 8 Cylinder, 6 Speed Automatic, 4 Wheel Drive</p> <p>13,868 MILES \$45,900</p>

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HOLIDAY DRINKS

Warm up with a classic hot toddy this holiday season

Come the holiday season, hot toddies are ideal for entertaining, providing spirited fun and a means to chasing away the winter chill.

Hot toddies have been around for centuries. Usually a mix of a spirit — either whiskey, rum or brandy — hot water, honey and spices, some believe the word “toddy” comes from an Indian drink of the same name that is produced by fermenting the sap of palm trees. Other sources say the hot toddy was created by Dr. Robert Bentley Todd, an Irish physician who prescribed a drink made of brandy, white cinnamon, sugar syrup, and water. The drink was dubbed the “hot toddy.”

Hot drinks embellished with alcohol were long used for medicinal purposes. While alcoholic beverages are no longer used as medicine, hot toddies can still chase away a chill. “Grog” is another name given to hot alcoholic drinks, or any drink in which unmeasured amounts of spirits are mixed with other ingredients. Grog may also refer to a water-and-rum mixture that sea merchants once drank. The water kept the merchants hydrated, while the rum prevented the water from spoiling during voyages.

The classic hot toddy can be a versatile drink used to keep guests comfortable and cheerful. This warm libation is soothing and savory,



Soothe holiday visitors with a hot toddy. The combination of lemon, honey and whiskey makes hot toddies a comforting libation.

mixing citrus, honey and spices, which each have their various health benefits.

Although hot toddy recipes vary, the following is the recipe for a classic hot toddy, as culled

by recipes from Wine Enthusiast, Imbibe and PBS Food.

CLASSIC HOT TODDY

1 1/2 ounces bourbon,

whiskey or another brown liquor

1 tablespoon honey

12 ounce fresh lemon juice

1 cup boiling water

Cinnamon stick
Lemon wedge
Cloves or star anise

Combine liquor, lemon juice, honey, and boiling water together in a mug or Irish coffee glass. Push

cloves or star anise into the lemon wedge. Add the cinnamon stick and lemon wedge to the mug. Allow lemon and cinnamon stick to steep in the beverage for a few minutes. Stir and enjoy.

Sweet sangria adds fun to the festivities



The holiday season is one of the most festive times of the year as social engagements fill up many people’s calendars. Seasoned hosts or hostesses often have a go-to list of foods and beverages available to ensure guests are treated to the best of the best.

One easy way to keep the beverages flowing is to have one or two signature drinks, such as sangria, at the ready that can be prepared in advance and then generously doled out as needed.

Sangria traces its origins to Spain. It is traditionally made with wine and chopped fruit. Since “sangria” is Spanish for “blood,” red wine is often the vintage of choice, though lighter wines can be used based on personal preference.

Sangria is often mixed with juice, spices and sweet liqueurs, such as brandy. Sangria is a punch that can be prepared in advance and served in a decorative bowl so guests can simply refill their drinks as needed.

Even though sangria is a summertime staple, simply adjusting the flavor profile can make this beverage perfect for any time of year. With this recipe for “Citrus Pomegranate Prosecco Punch,” courtesy of Ruffino wines, the drink takes on the familiar flavors of pomegranate and orange that tend to show up in the winter months. Plus, the sparkling prosecco gives it that light and fizzy feel that evokes a festive atmosphere.

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CITRUS POMEGRANATE PROSECCO PUNCH

1/2 part orange juice
1/2 part pink grapefruit juice

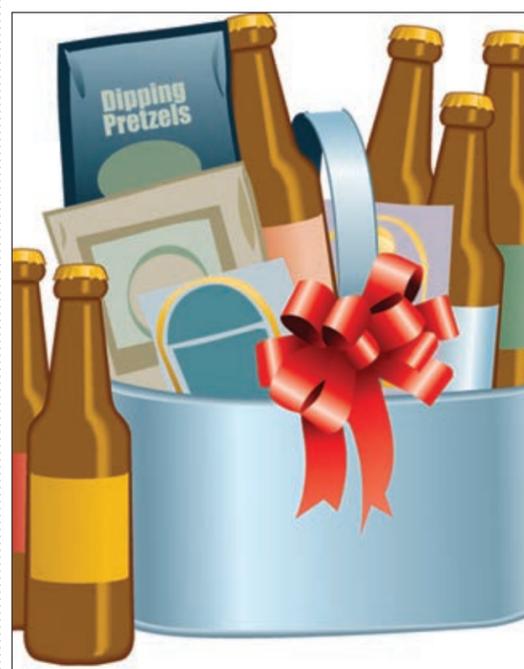
1/4 part pomegranate juice

1 part Ruffino Prosecco, well chilled

Slices of assorted citrus and pomegranate seeds, to garnish

In a large pitcher or punch bowl with plenty of ice, combine the fruit juices. Pour the Ruffino Prosecco over top. Garnish generously with sliced citrus and pomegranate seeds. For best flavor, use freshly pressed juices as available. Ruffino Sparkling Rosé is a great choice for this recipe too. Make available coupe cocktail glasses for serving.

What to get the beer drinker on your holiday list



Craft beer enthusiasts who love to study how beer is made may appreciate a beer making kit. These kits typically are designed for novices, though shoppers also can find more advanced kits for beer lovers who have already begun to make their own ales, stouts and lagers. When shopping for a beer making kit, be sure to buy one that suits the space your loved has available. Some kits are ideal for apartments, while others require more space to set up.

• Magnetic bottle opener: Magnetic bottle openers save beer lovers the hassle of finding that ever-elusive bottle opener. Easily attached to the refrigerator, magnetic bottle openers can be customized with a loved one’s name and some even include a pocket that catches bottle caps as beers are opened. Small magnetic bottle openers make great stocking stuffers.

• Beer glasses: Though it might seem insignificant to non-beer drinkers, the glass in which beer is served goes a long way toward ensuring its flavor is fully enjoyed. Beer glasses are shaped differently for a reason, and craft brewers often give ample thought to the shape of the glasses their beers will be served in. Ensure your loved one is getting the most out of his or her favorite beer by purchasing a set of glasses from his or her favorite brewery.

Options abound when buying gifts for the beer drinker on your list this holiday season.

Craft beer is having its moment. According to the Brewers Association, the craft brewing industry experienced a 5 percent growth in 2017 and now accounts for more than 23 percent of the \$111.4 billion beer market in the United States.

Craft beer drinkers’ devotion to beer is perhaps only matched by their love of exploring new beers. The popularity of the geosocial networking service and mobile phone application Untappd, which allows its roughly seven million users to check in as they drink beers and share those check-ins with friends, is a testament to the passion many craft beer drinkers have for beer. Holiday shoppers with craft beer aficionados on their shopping

lists can consider these gift ideas when shopping for that loved one who loves nothing more than hoisting a pint.

• Pressurized growler: Craft breweries sell beer in cans and bottles, but many craft beer enthusiasts prefer to take their favorite ales home in growlers. Growlers are glass bottles, often gallon-sized, that contain beer poured directly from the tap. This may make the beer taste more fresh than it might out of cans or bottles, and it provides beer lovers with that unmistakable draft beer taste. Beer sold in traditional growlers may not stay fresh for more than a couple of days. But a pressurized growler can keep beer carbonated and fresh for weeks.

• Beer making kit:

HOLIDAY DRINKS

How to host a successful business dinner

Throughout the history of commerce, many a deal has been made at the dinner table. Business dinners are a great opportunity to lay a foundation for long, potentially lucrative professional relationships.

Etiquette is important when hosting business dinners, as a breach of decorum can derail a relationship before it even begins. Professionals tasked with hosting business dinners can take the following tips to heart before sitting down to break bread with their colleagues.

- Choose a restaurant that can cater to various diets. Hosting a business dinner can be similar to hosting family during the holiday season, when hosts must cater to guests with various food allergies and dietary restrictions. Asking for such information in advance of a business dinner may seem intrusive to guests, so try to find a restaurant that offers a flexible menu capable of accommodating vegetarians, vegans and guests who might be gluten-free. Avoid restaurants that specialize in styles of cuisine that might be unhealthy or so extraordinary that guests might be hesitant to order anything from the menu.

- Confirm the reservation. Make the reservation well in advance of the date of the dinner, and don't forget to confirm the reservation a week beforehand. Confirming a week beforehand gives hosts time to book another reservation should theirs have been canceled by mistake.

- Arrive at the restaurant before your guests. Hosts should arrive at the restaurant before their guests so they can address any potential issues in advance of the beginning of the

dinner. Arriving early gives hosts time to ensure the table set aside for their party is not in a heavily trafficked area of the restaurant, such as adjacent to the kitchen or restroom. Hosts who arrive later than their guests may also give guests the mistaken impression that they are unimportant.

- Let guests order first. Once everyone has sat down at the table, hosts should allow guests to order first. Doing so saves guests who don't want to eat that much the potential discomfort of sitting there while their hosts eat an appetizer and/or large entrée. If guests choose to abstain from alcohol, follow suit. If guests want to have a drink, hosts can limit their consumption to a single beverage.

- Don't eat too quickly or too slowly. Hosts should try to keep pace with their guests in regard to how quickly or slowly they eat. Guests might feel uncomfortable if they finish first or feel pressured to eat quickly if their hosts finish first.

- Pay in advance. Business dinner guests do not expect to pay for their meals. While it's widely accepted that hosts will pay, it can feel awkward to have the bill brought to the table. Upon arriving early, hosts can give their credit cards to the wait staff and ask that they be charged without having the bill brought to the table. If necessary, step away from the table during the meal to sign the bill and address any discrepancies.

Business dinners have sparked many successful professional relationships, often-times thanks to hosts who took the time to ensure the dinners went off without a hitch.



What are the differences between sparkling wines?



As midnight approaches on New Year's Eve, revelers anxiously anticipate toasting the arrival of a new year with a glass of something bubbly. Once the cork is popped and the drinks are poured, the party can truly begin. Although revelers may assume any fizzy beverage they are served is champagne, by the true definition of the word, they actually may be drinking something else — one of many varieties of sparkling wine.

TRUE CHAMPAGNE

Authentic champagne is named after Champagne, France, the region where the grapes used to make it are grown, fermented and bottled. According to European law, the only labels that are allowed to include

the grapes and how the grapes can be harvested and processed. Champagne is produced by méthode champenoise, a process that is said to have been invented by a monk named Dom Perignon. This procedure involves double fermentation in bottles and creates an earthy, yeasty flavor.

SPARKLING WINES

Champagne is sparkling wine, but not all sparkling wines are champagne. Other notable types of sparkling wine include Italian Prosecco and Spanish Cava. Sparkling wine is produced in regions of France as well as in the United States and Canada. But sparkling wine can be made just about anywhere grapes are grown. Sparkling wines are often double-fermented in steel containers instead of bottles.

People are drawn to other sparkling wines besides champagne for various reasons. For some, cost is a heavy consideration, as authentic champagne can be considerably more expensive than sparkling wine. In addition, some people find less expensive champagnes are not as palate-pleasing as sparkling wines.

Few things are more universally associated with celebrations than a bottle of bubbly. Subtle differences set sparkling wines apart from champagne, but personal preference is oftentimes the deciding factor when choosing which beverage to choose for a special occasion.

Wines to pair with your favorite foods

Pairing wines with your favorite foods can be intimidating. Professional and amateur sommeliers might know just the bottle to pair with that sizzling steak, but weekend warriors might not be so confident. The Food Network offers the following pairing tips to people looking for the right bottle to go with some popular foods.

- Steak: Cabernet Sauvignon is a red wine that's high in tannins. Novice wine drinkers might wonder why certain wines dye their mouth after drinking, and that's because of tannins. Steak softens the impact of tannins because of its fat content, making this an ideal pairing.

- Spaghetti and meatballs: Italian food and wine go hand-in-hand, and Chianti is a great wine to pair with spaghetti and meatballs. Chianti has a bold flavor, and the Food Network notes it has enough acidity to stand up to all the tomatoes and meat in spaghetti and meatballs.

- Indian cuisine: Fans of Indian cuisine no doubt like spicy foods, but that doesn't mean they wouldn't also enjoy some temporary relief from their fiery favorites. Rieslings, which tend to be low in alcohol content, are sweet white wines that can be just the thing to complement all that spiciness. The Food



Network notes that high-alcohol wines might make spicy Indian food feel even spicier, so if Riesling isn't your ideal wine, at least opt for another wine with a low ABV.

- Salmon: Seafood fans who love salmon might like it even more if they pair it with Pinot Noir. While many types of fish are best paired with white wine and Pinot Noir is a red, this pairing actually works well because the salmon stands up to the wine's bold flavor.

- Lamb: Red meat and red wine go great together, but different types of red meat pair better with different types of wine. Lamb and Bordeaux go great together because lamb has a gamey flavor that requires a rich, bold wine. Bordeaux fits that bill, allowing the rich, fatty lamb meat to absorb its tannins.

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