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Friday, November 27, 2020

New York couple arrested on drug charges



Trooper Kurt D'Angelo and K-9 partner Kody hunt down 80 grams of cocaine dumped by suspects following a high-speed chase into Charlton.

BY JASON BLEAU VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON - A New York couple is in custody after a high-speed chase took them through several southern Worcester County towns, culminating in their arrest in Charlton.

According to a report from the Massachusetts State Police, troopers placed 25-year-old Blair Thornton and 23-year-old Shantia Crocker-Carter under arrest after a series of events led police to discover the pair were allegedly attempting to deliver

The suspects were first spotted by Trooper Nicholas Latino out of the State Police-Sturbridge Barracks at 1:18 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19. Trooper Latino attempta 2015 dark blue Honda Accord ping, the vehicle accelerated fleeing from

the scene leading Trooper Latino to engage in a pursuit. The Honda reportedly reached speeds of up to 130 mph, weaving through traffic, including reaching 80 mph in a construction zone. Trooper Latino lost the vehicle when it took Exit 3A onto Route 20 eastbound leading him to inform surrounding law enforcement to be on the lookout for the

Charlton police soon located the vehicle at 1:30 p.m.at which time another attempt to stop the car failed as the vehicle fled on Route 20. Eventually the Honda crashed at H. Putnam Road. Both Thornton and Crocker-Carter fled on foot before being apprehended by Trooper Latino as well as Troopers Amy Waterman, Robert Faguendes and Michael Baroni and Charlton Police Officers. The officers also received assistance from Trooper D'Angelo of the State Police K-9 Unit registered in North Carolina foe speeding on Route 84 in Sturbridge. Instead of stop-

Please Read ARRESTS, page A15

School district stays on course despite COVID uptick

BY JASON BLEAU VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON The Dudley Charlton Regional School District does not plan to change its approach to the current school year, at least for the remainder of 2020, despite 19 COVID-19 cases being reported in the past month from within the school community.

The district reported its first case on Oct. 27, and since Nov. 18, more cases have been announced, with the most recent on Nov. 21 as of this report. With every new case, Superintendent Steven Lamarche has sent out correspondence to the community and families touring the effectiveness of contact tracing and the quick response of families and employees to adjust when necessary. While the 19 cases may be alarming, Superintendent Lamarche does not believe the situation is bad enough to warrant a shift to remote learning for the Dudley and Charlton schools.

Lamarche addressed the situation during a meeting of the Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee on Nov. 18, the same day the 17th case in the district was reported, and indicated that while they are taking the increased cases seriously there does not appear to be a correlation between these cases and the application on in-person learning within the district.

'To this point, we do not

have evidence that a positive COVID-19 case in our educational community is the result of attendance in school. Many ask, 'how do we know this?' We know, as our health agents and school nurses collected detailed information around every presumptive or positive COVID-19 case. In addition, contact tracing protocols reveal additional information and from that point individuals are quarantined. Through all of that record keeping we would have evidence of transmission from a positive COVID-19 case in our educational community as a result of attendance to school, Lamarche said.

With that in mind, the Superintendent confirmed that the plan remains to continue to welcome students into the $school\,using\,the\,same\,approach$ they have since the launch of the school year. Lamarche praised the current mitigation strategies being utilized by the staff as effective and said they plan to continue to require the use of masks, hand washing, and maintaining safe distances to avoid any unwanted spread of the virus. Barring any major outbreak or concerns within the district, students will continue to be educated through both in-person and remote learning at least through the rest of the calendar year.

"While not ideal, the half day of in-person learning continues to provide the right structure to

Please Read COVID, page A3

Nichols moving to remote learning after holiday

BY JASON BLEAU VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY - Nichols College will be transitioning to remote learning for the remainder of the year after completing its on-campus learning schedule as planned.

The college announced in a press release prior to the Thanksgiving break that despite the increased concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic the school would maintain its commitment to in-person

learning until students left for Thanksgiving on Nov. 25. The release further stated that following the holiday students would remain home adapted to a remote-learning approach until Dec. 9, when the semester ends. This transition was planned before the start of the school year and was not implemented as a result of the recent spike in COVID-19 cases.

"With the health and safety of the campus community at the forefront, we began the semester with an ambitious plan to provide our students with the on-campus experience they desire," said Nichols College President Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D. "Students seem truly grateful to be here, and they were committed to keeping themselves and each other safe.'

Nichols College has provided free weekly COVID-19 tests to students, faculty and staff throughout the school year. Over a 14-week period, the school ran more than 23,000 tests resulting in only 25 positive cases. The school also recorded a seven week with no positive cases included a string of five consecutive weeks with no positive results. The transition from in-person learning to remote learning was planned with the intent of allowing students time to visit family for the holiday and avoid the stress of returning for a brief period of time where COVID testing would be required to be on campus.

"The pandemic has changed many things, but it did not change our ability to conduct classes, whether remote or in person," said Mauri Pelto, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs in a memo to

students. Pelto added that none of the positive cases recorded at Nichols were the result of learning in the classroom, noting "This remarkable achievement indicates our classroom setup, combined with testing and contact tracing, has worked to keep us all healthy."

As for the spring, classes will commence on Feb. 1, while winter courses will be available from Dec. 28 through the end of January.



Photo Courtesy

Bay Path LPN lands "dream job" with Day Kimball Hospital

CHARLTON — As the former Student Representative for Practical Nursing Class of 2018, Reagan Gosselin, LPN of Charlton is accustomed to moving fast. Even so, she was surprised by how quickly her nursing journey is turning up roses! Gosselin landed her dream job at Day Kimball Hospital at the Putnam Pediatric Center.

Gosselin entered the ten-month, full-time practical nursing program at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in the Fall of 2017. She managed her studies alongside her role as a Student Representative, member of the UNICEF Club, her job as a Dietary Aide at Harrington Hospital, and part-time Night Secretary for the Bay Path Adult Evening School. She was hoping to pivot into her nursing career that would

align more closely with her passion for working with children. Within a short time, she achieved just that.

"I accepted a full-time position at Day Kimball Hospital at their Putnam Pediatric Center," says Gosselin. "It's my dream job."

As an LPN Gosselin previously worked at The Overlook in Charlton, Brookhaven Rest Home in West Brookfield (as Medical Coordinator), Lincoln Hill Manor in Spencer (as Patient Care Assistant).

Gosselin said, "when I decided to start my nursing journey, I knew I wanted to work with children. I have four siblings that I adore and dedicated my nursing career to. I'm excited to start working in pediatrics and further my career."

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People to tip and gift his holiday season

Are you making a list and checking it twice? If so, don't forget to add a few extra people to that list who are worthy of a gift this holiday season. Certainly friends and family are in mind for presents, but what about the service providers in your life?

After a challenging year, people in the service industry might benefit from a holiday boost this year more than ever. Here's who you may want to spread some cheer to this holiday season.

• Hairdressers and nail techs: It takes a lot of effort to look one's best, and these individuals help people put their best selves forward. Consider tipping the amount you would normally spend on one visit. If you get your hair or nails done frequently and consider this person a friend, opt for a gift instead, such as a gift card to a nice restaurant or a pampering service for him or her.

• Babysitter or caregiver: This person is likely close with the family and may

be deserving of more than a tip. Pick an age-appropriate gift you know this person will love. What about a coveted pair of Bluetooth-enabled earbuds or headphones? A gift card to a store you know this person frequents also can be fitting, or a year-long subscription to a streaming music or movie service.

- · Landscapers: If the same person or crew services the lawn most of the time, a tip of \$20 each is an appropriate amount.
 - · Teachers: Class parents may take

up a collection for the teacher and offer one class gift. If your student is educated by multiple teachers and the school staff is top-notch, consider stocking the staff lounge with snacks and beverages or cater a lunch.

- Mail carrier: The mail is delivered six days of the week in any and all weather. Treat your mail carrier to a nice gift, but stick to the rules of the U.S. Postal Service. Mail carriers are not allowed to accept cash, checks or gift cards that can be used like credit cards. Stick to a gift of no more than \$25.
- Cleaning person: You rely on this person to keep your home tidy and clean. He or she is deserving of the cost of one visit, according to Roseanne Thomas, author of "Excuse Me: The Survival Guide to Modern Business Etiquette."

Individuals can use their discretion concerning service providers in their lives who may be worthy of some extra cheer this holiday season.





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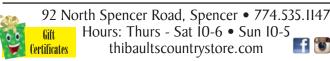






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Bay Path students awarded Horatio Alger National Career & Technical Scholarship

CHARLTON — Tianna Welcome of Oxford and Ashley Winters of Spencer have been awarded the 2020-2021 scholarship from the Horatio Alger National Career & Technical Scholarship Program (CTE Scholarship).

Welcome and Winters, both full-time practical nursing students at Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy will each receive an award of \$2,500 for their practical nursing studies. CTE Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis of verification of good academic standing, high school completion or earned high school equivalency credential, enrolled in a career or technical certificate program leading to employment, attending a not-for-profit post-secondary institution, Pell Grant eligibility, US citizenship, and be under the age of 30.

Welcome works as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) at CareOne in Millbury. Prior to joining Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Welcome completed Medical Assistant Certificate at Salter College (Dean's List), Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide Training program at Peak Medical Academy in Worcester, and courses towards General Studies Healthcare option at Quinsigamond Community College.

Winters is a CNA working closely with hospice nurses at Uxbridge, MA. She completed her CNA and HHA certification at the American Red Cross in Worcester. She took courses toward majoring in social work at Anna Maria College in Paxton. She is an elected officer for the PN Class of 2021's UNICEF

Both Welcome and Winters are 14 weeks into the rigorous ten-month of academics and clinicals to complete the practical nursing program and make

Learn "How to Master

Your Mindset During

WORCESTER – Mike Savage will present "How to Master Your Mindset

During A Crisis: The Seven Secret

Weapons of Great Business Leaders Who

Thrive During Challenging Times" at a

Zoom meeting of The Communicators

Club from noon to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday,

ball that none of us could have imag-

Savage said the pandemic is a curve-

\$459,900, 16 Lindsey Ln, Mancini, Leslie-Ann P, and Mancini, John, to

Grammer, Maryann, and Grammer,

\$440,000, 139 Dresser Hill Rd, Scott,

Gene A, and Smith-Scott, Susan M,

to Astrella, Joseph J, and Astrella,

\$395,000, 124 Gould Rd, Tupper, Agnes N, and Tupper, Edward, to

Bunt, Darron C, and Rossetti,

Jane F, to Power, Bobbi-Jean.

\$370,000, 18 Curtis Hill Rd, Padro,

\$360,000,95 Baker Pond Rd, Isakson,

Matthew M, and Isakson, Justine C,

A Crisis" with Mike

Savage Dec. 1.

CHARLTON

Elaine A.

Victoria L.

to Blondin, David.



Tianna Welcome

positive contributions while continuing their service to the nursing profession.

The Horatio Alger Association honors the achievements of outstanding individuals in our society who have succeeded despite adversity and who are committed to supporting young people in pursuit of increased opportunities through higher education.

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical

assessed the reality of their situation, applied for a PPP or EIDL loan, and taken the necessary steps as required by law, they may not be addressing an important aspect of this crisis - their mindset and mental state. Mike, who has more than 30 years of entrepreneurship, believes that mindset, language, focus, daily routine, peer network, and thought process are significantly more important to success than a tactic, product or marketing plan.

Savage will dig into how great leaders summon their inner powers when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges and emerge victorious. He will explain how entrepreneurs can win this battle as they manage their state of mind, believe that the universe is unfolding as it should, and have faith that they will successfully navigate ined. While most business leaders have through this adversity.

\$330,000, 85 Sturbridge Rd, Madulka, Michael T, to Landreau

\$85,000, Blood Rd, Jazwinski, Andy,

\$545,000, 311 Stafford St, Cairns,

\$385,000, 106 Glen Echo Shore Rd,

\$350,000, 19 Timber Valley Dr,

and Jazwinski, Daniel, to Gauvin,

Allison R, to Obrien, Sean, and

Depierri, Terry J, to Huettmann,

R Mccarthy 2007 Funding T, and

Robbie, Wayne A, to Transcor Intl



Ashley Winters

Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing 239 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800 www.mass.gov/ dph/boards/rn The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 www.council.org Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges, 209 Burlington Rd., Suite 201 Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 www.neasc.org.

There is a \$10 fee for the virtual program. To register, go to https://conta. cc/38uuUvp.

For more information about The Communicators Club, visit https:// communicatorsclub.org/.



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

If you find a mistake, email news@stonebridgepress.news or call (508) 909-4106 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

COVID

continued from page A1

our school environments ensuring limited movement for the majority of our in-person students," Lamarche said. 'What cannot be expressed enough is through our current resurgence and ensuring that health and safety wellbeing is how well and serious staff as well as families are taking this resurgence. Self-identifying the symptoms and conditions of COVID-19 and staying home and contacting a doctor or medical professional, getting tested and communicating with our school nurses continues to prove how well we are doing as a district with in-person learning. This has been impressive and aids in our ability to continue as we are with in-person learning in our current model.

If a major increase in COVID-19 cases does necessitate the closing of the schools, the district does have a transition plan in place. For now, the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District will maintain the status quo leading up to the winter break at the end of December.



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** * Friday's Child ***



Raven Age 14

Hi! My name is Raven and I am a fashionista!

Raven is a creative, fashionable teen girl of Caucasian descent. Raven describes herself as polite and well dressed, but others would add she is outgoing, happy, and just fun to be around! Raven's creativeness tends to shine through her art and her clothing choices. Some of Raven's favorite activities include reading, cheerleading, gymnastics, spending time outside, and going shopping. Raven is a highly motivated child with goals for her future. When she grows up, she would like to become either a nurse or a fashion designer.

Engaging and confident, Raven has made tremendous progress in school. She likes to advocate for herself and have her voice be heard. Raven also thrives in family settings and does best when given a structured environment with clear rules and expectations.

Raven is legally freed for adoption and hopes her future family will have two parents, an older sister and a dog. Her social worker is also willing to consider single female families with children in the home. Raven would do best as the only or youngest child in the home. Raven has close relationships with her sisters and their adoptive families, who live on the South Shore of Massachusetts, and it is important for her to keep these relationships.

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; LG-BTQ 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 617-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call



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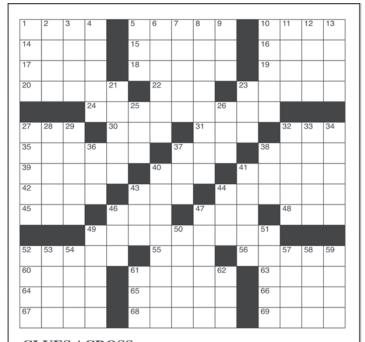


QCC doesn't just talk turkey this Thanksgiving

COLLEGE'S FOOD PANTRY PROVIDES HOLIDAY MEALS TO STUDENTS IN NEED

W O R C E S T E R Quinsigamond Community College is out on the frontlines helping to make Thanksgiving a little bit better for its most vulnerable students. Recently, the college's Food Pantry and Resource Center provided turkeys with all the fixings for 40 students in need. The holiday meals were distributed to students in a safe, contactless way. Those students in need who did not get a turkey were given \$40 gift cards to Market Basket.

QCC President Dr. Luis



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cold War player
- 5. Flat-bottomed sailboat 10. Jamaican tangelo
- 14. Debauched man
- 15. Less covered 16. Require to live
- 17. Patrick and Aykroyd are two
- 19. Insurance claim expenses
- 20. Tries to persuade
- 22. Equal (prefix) 23. Czech name for Prague
- 24. London soccer team
- 27. Greek letter
- 30. Small Eurasian deer
- 31. Swiss river
- 32. Miller beer
- 35. Less appealing
- 37. 8th month (abbr.)
- __ Alto, California city 39. Grandmothers
- 40. American time
- 41. NW Chinese people

CLUES DOWN

- Language 2. Fly high in the air
- 3. Made musical sounds Organized again
- 6. Unable to fly
- 7. Get up
- 8. Air traveler 9. Married woman
- 10. Take weapons from
- 11. Sicilian city Actress Remini
- 13. Thought 21. Infections
- 23. Golf score
- 25. Hill or rocky peak 26. Witch
- 27. Adjusted
- 28. Succulent plant
- 29. Forearm bones
- 32. Hot fluid in the earth's crust

34. Part of an organism

42. "Westworld" actress __

44. Poplar trees (Spanish)

47. Corpuscle count (abbr.) 48. Comedienne Gasteyer

45. Hip hop legend Kool Moe

52. Female cattle mammary gland

60. Small brown and gray American

Rachel Wood 43. Northeastern US university

46. Not or

49. Fonts

55. Down time

56. Spiritual leader

61. Trimmed by cutting

64. A long narrative poem

68. Pacific Island country

69. Whale ship captain

67. Shut Your Pie Hole (abbr.)

63. NY Giants owner

65. Old World lizard

66. Product for sale

- 36. 007's creator 37. Burned material residue
- 38. Brain layer: __ mater
- 40. Unable to partake
- 43. Historic railroad company (abbr.)
- 44. Basics
- 46. Scottish port
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Instruct
- 50. Untamed
- 51. Moth genus
- 52. Utilizes
- 53. Foolish 54. Fall in small drops
- 57. A place to get clean
- 58. La Tar Pits 59. Metrical foot
- 61. Semiliquid food
- 62. Small crow
- Э Α 8 0 S Я A Я N D D E B 8 8 A С 3 4 3 A P E D 3 Я 3 | Я \cap Я SS 9 \forall Я

Pedraja took part in distributing the food and said he was humbled by the students' need, as well as their gratitude.

"Within the first 35 minutes of opening we distributed all 40 turkeys and a total of 49 students were served in one hour. The students were so thankful for the assistance and said it would make such a difference for them and their families," Dr. Pedraja said. "Prior to the pandemic, we found 49% of our students were hungry and many were not sure where their next meal would come from. Today, we are seeing firsthand this need increasing and we are doing everything we can to help mitigate it."

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Advisor Bonnie Coleman, who is one of the Bonnie weekly QCC volunteers, said she was the last person the students saw as they left with their holiday meals.

"After the students picked up their turkeys and other food they stopped and thanked me. So many said 'God bless you for doing this," Ms. Coleman said. "It was heartwarming to see that we are able to make a small difference in the lives of students who are working so hard for a better life for themselves and their families.'

To date, 409 students have signed up to use the food pantry and with the cold weather



Photo Courtesy

Quinsigamond Community College Foundation President Dr. Linda Maykel braves the cold as she helps distribute turkeys to QCC students in need.

and holidays, the college anticipates that number to continue to increase. Since the start of the pandemic, QCC's Food Pantry partnered with the Worcester County Food Bank to deliver 2,000 pounds of food. 'We are helping feed our

students, as well as hundreds of family members. The word community in our college

name is no accident. We are part of the community and as such, we will do everything we can to help our most vulnerable," Dr. Pedraja said.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

QCC's GivingTuesday campaign launches early due to increased student need

WORCESTER

Quinsigamond Community College is asking for the support of the community in helping its students during a time when their need is greater than ever before. The College has rolled out an aggressive fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$30,000 in honor of its alumni, in conjunction with the national campaign GivingTuesday. QCC is an integral part of the City of Worcester and has well over 30,000 alumni, with close to 7,000 who live in Worcester.

donating QCC's GivingTuesday campaign, you are helping a friend or a neighbor who may be one of the many front-line workers helping to keep us safe and our essential businesses operating," said Associate Vice President for External Affairs, Dr.Viviana M. Abreu-Hernandez.

Donors can specify where they want their donations to go to such as the QCC Foundation's Student Emergency Fund, the QCC Food Pantry and Resource Center or student scholarships.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, student need at QCC has greatly increased as jobs have been lost or severely cut and students have been struggling to make ends meet. While the college received CARES Act funding like most in the country, the stipulations for

students to receive aid precluded many, due to their part-time status or other disqualifiers.

"Many of our students were unable to access the CARES Act aid; thankfully the QCC Foundation began a Student Emergency Fund before the CARES Act was even being considered in Congress. This has already helped well over 500 students," said President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "As the pandemic

deepens and we enter the colder months the need continues to grow.'

A survey of those who received Student Emergency Fund aid noted that 47 percent of working students lost their jobs, 72 percent of working students had a reduction in their working hours, and 33% had out of pocket medical expenses related to COVID-19.

"If all of our alumni and everyone in the community who knows a QCC alumnus were to make a donation, we would more than hit our goal," Dr. Abreu-Hernandez said, adding, "QCC is not a just college in Worcester, QCC is Worcester's college and by supporting our students you are supporting the community.'

QCC's GivingTuesday campaign is running through the month of November and culminates on GivingTuesday. December 1. To be a part of QCC's GivingTuesday initiative, visit www.QCC.edu/ QCCGives.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

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The Charlton Villager (USPS#024-954) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA 01550. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Charlton Villager, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Church Listings

· Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St. 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org

• Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org Sunday worship and Children's church 10am • St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m. Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• Hope Christian Fellowship, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

· Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-3771 snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

· Lamblight Christian Church, 37 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Rev. Stephen Wade, (774) 452-2393 Pastor's Cell. Sunday Service 10:00am. www visitlamblight.com

 New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

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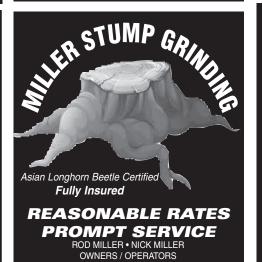
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Webber to be appointed Cornerstone Bank President on Jan. 1

1, Randal D. Webber will be appointed President at Cornerstone Bank. Currently, Webber serves as the Bank's EVP, COO and Chief Lending Officer.

"Randy has contributed enormously in helping Cornerstone honor our commitment to enhancing the vitality of local communities and the well-being of all of our customers" states Cornerstone Bank President and Treasurer Todd Tallman, who will assume the role of CEO on January 1. "His strategic and managerial skills go far beyond the lending discipline. I've found his insights on retail and digital banking to be invaluable—not only in relation to our products and services, but also the professional development of our team members."

After joining SpencerBANK in 2009

as SVP, Chief Risk Officer Webber served in increasingly responsible positions until his promotion in 2012 to EVP, Chief Lending Officer. When SpencerBANK and Southbridge Savings Bank created a merger of equals in 2016 to form Cornerstone Bank, Webber was named EVP, Chief Operating Officer. In this Executive-level role, he has helped facilitate significant growth of the Bank's commercial and retail service and operations, particularly within its commercial portfolio. He currently serves on the Board of the Worcester State University Foundation.

In a related development, SVP and Senior Commercial Officer Michael J. Quink will be promoted on Jan. 1, 2021, to EVP, Senior Commercial Officer. Prior to his current role, Quink was SVP, Commercial Division Manager at SpencerBANK. He is a Board member of the Horace Mann Education Foundation.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Southbridge, Rutland, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster, and Worcester, along with a Loan Center in Westborough. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender, and SBA Preferred Lender. For more information, visit online at cornerstonebank.com, on Facebook, or call 800-939-9103



Randal D. Webber

Walmart Giving grant presented to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy recently received a Walmart Giving grant from the Walmart Foundation to help support the PN Class of 2021 with NCLEX-PN preparation.

Evalyn Njoroge Southbridge, a member of the PN Class of 2021 is the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Liaison and communicated with the Walmart Branch in Sturbridge. Njoroge and her sons Jayden and Kevin, made a special trip to Walmart at 100 Charlton Road, Sturbridge to extend the PN Class of 2021's gratitude for Walmart Giving's generosity. Njoroge met with Team Lead Deyvi. Njoroge is a member of the UNICEF Club and regularly shops at Walmart. "My son Kevin and I were scheduled to visit Walmart, my other son Jayden wanted to be in the pictures"

said Njoroge. Gretheline Bolandrina MSN, Ed, RN, CRRN Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director said "as members of the Southern Worcester County community we appreciate organizations such as Walmart and we are excited for the continued collaboration. Being supported by Walmart with much needed funds is an important and fundamental

piece in our work to produce real world ready, Licensed Practical Nurses. Bolandrina added, "this education grant will assist Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy PN Class of 2021 in addressing systematic inequities and barriers that prevent them from taking an NCLEX-PN Live Review Course and eventually taking the NCLEX-PN exam and passing on their first try. The enrollment and attendance to the Hurst Live NCLEX Review will greatly improve the PN Class of 2021 NCLEX success rate, overcome the social and environmental challenges in their practical nursing jour-

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Additional information about Walmart can be found by visiting http://corporate.walmart. com.

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. Visit us online at www.baypath.net.

CCUMC to host virtual Christmas Fair

CHARLTON — COVID-19 can't cancel our Christmas spirit, nor it can it stop the CCUMC annual Christmas Fair!

Charlton City United Methodist Church hopes you join us for our annual silent auction, This year, we're going virtual! Bidding starts Nov. 29 and runs through 2 p.m. Dec. 5.

We thank our donors for a wide assortment of items for participants to bid on. You can get a sneak peek, at https://bit.ly/CharltonCity but please keep in mind that new items are being

added frequently.

As always, our auction will be a place to find great bargains on items donated by members and many local businesses, like gift baskets and gift certificates. This year's chairperson, Judy Fortin, is working with a wonderful committee to present an auction that has something for everyone.

The virtual fair will help us to raise funds to continue our ministries! God





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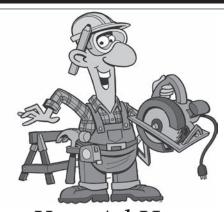
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What's the Difference?

There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



В



Answers: I.Extra grapes on left 2. Missing pumpkin in back 3. Turkey wing missing 4. Handle is on drawer in back



- 1520: PORTUGUESE

 NAVIGATOR FERDINAND

 MAGELLAN TRAVELS

 THROUGH THE STRAIT

 THAT NOW BEARS HIS NAME
- 1925: THE GRAND OLE OPRY PREMIERES AS WSM BARN DANCE ON WSM RADIO, NASHVILLE.
- 1990: BRITISH PRIME
 MINISTER MARGARET
 THATCHER RESIGNS AS
 LEADER OF THE
 CONSERVATIVE PARTY
 AND STEPS DOWN AS PM.



PILGRIM

a person who travels on long journeys



ENGLISH: Corn

SPANISH: Maíz

ITALIAN: Mais

FRENCH: Maïs

GERMAN: Mais



TURKEYS THAT ARE BRED FOR THE DINNER TABLE ARE NOT ABLE TO FLY. HOWEVER, WILD TURKEYS CAN FLY, BUT ONLY LOW TO THE GROUND FOR SHORT PERIODS OF

Answers: A. trivia

B. skill

C. compete D. winner

TIME.





Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

YNƏMEK: LNWLKIN LIE

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have

you hooked from the moment you square off, so

sharpen your

pencil and put

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Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to games & puzzles.

Each number corresponds to a letter.

(Hint: 11 = I)

A. 9 19 11 21 11 13

Clue: Pieces of information

B. 5 2 11 22 22

Clue: Ability to do something well

C. 4 20 16 15 26 9 26

Clue: Strive to gain or win

D. 17 11 18 18 26 19

Clue: Person who comes out on top

SUDOKU

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your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

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ANSWER:



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Brendan Berube

EDITOR

To infinity and beyond

On Nov. 15, the world watched as a Space X spacecraft blasted into space with four astronauts on board. As one news outlet put it, it was 'eight minutes of terror' as the fiery bullet took off. This title nailed it. As we watched the rocket take off, we were awestruck at how far mankind has come. The science and intelligence that is behind what was once unthinkable, is mind

Watching the takeoff on Sunday evening was just as exciting as it was nerve wracking. In 1986, while in school, we all watched as the Challenger met it's fatal fate after just 73 seconds after taking off. In 2003, the Columbia shuttle broke apart while attempting to renter the Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven crew members.

The crew, made up of Victor Glover, Shannon Walker, Soichi Noguchi (of Japan) and Michael Hopkins, traveled the 27 hours it takes to get to the International Space Station. As we write this, the crew is safely in orbit.

The launch was delayed from Saturday to Sunday due to bad weather from Hurricane Eta. The trek is historical in that it's the first fully operational mission for the private company, SpaceX, founded by Elon Musk. A test mission did take place this past spring with two test pilots, Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley who successfully traveled to the space station.

The crew will remain in space for six months, where they will administer several experiments. One experiment includes how microgravity affects human heart tissue. Microgravity is defined as the condition in which people or things appear to be weightless. An attempt to grow radishes will also take place, which could lead to longer space

In 2011, NASA did away with the Space Shuttle program. Since then the United States has used Russian spacecrafts to bring astronauts to the International Space Station. SpaceX created and developed the Crew Dragon

In 1961, Russian Lt. Yuri Gagarin became the first person to orbit the Earth in Vostok 1. The flight lasted for 108 minutes, reaching an altitude of 202 miles. That same year, Alan Shepard became the first American to go to space. A year later in February, John Glenn became the first American to land on the moon. In 1969, Neil Armstrong was the first human to walk on the moon.

Some interesting facts about space are that it is completely silent. Because there is no atmosphere in space, sound has no way to travel. Astronauts use radios to communicate. In 1986, NASA discovered what could be fossils of microscopic living organisms on a rock brought back from Mars. Halley's Comet won't orbit by the Earth until 2061. A space suit from Nasa costs \$12,000,000. A research by Yale scientists suggests that there may be a planet made out of diamonds, that is twice the size of Earth and eight times greater. They say it's 40 light years away; however, it can be seen by the naked eye in the constellation of Cancer. The footprints left on the moon will last for 100 million years. One day on Venus is longer than one year due to a slow axis rotation which takes 243 Earth days to complete it's day. If two pieces of metal touch while in space, they will weld together. There is floating water in space. The moon was once a piece of the Earth. Scientists say that when Earth was young, it was struck by a giant object breaking a piece off that began to orbit the Earth due to gravity.

Sunday evening's excitement was a much needed break from the national news cycle. Listening to the ground crew at NASA headquarters was like listening to something out of a movie. It was a refreshing reminder that there are bigger, more positive things taking place in our lifetimes and for that, we are thankful.



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

Medicinal Seasonings Spice Up Holiday Recipes

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

unmistakable aroma of such spices as cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. But the familiar aromatics of holiday fare are not simply tasty comfort foods, as it turns out, studies show popular holiday spices can benefit your health as well as your taste buds.

The following yuletide-worthy recipes include generous doses of spices with impressive health benefits. Note: Data on treating ailments with spices is offered as information only; not medical advice. Do not ingest spices as home remedies without proper medical supervision as dangerous allergies and side effects can occur.

Often sprinkled in a holiday eggnog or added to a meat pie, the nutmeg spice jar does duty beyond the kitchen cupboard, from halting a headache to promoting sweet slumber. Nutmeg is packed with antioxidants and anti-inflammatory properties that not only relieve headaches but help ease pain associated with injuries and wounds. The spice is also an antibacterial, which makes it a powerful weapon in healing oral maladies. A natural diuretic, nutmeg is beneficial to kidney health, with its powerful properties evenly hailed as a treatment to dissolve kidney stones. And according to the Encyclopedia of Healing Foods, a little nutmeg added to a glass of warm milk can lull you off to sleep in record time.

Candied Pecans: Traditional holidays include old fashioned recipes, and this simple candied nut recipe, featuring nutmeg and cinnamon, harks back to holiday snacks of yore:

large egg Ingredients: one ½ tablespoon vanilla extract; ½ tablespoon water; one cup sugar; ¾ teaspoon Kosher salt; ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon; ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg; one pound raw pecan halves

Directions: Preheat the oven to 250°F (121°C). Butter a baking sheet.

In a bowl, beat the egg white, vanilla, and water just until very frothy. In a separate bowl, combine the sugar, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Add the pecans to the egg-white mixture and gently toss to coat. Transfer the nuts to the sugar mixture and toss to coat. Spread the

nuts evenly on the baking sheet. Bake for 1 hour, stirring every 10 to 15 minutes. Watch the pecans carefully during the last 15 to 20 minutes of cooking for doneness. The nuts should be a lovely golden brown, crunchy, and evenly coated with the hardened sugar coating when they come out of the oven. Store the pecans in an airtight container in a cool, dry place for up to 2 weeks.

Cinnamon

Cinnamon, perhaps the most recognized holiday spice, is also one of the most powerful in health benefits. Helpful in reducing blood sugar levels in people with type 2 diabetes, cinnamon has been touted as an additional dietary supplement along with conventional medications to fight the disease.

In addition, studies revealed the spice reduced triglyceride, LDL cholesterol, and total cholesterol levels among test group subjects. Want more? Research from Copenhagen University showed a significant relief in arthritis pain when patients were given half a teaspoon of cinnamon powder combined with one tablespoon of honey every morning for a week. And another study found that the mere act of smelling the spice can boosts cognitive function and memory!

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

Holiday Cinnamon Snickerdoodles: This recipe, from the spice company McCormick, is a nostalgic family favorite to bake up during the holidays.

Ingredients: 2 3/4 cups All Purpose Flour; 2 teaspoons Cream of Tartar; 1 teaspoon baking soda; 3/4 teaspoon salt; 1 3/4 cups sugar, divided; 1 cup Butter

All-Vegetable TAKE Shortening; 2 eggs; 2 tablespoons milk; 2 teaspoons THE pure Vanilla Extract; 1 tablespoon ground cinna-HINT

Directions: Preheat oven to 400°F. Mix flour, TRAINOR cream of tartar, baking soda and salt in medium bowl. Set aside. Beat 1 1/2 cups of the sugar and shortening

in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs, milk and vanilla; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Mix remaining 1/4 cup sugar and cin-

namon. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in cinnamon sugar mixture to coat. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets.

Bake 7 to 8 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on baking sheets minute. Remove to wire racks.

Ginger

KAREN

Ginger bread and ginger snaps are familiar holiday treats, but did you know ginger has long been hailed for its power to tame a tummy ache? It's also a well-known home remedy to treat motion and sea sickness. In fact, in one study, ginger was shown to be superior to a commonly used overthe-counter and prescription drug for motion sickness, reducing dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and cold sweats. It's also claimed that ginger can aid in relieving arthritis and sciatica pain. Or, some people simply eat several pieces of crystallized ginger to help relieve joint and nerve pain.

Old Fashioned Gingerbread: King Arthur Flour offers this classic holiday favorite that recalls happy childhood

Ingredients: 2 1/4 cups King Arthur White Whole Wheat Flour, or 2 cups King Arthur Unbleached All-Purpose Flour;1/4 cup granulated sugar; 1 teaspoon baking soda; 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger; 1 teaoon cinnamon; 1/4 teaspoon cloves and nutmeg; 1/2 cup (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter, melted; 3/4 cup molasses; 1/4 cup water;1 large egg;1 cup buttermilk;1/2 cup diced crystallized ginger (optional) Instructions: Grease and flour a 9»

square pan. Preheat the oven to $350^{\circ}F$.

Allspice

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

Allspice is famous for its ability to relieve muscle aches and pain when applied topically. To make an allspice poultice, mix ground allspice with water to form a thick paste. Apply it to the body, cover with gauze and relax for 15 to 20 minutes. Sipping tea made from the spice can also be helpful in relieving menstrual cramps and headaches. Allspice berries can also be used to temporarily relieve toothache pain. Simply chew one allspice berry for quick relief.

Allspice Recipe: No allspice on hand? No worries. To whip up one teaspoon of Allspice, combine the following: 1/2 teaspoon of ground cinnamon, ¼ teaspoon of ground cloves and ¼ teaspoon of ground nutmeg.

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 email KDRR@aol. com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Financial moves for the recently divorced



FINANCIAL Focus BURDICK

Divorce is common in our society, but that doesn't make it any easier to navigate. If you've recently finalized a divorce, you've likely been coping with uncertainty and tension, but you can still avoid turning an already difficult situation into one that's even more challenging. How? By making the right financial and investment moves, including the following:

Establish your separate financial presence. Even when you were married, you and your spouse might have maintained some separate accounts. But if you only had joint accounts, now is the time to open your own checking, savings and credit accounts.

Update your budget. It's likely your budget needs updating. Your household income may be lower or may need to be adjusted for alimony or child support (paid or received). Additionally, your living expenses may have shifted, either higher because you're no longer splitting expenses such as housing or utilities, or possibly lower because you're no longer supporting your ex's spending habits. Understanding your new budget will help you feel better informed about your financials options and more in control of your new situation.

Prioritize emergency savings. Divorce is expensive and may have depleted your savings. To get back on your feet, you may want to build an easily accessible source of funds for unexpected drops in income and/or spikes in expenses. If you're not retired, you may want to keep three to six months' worth of expenses in emergency savings, although even much smaller amounts can boost your feelings of financial security.

Evaluate your retirement plan contributions. When you were married, you may have been counting on sharing resources and expenses with your spouse in retirement. But now, you may be solely responsible for your retirement, so if you can afford it, you may want to ramp up your retirement plan a financial professional about setting and achieving new goals.

Think about Social Security. Your divorce could play a role in the benefits you can receive. Once you are eligible for benefits, if you were married at least 10 years and you haven't remarried, you might be able to receive up to 50% of vour ex-spouse's benefits, offset by your own benefit. If your ex passes away and you haven't remarried (or you remarry only after age 60), you could receive 100% of their benefit in place of your own. This could be beneficial if your ex-spouse had a higher income or spent longer in the labor force. Since rules can be complicated, contact your local Social Security office to better understand your situation, and keep a record of your ex's Social Security number.

Review your beneficiary designations and legal documents. You'll likely need to revise the beneficiary designations on your retirement accounts and life insurance policies. These designations carry a lot of weight and can even supersede the instructions in your will. And, speaking of your will, you'll likely need to revise it too, along with other legal documents, such as a living trust. Consult with your legal professional to make these revisions.

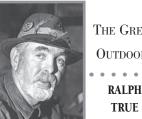
It can feel like a long road to stability after a divorce – but by following the above suggestions, you may be able to make the trip a little less bumpy - and hopefully shorter – as well.

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.



Friday, November 27, 2020 •THE CHARLTON VILLAGER•9

Helpful bints for barvesting deer



THE GREAT **OUTDOORS** RALPH

Opening day of Massachusetts shotgun deer season is scheduled to open on Nov. 30. This year, sportsmen that harvest a deer during the first week of the shotgun deer season, are not required to bring the animal to a check station as in previous years, due to the Covid-19 outbreak. You are required to register the deer online. A lot of deer, some of which were very impressive, were harvested during the archery deer season. Last year's numbers of harvested deer during the archery season were high, and I would not be surprised that the numbers will be even higher this year. In fact, last year, archers harvested more deer than hunters during the shotgun deer season in Massachusetts!

Many deer hunters are trophy deer hunters, and often pass up a shot at a doe or small buck. The excitement of harvesting a trophy deer gives the hunter bragging rights for many years. If you are looking for some good eating venison, the younger deer are the best, not to say that some big buck do not have the flavor of

a younger deer. Many times, it depends on the food the deer were eating, that make the difference in flavorful meat. Proper field dressing also has a large effect on the taste of the deer, as the meat can be tainted with the deer's urine if it is broken during the field dressing

A quick clean kill can also make your harvested deer meat taste a lot better, than if you need to track the deer any length of time. The adrenalin of the deer has a tendency to stiffen up the body of the deer and effects the meat when it is cooked. Also, making a bad shot and locating the deer the next day, is another thing that you do not want to happen. These are some of the reasons that many people do not like eating venison. If the deer is quickly killed and properly field dressed, they would change their way of thinking.

If you are hunting private property, you need to make sure that you have permission from the landowner. If you harvest a deer, be sure to share some of the venison with him or her. It could go a long way in keeping his property open in the coming years. Leaving your trash behind is another way to get the property closed. When possible, you should try to remove the body parts that are removed from the animal during field dressing. It does draw coyote and other wild animals to the kill site to eat the body parts, which may be

Photo Courtesy The 16 year old son of Sean Haaynes harvested this 16-point buck in Spencer during the archery

an unwanted visit by the farmer or property owner.

Tautog fishing remained pretty good last week in Rhode Island, but boaters needed to go a bit further out to deeper water. Shore fishing anglers have had to work a bit harder to catch a couple of keepers. Seabass fishing has also slowed in the area around Point Judith light.

Ice fishing anglers are hoping for some ice this year, but if you listen to some of the long range forecast, it does not look too good. Many anglers are still fishing from their boats in local waters, catching some impressive trout and largemouth bass.

Hoping everyone stays safe and has a happy Holiday, even though it will not be like previous years. New Englanders are tough, and we will all survive the pandemic if we social distance and wear masks. We will get back to normal soon. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all that have lost a loved one to

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Winter care for trees, shrubs and perennials in containers

As you prepare your landscape for winter don't overlook the trees, shrubs and perennials you have growing in containers. These need a bit of extra protection to help them survive cold winter temperatures.

The small amount of soil in container gardens does not always provide sufficient insulation. The roots are more exposed to temperature extremes than those of their counterparts growing in the ground. Extremely cold temperatures can dam-

age or kill the roots and even the plant. Plants rated at least one zone hardier when left outside for winter. Just make sure your containers will also tolerate

the challenging winter weather. Here are a couple strategies for helping your other containers through the winter. Select the one that best fits your landscape space and gardening style. Those in apartments or with limited space may need to enlist the help of

their gardening friends. Move containers to a sheltered location. Place them close together for added insulation. Then surround this with annual pots of flowers and vegetables to further insulate the roots. Wait until spring to empty and compost the annual plants. Or cover the pots with woodchips or surround them with

GARDEN MOMENTS **MELINDA MYERS**

bags of leaves, potting mix or bales of straw. Add another layer of insulation by piling snow that is free of deicing salt over the pots throughout the winter.

Any plants growing in nursery pots or plastic containers can be overwintered in a vacant section of

the garden. Sink the pots in the ground and make sure the pot is covered with and surrounded by soil. Water if needed. Then lift the plants in spring and set them in a decorative container to enjoy throughout the growing season.

An unheated garage also provides container gardens. Heated garages are usually too warm and plants will begin to grow. With a lack of sufficient sunlight, they usually struggle through the winter and often die.

Place the plants away from the overhead garage door. Add a bit of insulation such as packing materials, bagged soil or other potential insulation you probably have in your home or garage. This protects the roots when the temperatures plummet. Water your stored containers whenever the soil is thawed and dry. A scoop of snow that is free of deicing salt works well. Just toss a scoop on each pot. When the temperatures rise the snow melts and waters the pots. Dry soil during a winter thaw



Moving containers to a sheltered location and placing them close together for added insulation is one strategy to help them survive cold winter temperatures.

is the usual cause of death when pots are stored this way.

If space allows, you may decide to plant those trees, shrubs and perennials growing in containers into the garden each fall. You will eliminate this overwintering task and have a great excuse for buying new plants next spring.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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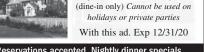
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Pizza ... a circle of life

My mother taught me many things. She gave me the gift of curiosity. She questioned everything and encouraged her children to do the same. She spent her early teen years as a short order cook and waitress. With her experience she taught me to cook and enjoy the creativity of the process.

In 1943, Mom moved from Sapulpa, Oklahoma to Oakland, California to work in the shipyard to support our war effort. There, she was introduced to her first pizza. It was love at first bite. She later passed her love of the pie to her children and today, we are all pizzaholics. And why not? What's not to love about pizza? She used to make it. We didn't have much money when I was a kid, so I've had pizza made from Bisquick, ketchup, cheddar cheese slices and sliced hot dogs. It wasn't good, but sometimes even bad pizza is better than no pizza at all. I've learned that it's maybe not the taste of the pizza, but the role it plays in American

Growing up, a great thrill was being told the pizza delivery man was coming. It was a rare treat but when it happened, it was pure delight. It

was like waiting for Santa, but instead of us feeding him cookies, he's bringing a pizza!

Pizza has become a national celebratory food. When something good happens, we order a pizza. It's easy to order, readily available anywhere, and compared to most foods, inexpensive. It's a food for the common people. When our doorbell rings with unexpected guests, I immediately think about ordering a pizza.

Do you know what cheese said the first time it met sausage? It's Slice to Meat you!

In a nation where regional food has now been homogenized and can be found everywhere, pizza seems to remain regional. I'll show my bias by claiming Chicago is the pizza capital of the world and boasts the best pizza on the planet. Chicago has the extremes from its deep-dish delights to the thin and crispy treats. All of it good. I do enjoy New York style pizza but have found two regions of pizza that I don't love ... yet.

Before I go on ... How do you fix a broken pizza? With tomato paste!

Tim, a close friend, is from suburban Detroit and raves



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
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MOORE

about Detroit style pizza and he couldn't wait to show me. But upon arrival in Levonia, Michigan, I was served something that seemed like a flat and square loaf of heavy bread with a little sauce drizzled over it and covered in cheese. It wasn't bad ... it wasn't round ... it wasn't what I perceive as pizza.

And just for a little background ... what's the difference between a columnist and a large pizza? At least the pizza can feed a family of four. (Ouch!)

Then there's Southern California. I love the weather, landscape, and beach. As for their pizza ... I searched far and wide and thought it was all awful. I think if you put avocado on it ... it's no longer pizza. California Pizza Kitchen does offer a great Thai Chicken Pizza, but in general, I find SoCal is a pizza desert ... at

least so far?

Hey ... did you hear about the Hawaiian chef who burnt his pizza? He should have baked it on Aloha temperature.

Pizza is as diverse as the people who eat it.

Originally from the Chicago area, I like my deep-dish pizza with cheese and a flat, thin sheet of Italian sausage that spans the entire pie. I like my thin crust with pepperoni and onion. I prefer my sauce to be on the sweet side and my crust not to be soft and soggy

Did you hear about the pizza chef with the terminal illness? He pasta'way. Now he's just a pizza history.

Writing this column, I'm reminded of a scene in Forrest Gump where Bubba is telling Forrest of all the ways to make shrimp. "There's thick crust pizza, thin crust pizza, sausage pizza, BBQ chicken pizza ..." I'm guessing the list could go on forever.

Aside from the silliness of this column, here's what's important.

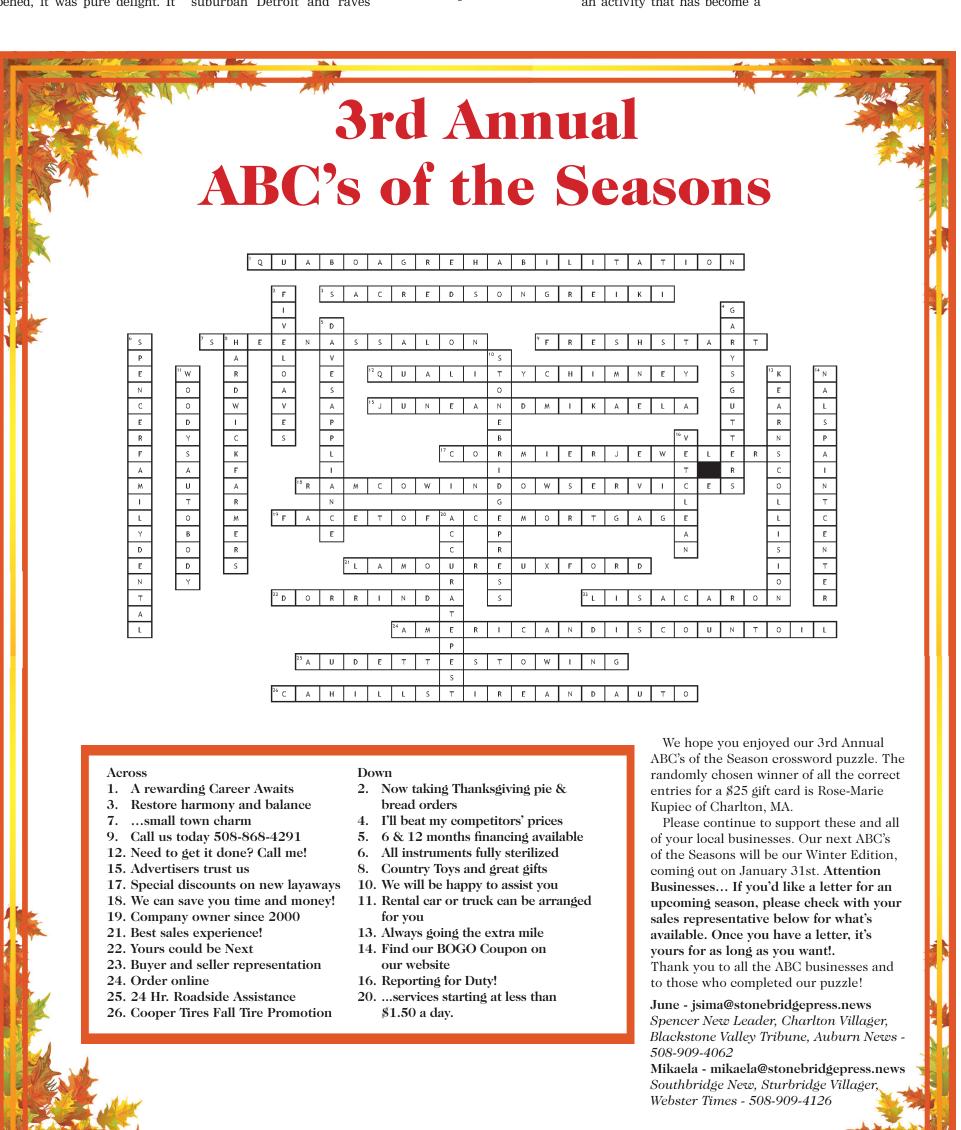
When we gather around pizza, people smile. It's not just another dining experience to provide nourishment, but an activity that has become a

prominent thread in the fabric of our American tapestry. The enjoyment isn't just in the consumption, but the idea that pizza is a gathering point ... a touchstone that brings us together. And we all know in this time of intense national anxiety, we must find something we can agree upon. I believe conservatives and liberals alike can still sit around a pizza and find some common ground ... and maybe laugh together ... and just maybe ... begin to heal our American spirit.

The election is over. Can we all order a pizza and smile? Can we enjoy the companionship of those we may disagree with politically and eat a pizza together? Isn't it time to try?

P.S. - I'd tell more pizza jokes, but they're all too cheesy!

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.



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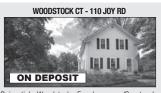


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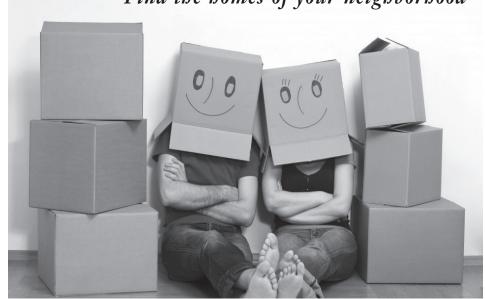
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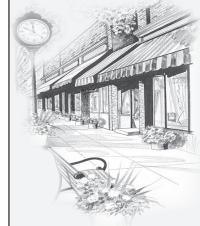
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Keith Construction, Inc. **Construction Employment Opportunities**

Project: Wells School Apartments

Location: 80 Marcy Street Southbridge, MA

Architect: The Architectural Team

Accepting Applications:

December 01, 2020 10:00am - 12:00pm.

Location: 80 Marcy Street Southbridge, MA Construction Office located on site

Contacts: Nick Faillace, Project Manager

Keith Construction, Inc. is pleased to accept employment applications for all construction trades including, laborers, carpenters, painters, floor layers, plumbers and electricians for the exciting upcoming Wells School Apartments project. The anticipated start date is December 2020 and anticipated completion is December 2021.

General Scope of Work:

The project is the new construction of 62 residential units, and will include site-work, landscaping, paving, fencing, concrete, masonry, misc. metals, all carpentry trades, siding, roofing, doors & hardware, gypsum wall board, flooring, painting, signage, appliances, elevators, plumbing, fire protection, mechanical, electrical, lighting and fire alarm.

NOTES:

*Due to COVID-19, Applications will be collected and applicants will be contacted individually. No on-site gathering allowed * * *

- 1. Applicants must be 18yrs. of age and have a reliable means of transportation.
- 2. All applicants must be able to meet the physical requirements of the job.
- 3. Please specify construction work experience and list any applicable construction licenses and/or certifications you may have.
- 4. Filling out an application does not guarantee employment. Keith Construction will provide all applications to our subcontractors performing the work on this project.
- 5. Keith Construction Inc. and its subcontractors are EEO Employers. 6. Applicants must be willing to submit to a
- background check. 7. Local residents are encouraged to apply.
- 8. Final job application review and selection will be by our individual subcontractors and not Keith Construction.

Thank you for your interest!

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Open Sky Community Services appoints new Vice President of Behavioral Health

WORCESTER Open Community Services has announced the appointment of its new Vice President of Behavioral Health, Karen Duby, LICSW. As part of her role on Open Sky's Senior Leadership team, Duby will be responsible for oversight of all of the organization's behavioral health programs, including Career Services, Respite Services, and the Adult Community Clinical Services Division.

Karen comes to us with extensive experience in leading behavioral health programs in the Central Massachusetts area," said Ken Bates, President and CEO of Open Sky Community Services. "Her strong clinical and management background, paired with her passion for the field, will greatly strengthen our services at Open Sky and we're excited for what she brings to the team.'

Duby began working in the mental health field after obtaining her Master

of Social Work in May 1993, from Boston College. Duby previously served as a Vice President at Community Healthlink in Worcester, where she led division leadership of up to 20 directors and supervisors in operating their respective programs. Duby also provided clinical oversight for Community Healthlink's primary care services, Homeless support services and the Continuum of Inpatient Substance Use Disorder services.

Duby's career at Community Healthlink spanned 20 years during which she held an additional eight titles, held roles including Assistant Vice President of Recovery Services, Director of Emergency Services in North County, Director of Program for Assertive Community Treatment and Crisis Stabilization Clinician.

"I'm excited for this new opportunity to utilize my skills in leading, developing and inspiring excellence in a behavioral health organization," said Duby. "I think I can bring a fresh perspective and new approach, and I am excited to get started with Ken and the entire Open Sky team."

About Open Sky Community Services Open Sky Community Services is dba for Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. and The Bridge of Central MA. Open Sky offers a wide range of services for adults, adolescents, and children with mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open Sky Community Services has over 1,200 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$83M with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.



Karen Duby



Suspect Shantia Crocker-Carter is taken into custody by Charlton Police and Massachusetts

ARRESTS

continued from page A1

Trooper D'Angelo was led to a cylindrical package wrapped in tape inside a condom nearby where Crocker-Carter has been apprehended. The substance inside was believed to be approximately 80 grams of cocaine. Police later confirmed that Crocker-Carter had intended to deliver the drugs from New York City to a local buyer.

Thornton, who suffered minor injuries, was charged with several offenses including failure to stop, speeding, marked lane violations, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, leaving the scene of a crash that caused property damage, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, breakdown lane violations and disturbing the peace. Crocker-Carter was charged with disturbing the peace and trafficking cocaine.

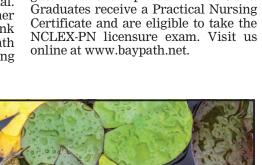


GOSSELIN continued from page A1

Gosselin is currently taking courses at Quinsigamond Community College towards her BSN and hopes to one day work at the Boston Children's Hospital. Gosselin attributes her success to her strong family support and adds, "thank you to the amazing faculty at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy for setting me up for such success!"

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical **Nursing Academy**

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- Nicole F. (CNA)

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- Nicole V. (LPN)

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- Lynnea T. (CNA)

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