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Friday, March 12, 2021

Marshalls donates goods to United Way

STURBRIDGE — Facemasks make a difference, and Marshalls, located in Sturbridge donated more than 2,000 child and adult masks and hand sanitizer to be distributed to non-profits that are affiliated to the United Way of South Central Mass. (UWSCM), along with local food pantries and elementary schools.

Paul Sullivan, Administrative Coordinator. At the Sturbridge Marshalls, contacted the United Way stating TJX Company stores, which Marshalls is one, were removing masks and hand sanitizer from their shelves and they would like them to be donated to local charitable organizations. Mr. Sullivan thought of the United Way of South Central MA as a perfect recipient since UWSCM has 22 member agencies that assist many children from toddlers to teens and adult programs that could benefit from these donated goods. Mr. Sullivan and Brittany Vescovi, Assistant Manager met Mary O'Coin, Executive Director of UWSCM with 11 boxes of donated supplies outside of the Marshall's in Sturbridge.

Mrs. O'Coin was completely surprised by the number and quality of the masks that were donated.

"The toddlers and young children in the early education centers at the YMCA, WCAC Head Start and Guild of St. Agnes will be thrilled to wear the adorable themed and sparkling masks," she said.

Both adult and child masks were distributed to CASA of Worcester and the Boys and Girls Club of Webster-Dudley for volunteers, teach-



Courtesy

Pictured: Marshalls employees Brittany Vescovi and Paul Sullivan.

ers and the children that are in foster care and attending remote learning centers to wear. Many masks were distributed to the Southbridge and Webster-Dudley Food Share for clients picking up from those locations. More youth masks were delivered to Southbridge Elementary schools and Webster Park Ave. Elementary. Tri-Valley Inc

received adult masks for their Meals on Wheels drivers and volunteers who visit senior citizens in South County. Hand sanitizer and wipes were included in packages to various organizations, as well.

Mrs. O'Coin stated, "We are so fortunate to

Turn To **MARSHALLS**, page **A14**

Cold storage site approved on Route 20

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — On Feb. 23, the Planning Board approved building a large facility on Route 20 for cold storage of food and pharmaceuticals down to -50 degrees.

Proposed by Bryan Hedge, owner of RLS Complete, the plan calls for an 83,035 square foot building on seven acres between the Hobbs Brook mall and Venture Services. He said it'll be his firm's northeastern headquarters, with 11 loading docks that load or unload about three trucks per hour.

The traffic flow in that area was one of the board's major concerns, but they seemed satisfied with the results of Bernie Guerin's traffic study and John Shevlin's peer review. Guerin said he collected data both before and after Covid began (in 2019 and last summer-fall) to predict about 174 daily trips to and from the site, or "one vehicle every six

Turn To **COLD STORAGE**, page **A14**

Old Sturbridge Village receives \$5 million bequest

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) has announced the largest single gift received in the museum's history with a five-million-dollar unrestricted bequest from the estate of Honorary Trustee and long-time friend of the Village, Helen A. (Susie) Titus of Newport Beach, Calif. Susie passed away in 2020 after a short illness.

This incredible gift comes at a critical time as the museum celebrates the 75th Anniversary of Old Sturbridge Village over the next 18 months. The Village plans to use this gift as the cornerstone of a planned capital campaign. The gift will ensure



Courtesy

Helen A. (Susie) Titus and Jim Donahue.

living history continues at Old Sturbridge Village in the future, and address capital needs on the campus, including the preservation of historic buildings and landscape.

"I am grateful to Susie Titus for her dedication and commitment to Old Sturbridge Village, and for her confidence in our Board and staff to steward such a significant gift in her memory," said Jim Donahue, President and CEO. "Susie was incredibly supportive of the museum over the past twenty years, and we are grateful that she made such a generous provision for the Village in her estate planning. Susie's legacy and impact will live on for generations to come."

Old Sturbridge Village has seen tremendous growth over the past several years. In 2017 the Village opened Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School, which now has over 280 students. These students attend from a wide range of communities throughout central Massachusetts. In January of 2020, Old Sturbridge Village announced a management partnership with Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol, Rhode Island. This partnership saw a successful first year in spite of the unprecedented times of COVID 19. As Old Sturbridge Village begins its 75th anniversary year, the Village is positioned to have continued growth and innovative programming that will keep visitors engaged for many years to come.

"Assist" local pets by joining Here Today Adopted Tomorrow's "Meowch Madness"

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield shelter, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, is participating in March Madness this year. But don't worry: you won't see cats on the court! Instead, HTAT is offering pre-game meals "to-go," so that you can enjoy the March 21st game at home and help local pets at the same time. We'll feed you on game night, and your meal purchase will help us feed pets in need.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow's "Meowch Madness" will take the place of its usual Spay-ghetti Supper. The fundraiser will benefit HTAT's programs that help keep pets and people together, such as their new Pet Food Pantry, their low-cost spay/neuter program, and their free behavioral help program.

Executive Director, Rachael Max, said, "The past year has shown us that pets and families need each other more than ever. Even though we can't gather together



er to watch the game, we're excited to offer our community a new way to come together in spirit and help local pets at the same time!

"You can watch March Madness right from home while enjoying some delicious pre-game treats. The food is prepared by long-time Spay-ghetti Supper

professional chef, Chef Casey, who is also one of our best volunteers. Chef Casey will serve chili, as well as his world-famous Mac and Cheese, a Spay-ghetti Supper favorite!"

From now until March 17, participants can pre-order their Meowch Madness meal, or donate a meal to a

neighbor, by visiting heretodaysanctuary.org or calling (413) 324-8224. Participants can pick up their meals without contact at the Brimfield Congregational Church on March 21st, from 4

Turn To **MEOWCH MADNESS**, page **A14**

Windstorm leaves thousands in the dark

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – March roared in like a lion last week, pummeling the region with damaging winds.

At the height of the March 1 & 2 windstorm, thousands of customers throughout the area were without power. Spencer was especially hard hit, with widespread outages causing schools to be closed and the emergency shelter at Knox Trail Middle School to open on March 2.

Wind gusts topped 60 miles per hour along the Route 9 corridor, combined with temperatures that didn't exceed the twenties. For many residents, early March felt more like January.

"There were several outages all over town, but especially in the southern part of town," said Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons.

Leicester emergency management officials nearly activated their shelter as well, but crews were able to clear most roads in a timely fashion.

"The Highway Department was quick to react to several trees blocking streets, as well as National Grid to shut off power where we had trees on live wires," said Leicester Police Chief Ken Antanavica. "Once the Highway Department cleared the trees, they restored the power in short order. All in all, the town fared pretty well, except for some tree-re-



Courtesy

Power lines were down throughout the area during the March 1-2 windstorm, causing thousands of outages.

lated property damage to private homes in the area."

By the end of the day on March 2, most Spencer and Leicester customers had the lights back on. Other area towns also saw significant wind

damage, including downed power lines, damaged vehicles, and minor structural damage to homes.

In Brimfield, Dunhamtown Palmer Road was closed for several hours due to wires strewn across the road.

Sturbridge residents contended with the extended closure of Holland Road, and major tree damage was also reported on Woodlawn Drive.

TCA, St. John Paul II Parish hosting virtual auction

SOUTHBRIDGE – Trinity Catholic Academy and St. John Paul II Parish have joined together for a "Virtual Auction of Faith, Trust and Pixie Dust" that will run through bidding closure on March 13 at 8 p.m.

All items are available for viewing and bidding from the comfort and safety of your home at biddingowl.com. Auction items include many beautifully created themed baskets, each of different contents and value, a Lottery Tree, gift cards from local businesses, and a special item — a "Magical Memories" trip valued at \$1,200. For additional details, call Melissa Cournoyer, Co-Chairperson of the virtual auction, at 1-508-365-8209 or FaithTrustDust21@gmail.com.

Pick up for winners of the auction will be between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 20 and 21 by the driveway ramp entrance of the La Salle Reception Center, 444 Main St., Southbridge.

State moves toward Phase 4 of reopening plan

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With COVID-19 numbers going down and vaccinations on the rise, the state is progressing with its reopening plan.

On March 1, the state advanced to the second step in Phase 3 of the reopening plan. Over the last month, Massachusetts has seen reductions in average daily COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

"With public health metrics continuing to trend in a positive direction – and vaccination rates continuing to increase – the administration is taking steps to continue to reopen the Commonwealth's economy," said Gov. Charlie Baker.

The progression to the second step of Phase 3 marks the first time the state has reached that level since the fall of 2020. In response to an increase in new COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations following the Thanksgiving holiday, the Commonwealth reverted back to a previous level.

But now, with more residents getting vaccinated each day, officials are confident that the reopening plan will be successful this time.

As part of the latest guidance, all indoor performance venues can now reopen at 50 percent capacity, with no more than 500 guests. These include concert halls, theaters, and performance spaces. Indoor recreational activities (laser tag, roller skating, trampolines, obstacle courses) will also be allowed to reopen at 50 percent capacity.

Additionally, restaurants will no longer have a capacity limit and will be permitted to host musical performances. The six-foot social

distancing rule, as well as the cap of six people per table, will remain in place.

"Residents must continue to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and are encouraged to avoid contact outside of their immediate households," Baker said. "The travel advisory and other public health orders remain in effect."

If statistics continue to trend positively, the state plans to transition to Phase 4 of reopening on March 22.

"This will open a range of previously closed business sectors under tight capacity restrictions that are expected to be adjusted over time if favorable trends in the public health data continue," Baker said.

The following Phase 4 industries will be permitted to operate at a 12 percent capacity limit after submitting a plan to the Department of Public Health:

- Indoor and outdoor stadiums
- Arenas
- Ballparks

Also effective on March 22, gathering limits for event venues and public settings will increase to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Gatherings at private residences and in private backyards will remain at a maximum of 25 people, with indoor house gatherings remaining at 10 people.

Additionally, dance floors will be permitted at weddings, and overnight summer camps will be allowed to operate this summer. Exhibition and convention halls may also begin to operate, following gathering limits and event protocols.

The Baker Administration also announced more than \$49 million

in grant awards to 1,108 additional small businesses. The funding comes as part of the eighth round of COVID-19 relief grants administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC).

To date, the Baker Administration has awarded more than \$563 million in financial support to 12,320 businesses impacted by the pandemic. More than half of grantees are restaurants, bars, caterers, operators of personal services, and independent retailers.

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WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

REAL ESTATE

BRIMFIELD
None

HOLLAND
None

STURBRIDGE
\$493,000, 25 Woodside Cir, Holmes, Thomas M, and Holmes, Paula J, to Champagne, Hayden, and Champagne, Emily.
\$474,000, 5 Woodside Cir, Reddin, Michael J, and Reddin, Alicia M, to Mcclary, Kevin, and Goddard, Jennifer.
\$320,000, 91 Fiske Hill Rd, Clemente, Anthony J, and Clemente, Catherine R, to Kenneway, Shauna.
\$254,000, 104 New Boston Rd, SDB Homes LLC, to Burlingame, Shane, and Bourbeau, Camille.
\$20,000, 11 Westwood Dr, Elkins FT, and Elkins, William, to Countryside Hm Bldrs Inc.

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Power Outage Tips

BEFORE

- Follow directions from local officials
- Check flashlight and radio batteries
- Charge mobile devices
- Add warm clothes and blankets to emergency kit
- Keep gas tank full
- Take cash out (ATM's may not work)

DURING

- Conserve energy
- Go to community warming shelters & check on neighbors, family, seniors and homeless
- Only use generators in open areas away from windows and home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

AFTER

- Throw out unsafe food

www.Ready.gov/blackouts

Who to Call

Where to Meet

What to Pack

Ready

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Team Rubicon's aid to vax center "phenomenal"

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — The "Greyshirts" have taken over the Armory.

Well, that's a bit of an exaggeration. But if you go there for Covid vaccination or any other reason, you'll likely find several of them directing traffic.

Almost a month ago, the first volunteers of Team Rubicon in their easily recognizable grey or red t-shirts and, usually, yellow vests showed up to provide the busy site with various logistical aid. While a few have been local, many are not. They sent a call out to anyone within 100 miles, drawing people from Bedford, Athol and elsewhere.

"They've been phenomenal," said Harrington Nursing Administrator Jason Osborne, the vaccine site coordinator. He said the Team took Harrington's plan for parking, traffic and people flow, "tweaked it and made it much more efficient... Because this is a learning process, we're open to anything."

On Monday, Team member Christopher Casella of Athol was doing his first volunteer shift in Southbridge, but it's his fourth deployment overall. The retired Athol police officer and former Air Force soldier has been in the group since July 2018, when he discovered Rubicon by watching a news report of its founder Jake Wood getting an Espy Award.

"I said I wonder what that's about, and I have the time to dedicate to this," so he did, Casella recalled. "... They don't just talk about it. They get things done. Everybody who's here is choosing to be here. It's a fantastic organization."

Since then, Casella's also answered the call for volunteers to aid survivors of Hurricanes Michael and Florence and flooding in the Midwest. Deric Shea of Princeton went to those places too, although here was the first time he'd met Casella.

"They take the skills and experience veterans have and combine that with first responders, civilians and technology," Shea said. "It really makes me feel good to give back."

About 70 percent of Team Rubicon people are veterans, but Shea isn't one of them. He retired from 30 years in civilian software engineering, and uses that background to train other volunteers in tech problem-solving and in setting up the Team's systems for tracking work orders and other needs.

"I was faced with a choice," he recalled of that time about 2.5 years ago. "I could join Team Rubicon, or I could join Team Couch. They really take care of the volunteers."

Shea admits he stole that line from another volunteer, but agrees with it.

To both men, Category 5 Hurricane Michael stood out. Both recalled the destruction – as Shea put it, "the devastation was unreal. Places were just flattened."

"We might very well be the first person [survivors] see, and they're skeptical because there are a lot of scammers," he recalled. "When we helped, they often broke down in tears. We were their first ray of hope. That's what keeps me coming back for more."

Casella agreed. "you see people at their worst and it was a wonderful feeling to help them," he said. "I've helped more people in four deployments with Team Rubicon than in 28 years of policing. It's a wonderful feeling of satisfaction."

Team Rubicon was born in 2010, and has engaged in 785 "field operations" since then. By a large margin, most have been in the US, but they've also sent teams to such places as South Sudan, Ecuador, Turkey, Myanmar and Sierra Leone, accord-



Several members of Team Rubicon join Sheriff Lew Evangelidis (back) and Harrington's vaccine site coordinator Jason Osborne (far left) in the sun for a few minutes.

Gus Steeves



Team Rubicon volunteers Deric Shea and Christopher Casella confer outside the Armory Monday.

Gus Steeves

ing to their website. They get called for a wide range of disasters, mostly weather related but including floods, earthquakes and wildfires, and currently are assisting 325 Covid facilities.

"Through continued service, Team Rubicon seeks to provide our veterans with three things they lose after leaving the military: a purpose, gained through disaster relief; community, built by serving with others; and identity, from recognizing the impact one individual can make. Coupled with leadership development and other opportunities, Team Rubicon looks to help veterans transition from military to civilian life," the site states. Later on the same page, it adds, "By focusing on underserved or economically-challenged communities, Team Rubicon seeks to make the largest impact possible. Disasters represent a massive financial cost, and by providing immediate relief work, free of cost, TR aims to help communities begin recovery sooner."

In Central Massachusetts, things

are coordinated by Andrew Klein of Lunenburg, a former Coast Guard reservist. He's been a Team member since 2012, and noted Team Rubicon gets called when "local volunteers

are starting to run out of steam" and "need fresh manpower."

"Covid-19 has tested our capabilities," Klein said. "It's brought out the best in a lot of our volunteers."

He joined in a way similar to Casella – by seeing the news. In his case, it was coverage of the devastating tornadoes that demolished Joplin, Missouri in May 2011, but his first deployment was to New York to pick up the pieces from Hurricane Sandy.

He said Team Rubicon "has become known for a number of things," particularly "unconventional tasking"

Turn To RUBICON, page A14



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

Friday's Child



Jondreus
Age 13

Hi! My name is Jondreus and I love science!

Jondreus is a caring boy of Caucasian and Hispanic descent who likes to be called Jon. Those who know him say that he is empathetic, committed, and a kind friend. Jon loves video games, science, playing outdoors, and swimming. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, Jon states he wants to be a scientist, firefighter, or police officer. Jon's teachers describe him as goal-oriented, very bright, kind, caring, and a great student who gets A's and B's in his classes. He gets along well with his peers, foster parents, foster siblings, and all adults both in his school setting and personal life. All of his teachers and his

guidance counselor have great things to say about him. He loves animals and would like to be in a home with pets.

Freed for adoption, Jon has an amazing amount of potential. He would thrive in a family of any constellation with older or no other children in the home. He would benefit from a family that could offer him stability, structure, and love. Jon is especially excited to potentially have a pet in his future home and a swimming pool in his backyard. His new family must be willing to support his relationship with his sister who lives in Western MA. Contact could be in the form of visits and other forms of media contact.

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.

Town of Sturbridge

Building Inspector / Zoning Enforcement Officer
Building Department



The Town of Sturbridge has an immediate full-time opening for a Building Inspector / Zoning Enforcement Officer in the Building Department.

This is a Exempt position and the successful candidate will be responsible for reviewing plans for building construction, alterations, or any designated structures, issuing building permits, calculating/collecting fees, supervising the maintenance of associated records, and inspecting buildings, among other responsibilities. A unrestricted Massachusetts Construction Supervisor's License, certification as a Local Inspector and must be able to obtain certification as a Building Commissioner or Inspector of Buildings within 18 months of hire is required.

This also requires a valid Massachusetts Class D Driver's License. The pay range for the position is between \$67,774 to \$94,884 per year.

For a copy of the complete job description and an application please go to <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest and completed application to Alex McConnon, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 or amccnnon@sturbridge.gov. Position open until filled.

The Town of Sturbridge is an EOE.

URI students named to Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Fall 2020 Dean's List. The students represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries. The following students were named to Dean's List:

- Chris Ballou of Brimfield
- Jonathan Cherry of Sturbridge
- Sydney Davey of Sturbridge
- Vanessa Ricci of Brimfield
- Katlyn Shonak of Sturbridge
- Abby Trent of Sturbridge

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

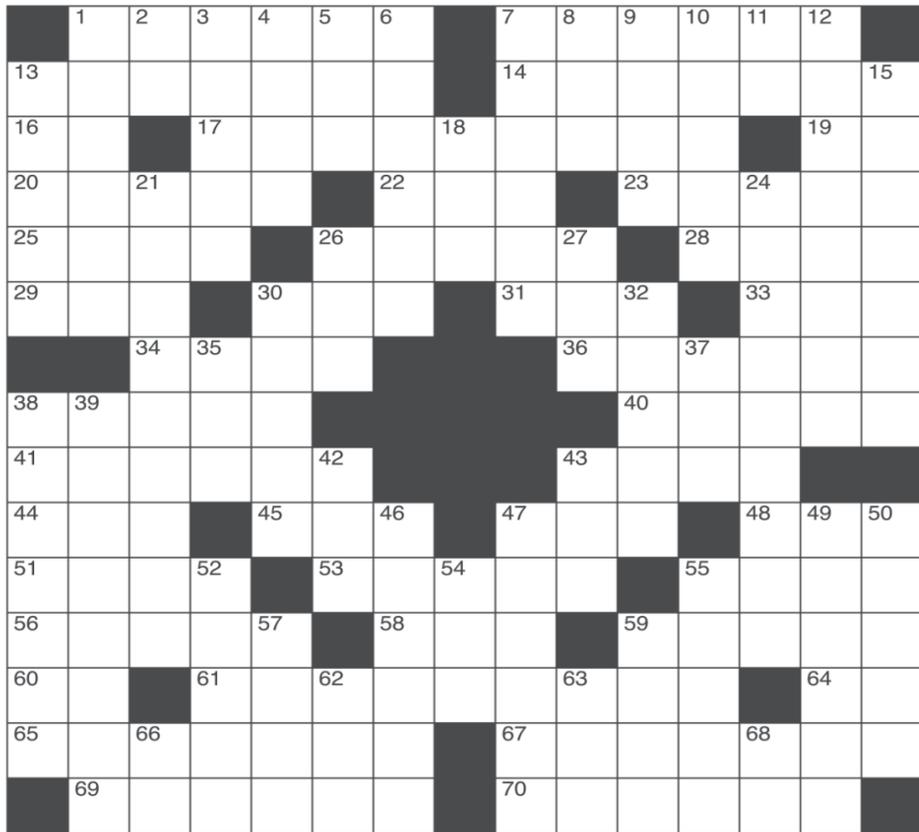
As a public Land Grant University in a highly competitive region in the United States, URI carefully monitors and manages its tuition and fee rates to remain one of the most affordable universities in the Northeast for both in-state and out-of-state students. An estimated 90% of undergraduate students receive annual financial aid and institutional support.

The University's total fall 2020 enrollment of

17,649 students comprises 15,393 full- and part-time undergraduate students, including 748 pharmacy six-year professional practice, and 2,256 full- and part-time graduate students. About 52% of the total student body is from Rhode Island and 48% are from out of state or foreign countries. The student body includes students from 48 U.S. states and territories, and 67 nations.

The University of Rhode Island's pioneering research in ocean, environmental and health sciences extends the University's influence well beyond its coastal borders, while its interdisciplinary courses provide students with unique opportunities and experiences.

Over the last ten years, the University has completed more than \$710 million in capital projects, including new construction, and renovation and rehabilitation of existing buildings across its four campuses. The University's campus locations, include the main campus, located on 1,248 acres in rural Kingston, the Graduate School of Oceanography, located on 165 acres on Narragansett Bay, the W. Alton Jones Campus in West Greenwich, a 1,200-acre nature preserve, the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies and the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center, both in the capital city of Providence, R.I.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Large dung beetle
7. Representation of a plan
13. In a fervid way
14. The Book of Psalms
16. Morning
17. Exactly the same
19. About
20. Brown and basmati are two
22. Swiss river
23. Philippine island
25. Expressions of surprise
26. An ant
28. Common Japanese surname
29. Deoxyribonucleic acid
30. Car mechanics group
31. A person's brother or sister
33. Ancient pharaoh
34. Quantitative fact
36. Vividly colored bird
38. Your home has one
40. Organic compound

41. Section at the end of a book
43. Flat tableland with steep edges
44. Criticize
45. Split pulses
47. Brief trend
48. Cool!
51. Purposes
53. Brews
55. Skin condition
56. Pops
58. American air travel company
59. Minute bug
60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
61. One who rides in your car
64. One of the Gospels
65. City in southern Spain
67. Inquisitive
69. Jean Paul __, author
70. Pop singer Harry

CLUES DOWN

1. An ape or monkey
2. Chemical element
3. Zodiac sign
4. Removes
5. Brew
6. Nickname
7. Architectural structures
8. Trigonometric function
9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna
10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two
11. Mountain (abbr.)
12. Landscaping practice
13. Capacitance unit
15. Redirect
18. Hat for women
21. In a way, dressed down
24. Granny
26. Feed
27. Endpoint
30. Indian instrument
32. Bleated
35. Cablegram (abbr.)
37. Root mean square (abbr.)
38. Jellyfishes
39. Individual TV installments
42. Talk
43. More (Spanish)
46. Leaseholder
47. Monetary units
49. Hostility
50. Work stations
52. Linguistics giant
54. Female sheep
55. Calendar month
57. Seasoning
59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey
62. Single Lens Reflex
63. A way to remove
66. Virginia
68. Old English

Students named to University of Hartford President's Honors List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford congratulates the students who have been named to the President's Honors List for Fall 2020.

The President's Honors List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester.

Andrew Briere of Holland

Emily Kievra of Holland

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 5,000 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate students

from 48 states and countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit www.hartford.edu for more information.

Sturbridge police deny affiliation with mailers

soliciting funds for equipment

STURBRIDGE — The police department has issued a statement in response to misleading information that was sent to residents.

On March 4, several residents received mailers from an organization called the United States Deputy Sheriff's Association. The mailers solicited funds for bulletproof vests and other equipment, but police officials said the SPD is not involved with the organization.

"It insinuates this equipment will go to the Sturbridge Police Department. The Sturbridge Police Department and the Sturbridge Police Association have no association with this group," read a statement released by the department. "We are not soliciting funds for equipment, and have not asked this group to solicit funds on our behalf. This group

has never approached us with an offer to provide equipment for the department."

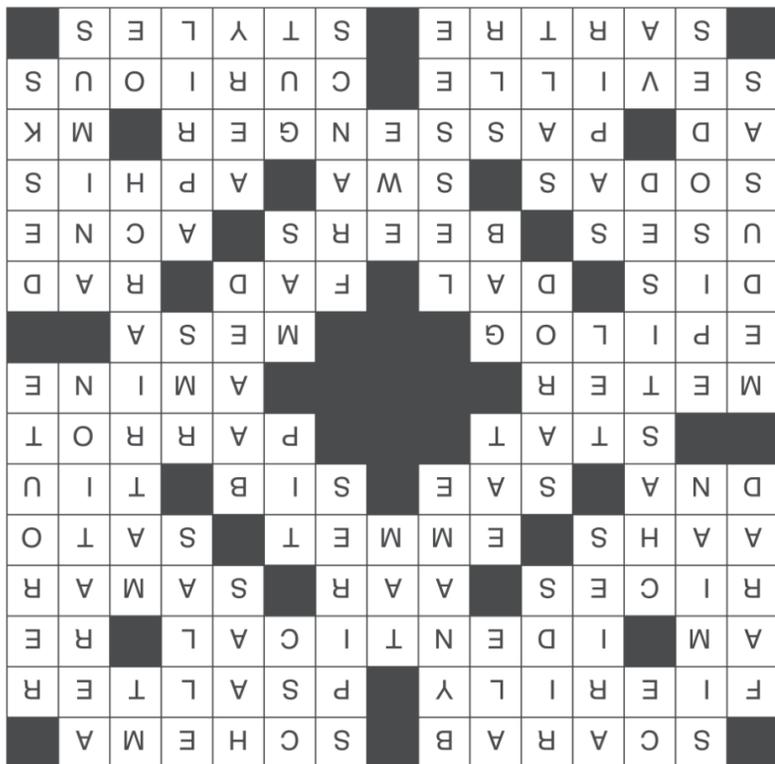
The organization appears to be a valid 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, police said. However, the small print on the letter indicates that contributions do not go directly to local law enforcement agencies.

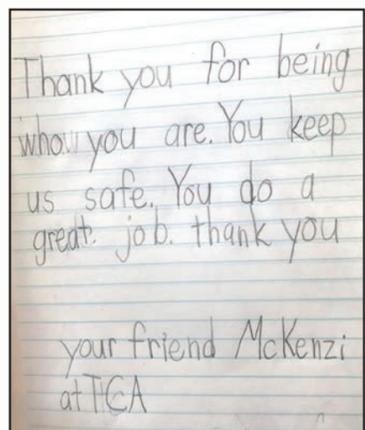
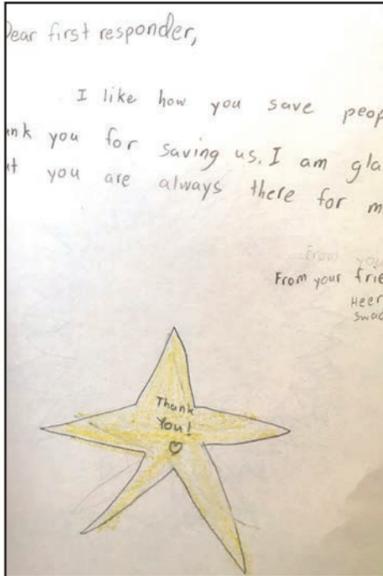
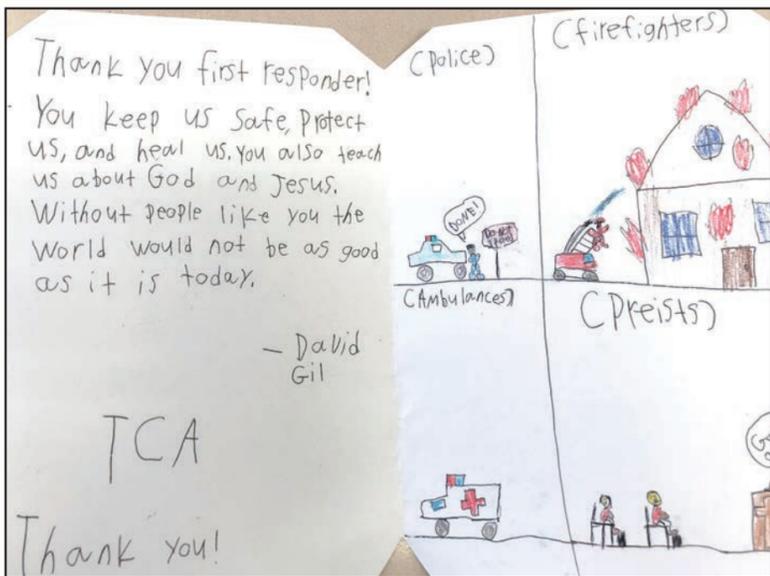
"Always do your research before you make any donations," the SPD statement read.

Several local departments have seen scammers attempt to use police agencies and fundraising letters as part of scams. If you have a question about a suspicious letter or phone correspondence involving supposed police organizations, you are urged to notify your police department.

Local police departments also remind residents that they never solicit funds from residents over the phone or through emails.

PUZZLE SOLUTION





Courtesy

TCA STUDENTS SALUTE FIRST RESPONDERS

TCA students have a place in their hearts for their community and those that protect them. Here are a few of the first responder thank you notes written by TCA students this past month, written by Heer Swadia, Grade 3; David Gil, Grade 4; Sofia Henao, Grade 4; and McKenzi Hamilton, Grade 2.



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Cornerstone Bank announces' new Vice President, Mortgage Loan Officer

SOUTHBRIDGE — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, has recently hired Jeffrey Moynihan

for the position of Vice President, Mortgage Loan Officer. Moynihan has over 14 years of banking and mortgage experience and will help lead the team

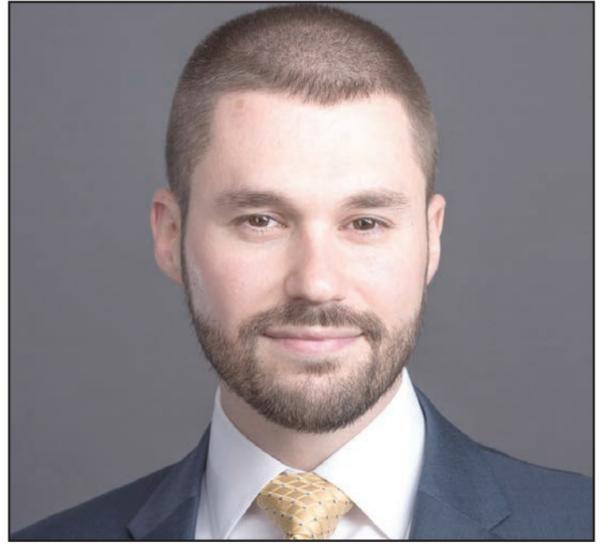
responsible for helping customers finance their homes.

“Jeffrey’s vast experience in the world of banking is what drew us to him,” said

Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “He has experience in every area of retail banking, including as a teller and manager, before exclusively focus-

ing on mortgages. This strong foundation will assist him in helping our customers make their dreams of home ownership a reality.”

Moynihan, a



Courtesy

Jeffrey Moynihan

Bay Path graduate hired by Kent Hospital

CHARLTON — Marina Daniels, RN graduated last December with her Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) from Quinsigamond Community College. She has worked the last few years as an LPN in LTC, and recently accepted a position at Kent Hospital for step down ICU as an RN. Daniels, originally from Webster, started her nursing career after graduating from Bay Path RVTHS



Practical Nursing Academy in 2014. She recently hurdled the NCLEX-RN and passed the first try!

“When I took the NCLEX-RN in the morning of March 3rd, I was expecting to wait 48 hours for the results,” Daniels said. “Can you believe I received a phone call in the afternoon, a woman from the Department of Health called to congratulate me!” According to the

Courtesy

(Left) Marina Daniels

woman, “there’s no reason for making you wait and be anxious over the next two days.”

Daniels happily shared the wonderful news with her family and then to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

She is looking forward to sharing her journey with current practical nursing students, stating, “I am ready to give a motivational speech!”

Daniels loves throwing positivity and contributing to the future nurses. It is this spirit of nurturing, mentorship, and volunteerism that earned her the Community Service Award for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2017. Daniels is joyful to have reached her goal and plans to continue working to advance her education.

resident of Norton, has a Bachelor’s degree in finance and economics from Southern New Hampshire University. Prior to joining Cornerstone Bank, he held positions as a Vice President of Mortgage Lending at a lending firm in Boston and a Sales Manager in the home loan department for a bank in Quincy.

“I am excited to begin the next chapter of my career,” said Moynihan. “My family values giving back to the community and so does Cornerstone Bank, making it a

perfect fit. Life is not fulfilled if we cannot touch the lives of others in a positive way, and I hope to do that through mortgage lending and charitable opportunities with the bank.”

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QCC’s Dental Assisting Program highlighted during Dental Assistant Recognition Week

WORCESTER — During the week of March 7, the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) will recognize the invaluable contributions these healthcare workers make to quality dental care through Dental Assistant Recognition Week,™ held each year on the first full week on March.

Quinsigamond Community College’s Dental Assisting Certificate program has become an important part of the education landscape in Massachusetts and dental assistants who graduate from the College are making important contributions to the region.

“We are continually getting calls from dentists in the area looking for quality assistants,” said Professor of Dental Assisting/Hygiene, Jennifer McKeon. “This demonstrates the value that is placed on graduates from QCC’s program.”

As the only program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation in Worcester, students who come from QCC’s program often have job offers before they graduate, according to Ms. McKeon.

“Our students can take their Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam in the last few weeks of the program so they are credentialed with Dental Assisting National Board and are a certified dental assistant when they graduate,” she added.

The one-year Dental Assisting Certificate program prepares graduates to perform a wide range of patient care duties in the dental office that includes hands-on education in digital radiography, as well

as taking part in the College’s state-of-the-art dental materials lab. Lab equipment such as CAD/CAM technology; digital cameras, a milling machine that can make crowns; a high-tech scanner; staining unit and oven, and other cutting-edge dental equipment help students become proficient on equipment they might one day work within a dental office.

Students also have the opportunity to experience different avenues of dentistry while in the program, by being placed in different offices, such as an oral surgeon’s office and an orthodontist’s office.

Additionally, students who complete the program will be prepared to continue their studies at the Associate’s degree level in such disciplines as allied dental services or dental hygiene.

“We have a bridge program that allows two students every year from the dental assisting program to bridge into the dental hygiene program and bypass the waitlist. Student must have all the admission requirements for the dental hygiene program to qualify to bypass the waitlist,” Ms. McKeon said.

According to the state’s Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the number of Massachusetts dental assistant jobs is projected to grow by 12.5 percent over a 10-year period ending in 2022.

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

QCC receives millions to help drive student success

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has received \$2.4 million in federal emergency funds from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II, authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), to support students. The College has also allocated an additional \$1 million in institutional funds to assist students during the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic.

“This unprecedented time in our history requires us to dig deep and support our students in every possible way. This funding will go a long way in helping students realize their dreams of a better life,” said President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. “QCC is the first choice for many students in our region, from traditional high school students, non-traditional students, and students interested in beginning their education to transfer to a four-year college or university.”

QCC has continued to increase its support services since the onset of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing the financial challenges many students are currently facing.

“Students have lost jobs, or had their

hours decreased, and are now facing emergency expenses. Yet they continue to persevere in their quest for a better life through higher education. Our goal is to make sure that every student who has a dream for a quality education can obtain one,” Dr. Pedraja said.

The College instituted a Student Emergency Fund for students in significant hardship at the onset of the pandemic. These funds are also available to students exempt from receiving certain federal aid due to citizenship, residency or enrollment status. Thanks to the Student Emergency Fund, 571 students have received emergency aid to date.

“It is imperative we do everything we can to help our students mitigate the cost of higher education. In today’s economy, people are realizing that minimizing debt through affordable college options is a smarter decision that will have positive and far-reaching implications,” Dr. Pedraja said.

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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EDITORIAL

Here comes the sun, and we say it's all right

After a long (but, we think, mild) winter, warmer, longer days are finally here. As the official first day of spring nears on March 20, we're noticing people have more of a pep in their step. A refreshing sight given the year 2020 delivered.

While each season has its own perks, there is something about spring that seems to surprise us each year. We re-acquaint ourselves with our yards as they slowly reveal themselves as the snowbanks melt away. Muddy grass has never been a kinder sight.

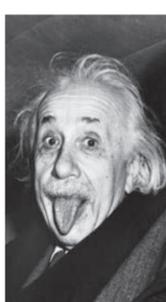
Over the past few weeks, the common chatter has been about baseball, springtime fitness goals, gardening, hiking, you know the usual. This week we reminisced about old April Fool's Day pranks in the office. Tacks on seats, the soda bottle filled with water sitting on top of a door waiting to be opened in order to drench an unsuspecting individual, saran wrapped cars, fake lottery winnings, fake wedding proposals and lost wedding rings, to name a few. Stunts to make Larry, Moe and Curly proud.

With spring comes "spring fever." In modern times this is a semi-positive term, however back in colonial times, 'spring fever' referred to the poor quality of health everyone was in, after sustaining a winter without fresh vegetables and proper diet. Today's "spring fever" will have children restless, new romances transpire and people attacking their homes with dust cloths and Windex.

Experts say the changes that a person goes through during the springtime are due to hormonal changes in the body. During the winter months, the body secretes a large amount of melatonin, (the sleep hormone). The presence of more sunlight in spring sends the body a message to stop producing as much melatonin. This causes folks to be more awake. Add this to the uptick in your serotonin levels due to the sunlight and you will not only be awake but enthusiastic.

Interesting to note is that during the springtime the body becomes more susceptible to illnesses. Way back when, scurvy outbreaks always occurred during this time of year as did rubella and measles. Doctors note that in spring, gout, a condition that affects joints, peaks in individuals. Because there are more allergens in the air, you will see more cases of rosacea and other skin irritations on the rise.

We encourage everyone to spend as much time outdoors this spring, including the days leading up to its official start. Get back to basics, back to nature, keep things simple and pick up an old hobby you have abandoned but have been meaning to reconnect with, life is meant to be fun.



Challenge your Memory

After reading your newspaper, put it aside for moment, then challenge yourself or a friend, to remember as many ads as you can.

- Less than 5:** Keep trying
- 7-10:** Getting Better
- 11-15:** Excellent
- 15 or More:** GENIUS!

OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Senior Center staff deserve a shout out

To the Editor:
We would like to give a big shout out to the staff of the Sturbridge Senior Center.

Thousands of seniors were/are having a very stressful time trying to schedule their Covid-19 vaccine shots. The Senior Center staff, very professionally and in a timely fashion scheduled our

first and second shots as soon as we were each eligible. Without their help we possibly could still be waiting. Thank you, and we will be supporting our Senior Center staff and activities as we settle back to dome normalcy.

Clark & Sylvia Grendol
Sturbridge

Spring has (Almost) Sprung: Ode

New Englanders have long searched for signs of spring after a long, cold winter, and few promises of warm weather are more welcome than the annual arrival of early spring buds. From fuzzy pussy willows to blazing golden forsythia, nature ushers in the season with an abundance of color, texture and beauty that has inspired artist and poets for centuries. Such common "backyard blooms" are simple pleasures that evoke sentiment from both novice and experienced gardeners. Plentiful and easy to grow, these nostalgic perennials are gaining a new appreciation for the simple beauty the early spring blooms bring to the landscape.



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

and finches, consume the flower buds, and densely growing pussy willow shrubs offer nesting and shelter for a variety of native birds. Bees rely on the early season blooms of the pussy willow for pollen, and some species of butterfly larvae feed on the pussy willow's leaves.

Deer, beaver, grouse and squirrels all include willow in their diets, and the leaves of the pussy willow provide much needed vitamins and nutrients including hefty doses of Vitamin C and zinc.

Pussy Willow Folklore: As adorable as it is unusual, it's not surprising the fuzzy pussy willow has a place in folklore. According to an old Polish tale, a litter of kittens had been chasing butterflies at the river's edge and one by one fell into the moving waters. The mother cat, unable to save her kittens began crying out. The willow trees, located on the banks of the river swept their long branches into the water – to which the kittens clung on tightly and were rescued. Legend has it that is why each spring the willow branches sprout grey furry buds – a reminder of where the little kitten's paws grasped onto the twigs.

Another Polish legend isn't quite so "warm and fuzzy" but nonetheless has earned pussy willows a place in Ukraine tradition. It is said just before Easter, families go into the woods to pick pussy willows with the intention of beating out the long cold winter. Reciting a childhood rhyme family members playfully strike each other with the long, pussy willow branches, an act which symbolizes the strength to break away from the winter season to welcome spring and new beginnings.

Propagating Pussy Willows: Pussy willows are moisture loving plants can be found wild along wetlands. The plant is a favorite remedy to remedy poor drainage areas and are useful for controlling soil erosion. Their tall branches are also used for privacy or borders, but most people enjoy the pleasures of pussy willow in bloom simply to display as a centerpiece.

Propagating pussy willows is not difficult and usually results in success. An easy way to plant pussy willows in the spring season is simply to cut a foot long branch of new growth and insert it into moist soil. Sink it into the ground at least three inches and allow a few nodes to remain above ground. With luck, roots will form within a couple of weeks. The trick is to make sure the cutting is from a male pussy willow (males change color and are often larger; female branches remain dull and grey). Keep in mind that roots are aggressive so be sure to plant them away from anything you do not want them to invade such as sewer systems, etc.

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.

Resilience is key to meeting financial goals



FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK

You can demonstrate this resilience by answering these questions: What is your specific goal? What obstacle do you face in achieving this goal? How can you overcome this obstacle?

Here are some examples of how this resiliency process works:

• Goal: Building sufficient retirement funds

To build sufficient retirement income, you need to invest in the financial markets through your 401(k), IRA and other accounts. But how should you respond when these markets go through periods of volatility? Your best defense is to remain invested. If you were to jump out of the market every time it dropped, you'd probably miss out on the rebounds that followed. Also, over a period of decades, the effects of short-term market fluctuations tend to diminish, so while the results of any particular day or week may not look good on your investment statement, the importance of these results may diminish in 10 or 20 years.

• Goal: Maintaining steady cash flow

Keeping a steady cash flow is essential to meeting your daily and monthly expenses. So, it's obviously important that you maintain sufficient earned income. But what happens if you encounter a serious illness or injury that keeps you from work for an extended period? Depending on the length of time you're not working, you could feel a real financial pinch, so you may want to consider some type of disability insurance. Your employer may offer a short-term policy as an employee benefit, but it might not be sufficient, so you may need to look at private coverage.

• Goal: Keeping retirement accounts intact

Ideally, you'd like to leave your IRA, 401(k) and other accounts intact until you need to start tapping into them when you retire. But what if you face an unexpectedly large medical bill or you need to replace your furnace or get a new car? If you don't have the money readily available, you might be forced to dip into your IRA and 401(k), incurring taxes and potential penalties and leaving yourself fewer resources for retirement. You can help avoid this setback by creating an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

• Goal: Having confidence in your strategy

To achieve your important financial goals, you need a strategy – and you need to believe in it strongly enough to keep following it during all types of stress on the financial markets. It's not always easy to maintain this conviction – less than half of Americans are confident in their abilities to recover quickly from difficult financial situations, according to a new survey from Edward Jones. One way to help gain this confidence is by working with a financial advisor.

In fact, 36 percent of those surveyed began working with a financial advisor in 2020 for help navigating the past year. The importance of receiving good advice became apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought about a variety of financial worries, such as job loss, retirement considerations, caregiving for elderly parents or providing financial support to adult children.

You will face some challenges on your journey toward achieving your financial objectives. But by being resilient, you can stay on the right road.

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.

Memories of fishing with Mel



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

The month of March will hopefully bring us some continued warm weather like we are experiencing this week. Mass. Fish & Wildlife will be stocking more than 500,000 trout in waters throughout the state starting any day now. More than 75 percent will be over 12 inches long. Ice conditions will become extremely dangerous in the days and weeks ahead, until total ice out. Most ponds and lakes rarely receive an allotment of trout before ice out, but if the waters are suitable for stocking, and the PH is correct, they could still receive trout.

This week's two pictures of largemouth bass caught in local waters last week are a good indicator that there are plenty of big bass out there for this year's fishing, by die-hard bass anglers. Catching largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in New England, provide some exciting fishing for anglers with bass boats during derbies, or just fishing with friends and family. Although I am not a big freshwater bass fishing angler like I was in my younger years, I still enjoy the excitement of landing a large bass on a flyrod, or other light fishing tackle. I have



Courtesy

Mike Daniels with a six-pound largemouth bass caught last Saturday in local waters. Nice fish!

been told by numerous anglers that freshwater bass fish, that the colder New England waters provide a longer fight from the bass, than in the warmer waters of Florida and other Southern states.

In my younger years, I fished Meadow Pond and Arcade Pond in

Whitinsville for many species of freshwater fish. Our dad often took my brother Mel & me fishing on Meadow pond in a 12-foot rowboat at least once a week. The boat was kept in a portion of the pond called Kanes Cove. The Kane family lived right on the water just off of Border



Courtesy

Jim Nickelson with a huge seven pound, two ounce largemouth bass, also caught last

Street, and was accessible to anyone that wanted to go fishing. The boat was moored out from the shoreline approximately 150 feet, and our dad kept a throwline and a block of wood to retrieve the boat when we wanted to go fishing.

My brother Mel and I sat in the back of the boat trolling a double spinner and worm combination, as our dad slowly rowed the boat. I can remember my brother Mel shouting to my dad to stop the boat, as he was stuck on the bottom! Suddenly, a huge bass broke the water, and the fight was on. Back then a steel rod and a level wind reel loaded with a Dacron fishing line, was all that we had for fishing gear. Landing the fish took some time, but he did manage to land the fish. That was the start of my brother's fascination with fishing, and he became hooked on fishing big time, even more so through his adult life.

Meadow Pond and the Arcade Pond also offered some great Calico Bass (crappie) fishing, using a fly rod and a Micky Finn streamer fly. A bridge on the Meadow Pond Road (Main Street) was removed a number of years ago, but was a great place to fish for crappie. The water was crystal clear back in the day, and you could watch the crappie chasing the fly as it was retrieved just under the surface of the water. I can remember bringing home a stringer of them for my dad to clean & make a great fish chowder. Oftentimes, we caught yellow perch and bluegills to add to the pot. I sure do miss his fish chowder!

This past weekend, this writer was informed by a local sportsman, about a deer that had fallen through the ice in the West River. He was drawn to the deer carcass by a large Bald Eagle that was feeding on the deer. Sightings of Bald Eagles are at an all-time high throughout the state, and in the valley area. The informant tried to get a picture of the Eagle, but it left the area before he got ready to snap the photo. I am sure he will be back to dine on the deer carcass in the coming days and weeks. Maybe he will get another chance to snap a photo!

March is the month for the Saltwater Fishing Show in Providence, R.I., but because of Covid, this year's show has been canceled, as were most other Fishing & Sportsmen's shows. Looking over the latest in fishing equipment, meeting old friends, and telling big lies about all of our fish we caught last year has been put on hold. Just wait until next year!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Antique reproductions and fakes



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
.....
WAYNE
TUISKULA

Antiques have been copied for years. For example, in 1876, the Centennial Exposition took place in Philadelphia. Americans were interested in their history and cabinet makers produced many quality reproductions of pieces from the previous century. Often, the goal with reproductions is to create copies of furniture or other antiques for people who couldn't afford to pay what an original would cost. Other times though, the goal is to deceive an unsuspecting buyer.

When I started selling antiques over 30 years ago, a friend informed me that he was running a golf auction. I was new at the antique business and bought some cast iron doorstops of a man and woman golfer that I thought would be a good fit. My friend who was running the auction informed me that the doorstops were reproductions. Someone had artificially aged them by exposing them to weather and hitting them with chains. Even when accurately described as reproductions in his golf auction catalog, the pair sold for well over \$200 and I was able to make a small profit, despite my mistake.

Around 15 years ago, I was helping a friend



set up his booth at the Brimfield Antique Show. We finished early that night and walked around to see what other dealers were offering for sale. My friend specialized in antique furniture and saw a barrister's bookcase that was reasonably priced. Barrister's (or stacking) bookcases are rectangular sections that fit on top of each other. The glass fronts lift upward and slide inward at the top. When my friend examined the bookcase more closely, he found a "Made in Malaysia" sticker in the back.

Around the same time, we auctioned a great collection of Tiffany Studios desk accessories for a client who had collected them for many years. Fortunately, the collector sold the collection when they did. Many copies have been made in Asia since we sold the collection. The flood of reproductions has caused the price of originals to drop considerably.

There are so many reproductions that it may be easier to list antiques that haven't been reproduced than things that have. A search of Wayfair's Web

site of antique reproductions lists: telephones, tea sets, telescopes, bottle openers, scrimshaw boxes, toilet paper holders, statues, and furniture. There are hundreds more. I should point out that they are doing nothing illegal or unethical by selling these. They are merely offering decorative pieces to people who want them.

On the other hand, U.S. Customs seized 36 fake guitars that were shipped from China, according to a February NBC Washington report. Many of

the guitars were Gibson Les Paul copies. A Gibson Ace Frehley had a suggested retail value of \$9,000. The total suggested retail value for all the guitars was \$158,692. Guitar.com reported that the bogus guitars were en route to buyers in 21 states and Australia.

If you are a collector, here are some things that you can do to make sure you are buying legitimate pieces. Buy from a reputable dealer. Learn as much about the items you collect. Before I became a full-time auctioneer, I spent a lot of free time

in local antique shops. If I saw the same item in multiple shops I looked closely and found it was typically either a reproduction or a recent warehouse find. Sometimes, it can be obvious that what you are looking at is a reproduction. If you see "copy of," "reproduction," or a modern "Made in China" label on a piece, you don't have to look any further.

We will soon auction another group of antique, vintage, and contemporary model trains, die-cast cars, and other toys online. We also picked up a large collection of

sports and non-sports cards that will be sold by online auction. We are also still accepting quality consignments of valuable items like jewelry, coins, art, and better collectibles for our May multi-estate auction. See our website for details: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

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

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Designing a wildlife-friendly landscape



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

We love watching the bunnies hopping across the lawn or ground squirrels scurrying away with a cheek full of seeds. That is, until they dine on our favorite shrub or take just one bite out of each red ripe tomato in the garden. Finding a way to coexist is critical for wildlife struggling to survive and our enjoyment of nature and our landscapes.

As gardeners, we know that digging in the soil and tending a garden is good for our mind, body, and spirit. Researchers discovered the same is true when we take time to observe wildlife. Our need for a relationship with nature is also important to our wellbeing. It helps us feel more content and function more effectively.

But we love our gardens too. Implementing some design and management strategies can help us support and enjoy wildlife, care for our landscapes, and improve our quality of life.

By reducing the amount of edge habitat, where one type of habitat meets another, can allow us to support wildlife while reducing the risk of damage. Create circular or square garden beds that have more interior space and less border space. Long linear beds with more edges and less interior space allows easier access for animals to dine.

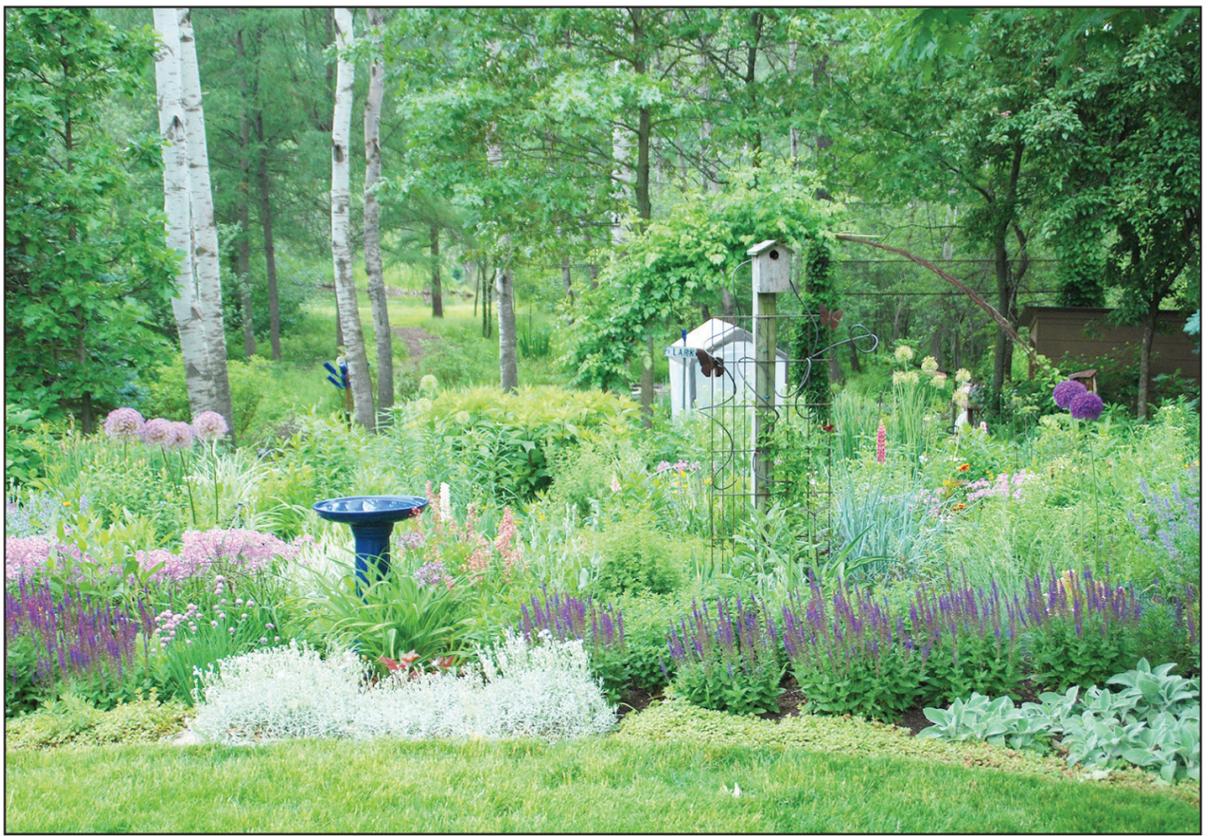
Work with neighbors and your community to create large blocks and corridors of habitat. Providing them spaces, other than your gardens, with needed food and shelter can help you and the wildlife to coexist.

Protect key gardens and plants. Fencing is an option. Make sure your fence is high enough, tight to the ground, and the gates secure.

Repellents are a less obtrusive option. Select a product labeled for the animals and rodents you are trying to manage. For best results, apply repellents before the animals start feeding. Then reapply as recommended on the label. Look for one, like organic, bird- and pollinator-friendly Plantskydd (plantskydd.com), that is rain and snow resistant, requiring fewer repeat applications.

Work with nature to maintain a balance in your landscape. Invite hawks, owls, and fox to your backyard. Grow tall grasses and plants that provide cover for foxes. Include trees with good perches or install perch poles to attract and support raptors.

And like any landscape endeavor, start with a plan. Make a sketch of your existing landscape. Identify existing plants and wildlife-friendly habitats. Make note



Melinda Myers

Include habitat features in your garden and landscape that are needed to attract and sustain the wildlife you are trying to attract.

of both the natural habitats and any supplemental food, water, and shelter you provide. Review and note various features in your landscape throughout the year.

Now decide what you want to accomplish in your landscape. What wildlife do you want to attract and have the space to support? Perhaps you want to attract more songbirds to your gardens or animals, like toads, that help manage pests in the garden.

Make sure your landscape provides the habitat features needed to attract and

sustain these welcome residents. You will find lots of helpful resources on National Wildlife Federation, Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Services, Department of Natural Resources, and University Extension websites.

Be patient and wait for a year to evaluate the results of your efforts. Then begin making any needed changes to meet your goals.

Developing a landscape for you to enjoy and one that supports wildlife takes time, but as a gardener this is not only part of the process but an exciting adventure.

Melinda Myers has written 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 was commissioned by *Tree World Plant Care* for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Disappointment? Join the club



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

So, I get an email last night from a reader of this column...

"You always write about optimism, now that you have cancer, what do you think?"

What do I think?

Let me begin with this... If you want to avoid disappointment, don't do anything. Do not try to live your dreams. Stop reaching for the stars. Never build a business or try to compete. Don't apply for the promotion. Refuse to take a risk. Don't try to beat cancer. And above all... never fall in love. If you want to avoid disappointment, it's easy, just be the anti-Nike and Just 'Don't' Do It.' Problem solved, right? Not hardly...

The best of life is available for those who go for it.

The rewards of life go to those who risk, and when you risk, you will often be disappointed. I've suffered more emotionally crushing moments in my life than I can recount. It's all part of the game. You win some, you lose some and some are rained out. Some disappointments are minor, and you move on quickly, while some stay with you for an exceptionally long time. So yes, I've suffered great disappointment, while also enjoying great success. You can't have one without the other.

By coincidence, previously, on a day where I got the call from another reader about disappointment, I personally suffered a major disappointment.

About an hour before the call, I suffered a business setback that was stunning. It was something I didn't expect, and the disappointment lingered for an exceptionally long time. I was pursuing an opportunity that I was convinced was a sure thing, and had been working on it for months. I felt assured by the client that they were eager to take advantage of my proposal. It was a great program, and

there was every reason that the group I was courting should have said yes. When I was told no, it was like a punch to my gut. I was given no reason for the refusal other than "we just think we'll pass at this time." When I came home from the meeting with my tail between my legs, my wife consoled me for a few minutes then said, "Get on the tractor and mow the grass"... and I did.

The grass doesn't stop growing because I'm disappointed.

Life goes on. I had to pick myself up off the floor, get on the tractor and get cutting, and for me, the tractor is a great place to plan (or plant) my next move.

So, you are disappointed? Join the club. You are not alone. You were laid off from your company or your spouse left you. Your team didn't win the big game and your diet isn't working as fast as you'd like. Your son or daughter was cut from the team or didn't get into the college you'd hoped. There are different levels of disappointments and different people feel them to different degrees. But the fact is that we all suffer disappointment, but here's the key...

It's not important that you were knocked down. All that matters is that you get back up again.

It is all a matter of personal resilience. As my dad always said to me, "You gotta keep on keepin' on." So, I was deeply disappointed that morning. At 11:20 a.m., I felt like I was punched hard by a friend, but by 3 p.m. the same day, I was planning my next move. The pain of the morning was eclipsed by the optimism of the afternoon. I was still hurt and disappointed, but I made a choice to leave my unfulfilled dream of the morning behind and embrace the future of my next idea. I made the choice to move on.

Always fish with more than one pole. The more baited hooks you have in the water at one time, the more chances you have of landing the big fish. Be creative. Have more than one idea, project, or proposal. Pursue more than one job. Apply to multiple schools. Never rely on a single outcome and never allow the disappointment of one day, stop you from taking a chance on the next. Keep going. Keep trying and never give up.

There are only two things you can control in life...

So back to the reader question. Having cancer has not changed my attitude or optimism. I'm focused on living a happy and optimistic life. I believe I can beat this cancer and am working to do so.

You can't control the weather... or how others feel about you... or the decisions others make that influence your future. You can control your attitude and your attitude will drive how you respond to the inevitable disappointments... and you can also control your effort. Be optimistic and work hard. Next time you won't be disappointed.

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 @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

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CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrn, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrn w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Applianced! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**



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ON DEPOSIT

THOMPSON - 25 TERRACE DRIVE
OFF THOMPSON HILL! At the end of a Dead end road well maintained & loved! Kitchen with double wall ovens, gas cook-top, granite countertops. Formal dining room. Fireplaced Living room! master, on the first floor, 4 bedrooms total! 2nd full bath - second level. 2 car garage!
assisted sale **\$325,000.**
SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD
Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside -Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character
\$319,000.
SORRY, SOLD!

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS
Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided!
\$89,900
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE.
\$115,000.
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res!
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WEBSTER - 29 WEST AVE.
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WOODSTOCK - 33 DEER MEADOW LANE
Beautiful 2,422 Sq Ft Colonial! 4 Bedroom! 3 Bath! Fireplace, 2 Car garage! So much more!
assisted sale **\$415,000**
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DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD
Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplaced Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/ fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot.
\$312,000.
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WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY
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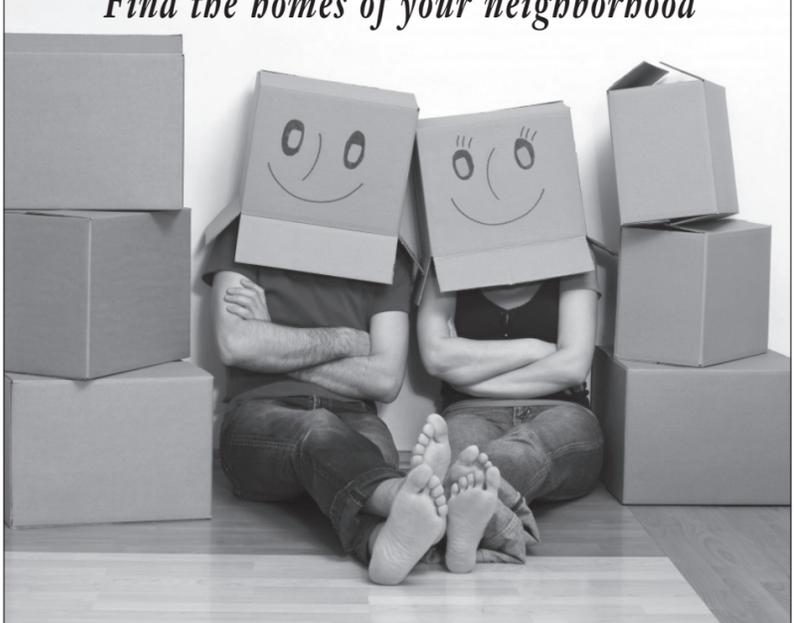
WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD
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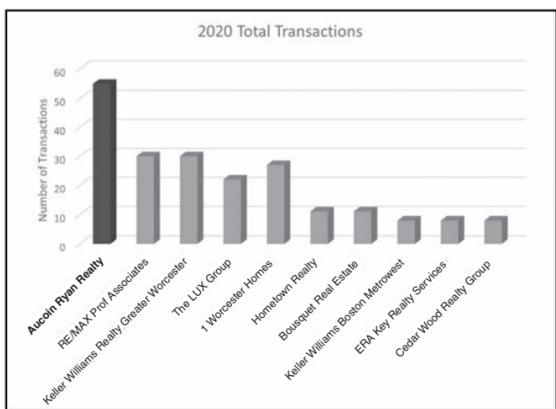
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Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd
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	February 2020	February 2021	Trend
OXFORD			
Median Price	\$217,000	\$322,250	▲
Market Volume	\$1,447,500	\$3,281,653	▲
# of Homes Sold	6	10	▲
Avg Days on Market	42	29	▼
Month Supply Inv.	.86	.34	▼
WEBSTER			
Median Price	\$238,950	\$249,500	▲
Market Volume	\$2,025,300	\$3,598,500	▲
# of Homes Sold	8	11	▲
Avg Days on Market	57	34	▼
Month Supply Inv.	1.26	.39	▼

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MARSHALLS

continued from page A1

receive this donation from Marshall's and thank them for their generosity. As our communities still see a significant number of Covid-19 cases it is important that everyone continues to wear face masks, even if vaccinated. Hopefully, having these special masks will encourage all the children and adults to wear them to

help stop the spread of the virus.”

The United Way of South Central Massachusetts serves the communities of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge and Webster and is located at 176 Main St., Suite 400, Southbridge, MA 01550. To learn more about programs and donate, visit www.uwscm.org, follow on Facebook @UWSCM or call (508) 765-5491.

MEOWCH MADNESS

continued from page A1

to 6 pm. In order to keep Meowch Madness safe and COVID-friendly for everyone, meals are available by pre-order only. And stay-tuned for more cat-themed March Madness fun!

If you need assistance in feeding or caring for your pet, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow can help. Local cat owners can spay or neuter their cats for \$50 or less, and strays and ferals can be fixed for free! In addition, those struggling to feed their pets can apply to the Pet Food Pantry. Please visit heretodaysanctuary.org or call (413) 324-8224 to learn more about these and more community assistance programs.

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary
Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, HTAT, was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on reducing

the number of homeless animals in our community through prevention and adoption services. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield MA. Our ultimate goal is to decrease the number of animals entering the shelter system. It is deeply important to us that every resident's stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, including shy, fearful and senior cats. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone, so we started programs to spay and neuter local community cats. To date, HTAT has helped more than 2,500 cats. For more information, visit heretoday-sanctuary.org.

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at [facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary](https://www.facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary), and follow us on Instagram at [@heretodayadoptedtomorrow](https://www.instagram.com/heretodayadoptedtomorrow).

RUBICON

continued from page A3

and organizing “spontaneous volunteers.” By that, he means being able to jump into situations of all kinds – for example, Rubicon people now staff some Bay State food pantries that lost most of their volunteers because they were senior citizens at risk of Covid. They also try to find various kinds of service projects, although that's been a little difficult

with the pandemic.

“We're always looking for volunteers. We'll take anybody who wants to work hard and learn,” Klein said. “... It's not really a matter of skills, it's a matter of willingness to serve.”

Interested people can go to www.teamrubiconusa.org for more information.

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

COLD STORAGE

continued from page A1

minutes.” When projecting traffic growth to 2027, Guerin said it would amount to “less than 1 percent of what's already on Route 20.”

Shevlin, who represented the town, determined Guerin's methods were “appropriate” and agreed the additional volume “should not have a significant impact on the roadway.” He was, however, somewhat concerned about the risk of trucks queuing long enough to reach the highway.

To that, Hedge noted facilities like his have been changing their procedures to account for Covid in ways that also reduce queuing. Specifically, he said truckers will submit their paperwork online and get a dedicated phone number to call for check-in, rather than deliver it in person upon arrival. On average, he said, it takes 62 minutes to unload a truck, and the site lacks parking space for trucks, so they'll have to depart once done. If trucks arrive late, he added, he believes they have enough inside space to unload quickly.

Chair Charles Blanchard noted they haven't seen any problems with the existing facility on Picker Road, although Shevlin noted that site was designed to allow for more queuing.

A trucker called in to comment. In his 14 years in the business, he noted “many examples of issues of working with... some of the cold storage facilities” he'd like to avoid here. Among them, he said, were trucks not arriving on time, often due to weather, previous loads in the way of loading, and site staffing issues because of Covid delaying truckers and pushing them beyond legal hour limits. He said he could also see a potential issue during the holiday season, when deliveries to Hobbs Brook often back up “as far as Burger King” already.

One unusual feature of this facility will be its height. Normally, Sturbridge bylaws cap buildings at 30 feet, but the board unanimously

granted RLS permission to go to 57 feet, which Hedge said is “consistent with cold storage industrial design.” He said it's necessary to install the fire suppression system they want; an alternative system has had “up to 10” false alarms per year in other sites.

Additionally, Hedge said, a taller, more compact building will “reduce our footprint” by using less concrete and shorter cooling loops, while minimizing land-clearing and reducing the energy consumption somewhat.

Hedge had several meetings with Venture staff over the construction noise impact on their autistic clients using the outdoor area, He pledged to keep as much vegetation between the two buildings as possible and maintain communications so that, if issues develop, he'll put up a fence as well.

In other business, the board extended the public hearing for the Fiske Hill mixed-use subdivision to April 13, and the board's deadline to make a decision to June 30, on the applicant's request. Planner Jean Bubon said the Conservation Commission is requiring the developer to conduct a vernal pool study and related wetland work.

“We can make all the revisions [to the plans] sooner than April, but if the wetlands study comes back and makes us revise the plans [again], it's just a waste of time,” she said.

Resident Robert Barnes called in to comment on that project. Noting he and his wife Lynn have lived on Fiske Hill since 1983, he said “traffic has gotten worse and worse on our street.” They're particularly concerned about the project's impact on the Main/Fiske Hill intersection and want to have the traffic study look at that.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection held its own online public hearing on the Fiske Hill project Tuesday, after this paper's deadline.

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

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin
Most holy Virgin Immaculate, my Mother Mary, to thee who art the Mother of my Lord, the queen of the universe, the advocate, the hope, the refuge of sinners, I who am the most miserable of all sinners, have recourse this day. I venerate thee, great queen, and I thank thee for the many graces thou has bestowed upon me even unto this day; in particular for having delivered me from the hell which I have so often deserved by my sins. I love thee, most dear Lady; and for the love I bear thee, I promise to serve thee willingly forever and to do what I can to make thee loved by others also. I place in thee all my hopes for salvation; accept me as thy servant and shelter me under thy mantle, thou who art the Mother of mercy. And since thou art so powerful with God, deliver me from all temptations, or at least obtain for me the strength to overcome them until death. From thee I implore a true love for Jesus Christ. Through thee I hope to die a holy death. My dear Mother, by the love thou bearest to Almighty God, I pray thee to assist me always, but most of all at the last moment of my life. Forsake me not then, until thou shalt see me safe in heaven, there to bless thee and sing of thy mercies through all eternity. Such is my hope. Amen. N.F.L.

St. Jude's Novena
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved, throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude.
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PRAYER TO THE ANGELS
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Lewis Jewel presented to two brothers

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday evening, March 7, 1966, Right Worshipful Elwood C. Lavergne, the presiding and 75th Master of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge was preparing for an immensely proud and exciting event. This was going to be an evening that not very many Lodge Masters have experienced and one he would never forget. On that evening he was about to complete the final degree work on not one, but two of his sons, and welcome them into his beloved Masonic Fraternity.

His 28 year old son Fredrick and 24 year old son Stephen nervously entered the Lodge to be among their trusted Brethren, led by their dad and Master of the lodge, RW. Elwood. Both Rick and Steve had just completed their 6 year enlistments in the Army National Guard and were looking for something to fill the brotherhood void often felt by men after being discharged from the military. Masonry is a logical choice to fill that void.

On Monday, Feb. 1, 2016, after 50 years of good standing in the fraternity, both Rick and Steve were honored with the 50 year Masonic Veterans Medal presented by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts located in Boston. Fellow Quinebaug Lodge member, the then 24th District Deputy Grand Master, Christopher M. St. Cyr had the honor and privilege of presenting Rick and Steve with this prestigious medal.

On Monday, March 1, Frederick E. Lavergne and Stephen H. Lavergne as



Left to right: Wor. Larry Burbridge presented both brothers the Lewis Jewel medals to Bro. Steven Lavergne and Bro. Rick Lavergne with the 24th District Deputy Grand Master, RW. Anselme B. Maxime overseeing this honorable prestigious presentation. Earlier in the evening they were also honored their 50-year Masonic Veterans Medal.

well as their dad, RW. Elwood was again honored by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and the Brethren of

Quinebaug Lodge. A fraternal visit from the 24th District Deputy Grand Master, RW. Anselme B. Maxime was highlighted with a surprise presentation of the "Lewis Jewel" to both Brothers. This Jewel not only honors both brothers but also honors their father who was a Master Mason when they were initiated to that sublime rank. This Lewis Jewel is a heart-warming day when a young man first shows interest in Freemasonry and asks their father how they may become a Master Mason, and is a proud day when those sons, in the fullness of time, is admitted as a member of his father's Fraternal Masonic Lodge by initiation.

The Lewis Jewel may be worn by a Mason, if at the time of his initiation, his father was a Master Mason in good standing. Fifty-five years later, these two men received this honorable Jewel with their father's name and date of his initiation along with the name of his sons and their initiation date on the Jewel. This is just another tradition carried out by Master Masons and their family members.

Our members of the Quinebaug Lodge are enormously proud and honored to present this Jewel to both brothers. If you would like more information about Freemasonry go to www.mass-freemasonry.org and to find a lodge nearest to you.



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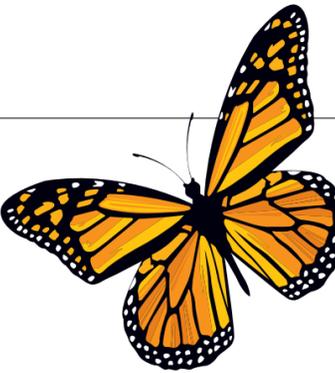


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