



Courtesy Photo

KRISPY KREME FRIDAY

Not even Principal Casey Handfield could resist the lure of a doughnut during Krispy Kreme Friday at Auburn High School last Friday. Photo courtesy of the school's Twitter feed.

Vaping laws postponed due to pending legislation

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – After initiating new local laws concerning vaping products last year, the town of Charlton has decided to hold off on expanding its limitations on the said products in the wake of new state legislation taking effect this year.

The Charlton Board of Health debuted a new regulation in September of 2019 restricting all stores in town from selling or advertising flavored tobacco or vaping products. The regulation was one of the first local responses to the national outcry against vaping after several national news stories highlighted the risks of the practice which has become a popular alternative to smoking among youth. The local regulations went into effect in November, but less than a month later, on Dec. 11, Charlton received a letter from Governor Charlie Baker's office detailing a new state law, An Act Modernizing Tobacco Control, which

imposed even harsher limitations on flavored tobacco products including menthol. Rather than adding to the existing town regulations in place the Board of Health decided on Jan. 14 to hold off on expanding local rules and allow the state mandates to take effect in June.

“(The law) states that they can sell non-flavored electronic nicotine delivery systems with nicotine content of 35 milligrams or less per milliliter. Anything higher would have to be a vape shop,” Health Director James Philbrook told the Board of Health. “The menthol will be banned in June and they’ve set up strict fines for them.”

Beginning on June 1 of this year, sales of tobacco products that are characterized by flavors including menthol cigarettes, vape products and chewing tobacco will be restricted for only licensed smoking bars and may only be sold for on-site consumption at those facilities. The law will also impose a 75 percent excise tax on the whole-

sale price of nicotine vaping products.

The Board of Health agreed not to impose harsher town-specific regulations on retailers in order to allow this new, state mandated law to take effect in every town and avoid negatively impacting businesses by forcing buyers into neighboring communities for the next few months. Once the law is active all stores in Massachusetts will have the same restrictions for flavored tobacco or vaping products and sets harsh fines for businesses that are found in violation of these laws. These fines include a \$1,000 fee for the first offence, \$2,000 for the second offence and \$5,000 for each addition violation within a 36-month period.

“They’re really coming through big time,” Philbrook said. “Things we didn’t ban will be banned by the state.”

More information on the new state law can be found at [mass.gov/VapingEmergency](https://www.mass.gov/VapingEmergency).

Charlton to receive Community Compact IT grant

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – After an incident in late 2019 that exposed holes in the town's Web site security, Charlton will now have some financial assistance to help take necessary steps in the form of a Community Compact IT grant.

The competitive grant is a state program geared towards helping communities improve their technology through

investments in innovations and other initiatives. Awarded towns were announced in early January, with State Rep. Paul Frost posting on his social media page that Charlton was among the towns earning money from the newest round of grants. Charlton will receive \$90,950, which Rep. Frost said will be a big help to the town in addressing its security concerns.

“The funding (will go)

towards the implementation of a secondary data storage facility in town,” Frost said. “The challenges to fend off and recover from internet hackers are difficult and this grant will help Charlton with those challenges.”

Charlton suffered a cyber attack in August of 2019 where “malicious software” infected the town's Web site, freezing documents, emails, and the main servers. The town was

given ransom demands by the hackers in order to have the website freed. Town Hall staff worked throughout the Labor Day holiday in order to help resolve the situation and get the town's Web site back up and running. The FBI was also contacted to handle and investigation into the matter. It took Charlton more than a month to get everything back up and running properly. The financial impact of the cyber attack

has not been disclosed in a public forum.

In the wake of the incident, Charlton and other local communities have begun to examine ways to ensure documents and records are not compromised if another situation were to occur as well as increasing their internet security measures to prevent websites and other computer-based resources from being targeted in the future.



Courtesy Photo

Bay Path UNICEF Club holds baby bottle fundraiser

CHARLTON — The UNICEF Club at Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy held a “Baby Bottle Drive” to raise money for children in developing countries.

The fundraiser, among other brilliant fundraising ideas were brain-stormed by UNICEF Club Officers Hannah Abubakar of Fiskdale, Kristin Bates of Charlton, Sikorrrya Seguin of Dudley, Fjolla Shehu of Worcester, and Chelsea Still of Plainfield, Conn.

“We’re glad to be able to think of ideas to raise money in ways as simple as putting your spare change in something as inexpen-

Local couple’s new book sets rules for a lasting relationship



Courtesy Photo

Steven and Janet Hall

STURBRIDGE — For well over 40 years, through triumph and tragedy, success and failure, comfort and poverty, the relationship of Steven R. Hall and Janet C. Hall has endured and flourished when others have failed. How, you might ask?

According to the Halls, “We have lived by what we call our fifteen rules to live by. By practicing these, our relationship has flourished and continues to grow stronger every day.”

In our society, almost half of all marriages end in divorce. That is why the Halls wrote their new book, “15 Rules For a Loving, Lasting, and Satisfying Relationship.”

Mr. Hall says, “By sharing these with you, we hope to help you with your own loving, lasting, and satisfying Relationship.”

The book is available on Amazon and other online retailers.

Today, the Halls

Please Read **HALL**, page **A9**



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MOMS Club to host parent resource fair

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Local parents and guardians are invited to take part in an upcoming parent resource fair this February hosted by the Charlton Library and the MOMS Club of Charlton providing residents of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge and Webster a chance to network with organizations, schools and other entities throughout the day.

Cara Holland, President of the Charlton chapter of the MOMS Club which works to provide support, resources, playdates and networking opportunities for local parents, said the event called S.O.A.R. to Success

will include entities from all four local communities with the goal of sparking conversation and education concerning what opportunities parents and children have at their disposal.

“What we have done is gathered different organizations to represent themselves and offer information so that parents can come and one stop shop. There will be preschools, party and entertainment companies, extracurricular programs like martial arts and dance, the Charlton Activities Center will be there so it’s a gamut of activities that people might not even think about for their kids,” Holland said. “We want to focus on a few unique vendors or organizations like little league and help

parents get the information for that. Maybe parents don’t know what’s available for them and we’re trying to put them in touch with those resources.”

The event is now in its second year after debuting in 2018. The fair was put on hold last year as the MOMS Club of Charlton explored the possibility of creating a permanent online resource center inspired by the event. In the end though Holland and other members found that online resources could not provide the same lasting impact as in person discussion.

“When you are engaging with people directly you can get a better sense of who they are and maybe glean some information that you wouldn’t be able

to get from an online summary of these programs. I think sometimes you’re more apt to get information you didn’t even expect when you have that face to face interaction and conversation,” Holland said. “We’re also trying to make it a bit of an event, something fun that people can stop in to be a part of, socialize and network.”

The S.O.A.R. to Success event will take place at the Charlton Library in Dexter Hall on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. No registration is required and it is a free event. For more information or to inquire as a vendor, please contact charltonmomsclub@gmail.com.

Breast Cancer Coalition exhibit now at Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — The state’s leading breast cancer prevention non-profit, Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC), is pleased to announce the “Let’s Talk Prevention: Reducing Toxic Exposures” program tour will be on display at Joshua Hyde Public Library, 306 Main St., Sturbridge, during the month of January. For library information including hours of operation, please visit the Web site, <https://www.sturbridgelibrary.org/>.

The goal of this program is to reduce toxic exposures which have implications for

reducing the burden and cost of all environmentally-linked diseases, including breast cancer. MBCC is dedicated to preventing environmental causes of breast cancer through community education, research advocacy, and changes to public policy.

The “Let’s Talk Prevention: Reducing Toxic Exposures” booklet for health professionals summarizes scientific evidence linking exposure and effect for many common chemicals of concern and suggests how to begin environmental health conversations with patients. The accompanying “Let’s Talk

Prevention: Reducing Toxic Exposures” patient brochure describes basic steps for individuals and families to reduce problematic exposures and choose safer alternatives to toxic products and is available in multiple languages including Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Japanese, and Korean. Tour materials also include a tip sheet highlighting chemicals of concern, and a newly create fact sheet on the risks of PFASs, a class of highly fluorinated chemicals found in a wide range of consumer products and drinking water supplies.

This program is in direct response to several federal reports, from the President’s Cancer Panel, the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee, and more, which recommends increased attention to the link between environmental factors and disease, especially cancer. Additionally, information from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences supports actions to reduce toxic exposures. The burden of environ-

mental linked diseases is often underestimated and not often discussed, even in medical programs.

Dr. Michael Misialek, MBCC Medical Advisor and physician at Newton-Wellesley Hospital also had an opportunity to review the “Let’s Talk Prevention materials” and said, “As a physician at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, specializing in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and a Board Member of Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, I’m very pleased to see the Let’s Talk Prevention: Reducing Toxic Exposures program develop as a resource for patient-doctor engagement. The value of such a program is not to be minimized. This program will provide much needed information about reducing toxic exposures in daily life to physicians and patients alike. I look forward to promoting doctor-patient discussions concerning the link between health and toxic chemical exposures.”

As an extension of this program, MBCC has also developed an environmental health program for high school students called Let’s Talk Prevention:

Actions You Can Take. These standalone classroom modules can supplement science, health, or environmental studies curriculum by helping high school students understand the impact of chemicals on disease risk. The classroom modules are free and downloadable from the MBCC Web site.

If a hospital, health center, community center, library, high school, college or private group has an interest in exhibiting the Let’s Talk Prevention materials, hosting a presentation about toxic exposures reduction, and sharing the materials, please e-mail: mbcc.cyndiswan@gmail.com with the subject line: Lets Talk Prevention Tour. The materials can be easily exhibited and displayed.

For more information to view when the Let’s Talk Prevention tour will be coming to a location near you, to download the medical booklet for health professionals and the patient brochures, or to learn more about the new high school program, please visit www.mbcc.org and click on the Lets Talk Prevention tab.



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Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College recognized the following local students for making the Dean's List during the 2019 Fall Semester:

Grace Levansavich from Auburn. Levansavich is studying Physical Education.

Hanna Harris from Auburn. Harris is studying Sports Biology.

Samantha Foulkrod from Auburn. Foulkrod is studying Therapeutic Recreation.

Criteria for selection to the dean's list requires that the student must have a minimum semester grade point average of 3.500 for the semester.

Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.

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\$1,250,000, 840 Southbridge St, SSA Realty LLC, to Sonal Patel LLC.

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\$600,000, 7 Westec Dr, Westec Properties LLC, to Rock River Realty Co.

\$372,772, 6 Eastford Rd, Gordon, Roger, and US Bank NA, to US Bank NA Tr.

\$289,000, 52 Oxford St N, Carrasco, Feliciano, and Carrasco, Stephanie A, to Vescera, Kimberly.

\$220,000, 3 May Ln, Richard C Caparso Char T, and Caparso, Richard C, to Popielarczyk, Devon P.


\$218,000, 1 Warren Rd, Cottle, Robert A, and Cottle, Andrea M, to Rousseau, Thomas J, and Rousseau, Debra A.

\$205,000, 19 Chestnut Ave, Bernier, Christopher J, and Bernier, Michelle J, to Lefebvre, Shawn, and Dimond, Alexandria L.

\$175,000, 238 Oxford St N, Kathleen M Herard RET, and Herard, Kathleen M, to Herard, Michael J, and Herard, Kara J.

\$100,000, 158 Hampton St, Hunter Jeanne Evelyn Est, and Cope, Wendy J, to Agrawal Sisters LLC.

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Tristate Trail Riders support Oxford Fire Department

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – When local budgets are tight, even fairly small donations can make a difference to town services.

A case in point is last week's qua-

si-annual check from the regional Tristate Trail Riders to the Oxford Fire Department. Although its \$150 was lower than even president Dave Carlson would have liked to give, it'll make a difference.



Dave Carlson gives Fire Chief Laurent McDonald the Tristate Trail Riders donation for this year.

Gus Steeves Photo

“We’re grateful for the donation because every little bit helps,” Chief Laurent “Butch” McDonald said “The money helps us with items we can’t get through the general budgetary process.”

Carlson noted rain literally dampened the group’s ability to donate.

“Normally, when we have an event and the weather’s good, we can donate \$250-300. Last year, we didn’t even have an event,” he said. “... I wish it could be more, but that’s all we could muster.”

This year, rain meant only 23 entrants rode in their November Family Chili Fun Run, but Tristate has two other events annually, with funds designated for different fire departments: a spring ride in Woonsocket, and an August scramble in Eastford.

Community support of fire/EMS agencies is pretty common across the US, especially for smaller, volunteer-staffed departments. (Oxford is full-time.) Under IRS rules, donations to volunteer departments are tax-deductible, “but only if made for exclusively public purposes,” the IRS website states. Finding information regarding paid departments on that site is difficult; its search is not particularly user-friendly and turns up no results (even the volunteer reference Google search found initially).

According to the Action Training website, most departments “rely on grants, donations and fundraising activities to provide the funding necessary to purchase equipment and fire fighter training resources.” In our area, that generally doesn’t apply to the big-ticket items like trucks, which are covered by taxes or debt exclusions, but can apply to less-visible items. In recent years, for example, donations have helped Oxford buy its Lucas automated CPR device, Southbridge purchase protective gear, and met various similar needs in other towns.

Often, people donate via non-profit groups that specifically claim to assist first responders, but the Federal Trade Commission notes doing so means you need to do some homework. Among other things, several organizations including the Better Business Bureau



ACCURACY WATCH

The Auburn News 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.

and Charity Navigator, report on and rate charities and keep records of complaints, and checking the state Corporations Database can show whether a group is actually registered and who runs it.

“Many legitimate charities support police and firefighters, but some will spend nearly all of your donation on fees and administration,” the FTC Web site states. “Other organizations are outright scams. Just because it has the word “police” or “firefighter” in its name, claims to be affiliated with local police or fire departments, or uses pictures of people dressed as police officers or firefighters, doesn’t mean it’s a legitimate charity.”

In Tristate’s case, the group is not a first responder charity, but it donates to departments. Carlson described it as “the second-oldest all-off road motorcycle club in Massachusetts.” One reason it helps Oxford FD is that the “only legal place in Central Massachusetts” for off-road riding is at Hodges Village Dam (site of its Fun Run).

“There’s not a whole bunch of [motorcycle trail] mileage in Massachusetts, unfortunately,” Carlson said.

The closest approximation of a trail atlas is at the Mass Snowmobile Association’s website (www.sledmass.com), where an interactive map depicts status of snowmobile trails, mostly in the Berkshires. As of last weekend, most were closed for lack of snow.

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

Public meeting to discuss Route 20 project

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON/ OXFORD – Residents of Oxford and Charlton are being called to a public meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 29 where the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will provide updates on a proposed roadway project along

Route 20 that would stretch 3.2 miles between the two towns.

According to a notice provided by MassDOT, the purpose of the project is to “improve the Route 20 roadway safety conditions in Charlton and Oxford through proposed modifications to roadway geometry, roadway widening, implementation of median barriers separating opposing directions

of travel and enhanced traffic operations at intersections.”

In recent years, Route 20 has become a contentious topic of discussion as serious accidents, including fatal incidents, have plagued the roadway.

The proposed plan would see road reconstruction from Richardson’s Corner in Charlton to Route 12 in Oxford to take place in late 2020 and

early 2021. According to the MassDOT website, the project is being funded through the 2020 Transportation Improvement Program for the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization with a construction cost of more than \$62.4 million. The project will also include rehabilitation of bridges that carry Route 20 over Little River in

Charlton and the French River in Oxford.

The Jan. 29 meeting will detail designs and specifics of the project after which the MassDOT will be accepting questions and comments from citizens. The meeting is slated to begin at 7 p.m. in the Oxford High School Auditorium at 495 Main St. in Oxford.

Oxford Lodge retrieves Traveling Tyler Sword



Courtesy Photo

Pictured: Wor. Bryan Wilson, Wor. Erik Sampson, PM, Bro. George Russell, Bro. Richard Majercik II, Bro. Frank Sampson, Tyler, Bro. Brian Mandeville, Wor. Chris Kanz, Bro. Bob St.Cyr and Past Master Wor. John Shaw.

OXFORD — On Nov. 4, members of Oxford Lodge paid a fraternal visit to Quinebaug Lodge.

We had heard that Quinebaug lodge had a new piece of traveling regalia called the Traveling Tyler’s Sword. The sword was dedicated to Brother Armand J. Richards, long time Tyler of Quinebaug Lodge.

The sword includes a traveling case with stand, in which there is a Masonic knocker and

sight hole. There is also a log-book included, with the history, requirements for travel, and the pertinent information on retrieving the sword. The brethren of the lodge created a beautiful piece of Masonic history for Quinebaug lodge.

They hope to have as many lodges as possible share in this beautiful tribute to Brother Richards.

The requirements for retriev-

al are the visiting Lodge Tyler, and sitting Master, and another brother be present. Bro. Frank Sampson, Oxford Lodge Tyler was present, and after the formality of receiving the award, Oxford Lodge now has the sword in our possession. There has been a lot of interest in collecting this beautiful piece from other lodges and I am sure it will be in another lodge very soon.



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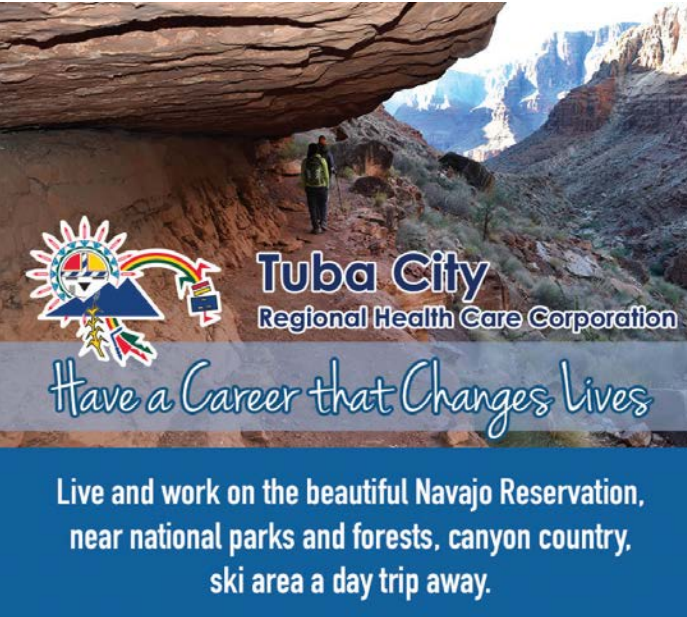
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Smola supports ‘Nicky’s Law’

BOSTON – Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is supporting the establishment of a statewide registry to help protect individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities from abuse by their caregiver.

Senate Bill 2367, also known as “Nicky’s Law,” directs the Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC) to create a confidential registry that will include the names of all care providers found to have abused a disabled individual. The bill was amended by the House of Representatives with the substitution of a new text – House Bill 4296 – and engrossed on a vote of 154-0 on Jan. 15.

Nicky’s Law is named after Nicky Chan, a non-verbal individual who was beaten while attending a day program for people with intellectual disabilities in Millbury, Massachusetts. Nicky’s mother, Cheryl, has been advocating for the creation of a registry since learning there is currently no mechanism in place to prevent an accused abuser from being rehired elsewhere.

Under Nicky’s Law, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and employers will be required to consult the registry before hiring a caregiver, and prohibited from employing any person who is listed on the registry. Employers who fail to comply with the

law could face a fine of up to \$5,000, the revocation of their license, the forfeiture of their state contract, or any combination of these penalties.

In addition to notifying DDS and the care provider’s last known employer of their placement on the registry, the DPPC will also be required to notify the care provider of their right to appeal the decision to the Division of Administrative Law Appeals. Individuals listed on the registry can petition the DPPC to remove their name five years after their initial placement on the registry or five years after the conclusion of any prior petition to remove their name, whichever is later.

In Fiscal Year 2019, the State Police Detective Unit assigned to the DPPC reviewed 13,102 allegations of abuse, with 2,214 of these reports referred to the District Attorneys for further review or assignment for a criminal investigation. According to The Arc of Massachusetts, less than 10% of cases referred to District Attorneys actually result in charges against the abuser.

The Senate previously approved its own version of the caregiver registry on Oct. 17, 2019. Both branches will now work to reconcile the differences between the two bills. For additional information, please contact Rep. Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2100.

Wood named Sergeant at Charlton PD

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Police Department has hired a new Sergeant, bringing a very familiar name to the higher ranks of the department.

Charlton Police Chief Graham Maxfield and the Board of Selectmen welcomed Officer Gary Wood to a meeting on Jan. 14 where Wood was named the new Sergeant of the Charlton Police Department after having served the department since 1986. Newly promoted Sgt. Wood served the bulk of his career as a detective bringing a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement to his line of work. His expertise has assisted his outside of Charlton as a forensic scientist with the United States Army. Wood served as a bat-



Charlton Police Chief Graham Maxfield presents Officer Gary Wood to selectmen as a candidate for Sergeant. Wood’s promotion was approved.

tlefield instructor in Iraq and Afghanistan where he processed IED components.

Sgt. Wood was chosen from a pool of candidates who participated in an assessment center, an often-used form of hiring for local police and fire departments to seek out the top candidate. Wood tied for the top spot making him a prime candidate for the job. His record and seniority with the department led him to be picked for the position earning recommendation from Chief Maxfield and approval from the Board of Selectmen. Wood was to begin his term as a fulltime Sergeant immediately being presented his badge at the Board of Selectmen meeting.

Auburn resident named to Fall 2019 Semester Dean’s List at Dean College

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce that Derek Brigham of Auburn has earned a place on the Dean’s List for the Fall 2019 semester.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

Charlton American Legion news

CHARLTON — The Charlton American Legion, Post 391, will meet on Monday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

for its regular monthly meeting in the lower Grange Hall at #10 Main Street in the town of

Charlton. We welcome all veterans from the community to join us. The upcoming agenda to be discussed will be Boy’s State and Past Commanders banquet and a review of unfinished and new business.



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To join this page please
Call June at 508-909-4062
or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news

Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday, February 1 • 9am-2pm
Sale consists of furniture, lamps and pictures
Parking behind the Fire Station.
Purchased furniture can be picked up at the door.

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TRIPS OFFERED

The “Trips Offered” section is for non-profit organizations and will run as space allows. Mail your information to Trips Offered, c/o Brendan Berube, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550; fax to (508) 764-8015 or e-mail to news@stonebridge-press.news.

BAY PATH ADULT EVENING SCHOOL

Wine Country Pacific Coast Cruise

9 days/8 nights April 6-14, 2020

What's included: Roundtrip Motorcoach transfers, roundtrip airfare from Logan Airport, one night pre-cruise stay in Los Angeles, 8 day/7 night cruise on board Princess Cruises-The Star Princess, visiting Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Astoria Oregon, Victoria, B.C., Vancouver, B.C., winery tours, all meals on board ship, and more!

*A valid passport is REQUIRED for this trip

Prices starting at \$2,499pp double occupancy (plus tax, transfers & government fees)

For a brochure and complete itinerary, please contact Lori Douthwright at (508) 248-5971, ext. 1715.

CHARLTON SENIOR CENTER

Trip Coordinator Dotti Murphy - Please call 978-424-7010

Sign up sheets & flyers available at the Senior Center / Flyers also available on our web page www.townofcharlton.net Click on Departments then click on Council on Aging/Senior Center

Pick up is from St. Joseph's Church 10 H Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton

Please call Dotti Murphy at 978-424-7010 for details if interested in any trips.

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

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

DOUGLAS SUNSHINE CLUB

Sunny Portugal next April. The Douglas Sunshine Club is planning a trip to sunny Portugal April 21-30, 2020. This trip is with Collette Travel. An informational meeting is planned for Wed. June 12th at the Douglas Senior Center, 331 Main St., Douglas, at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in the trip, this is a great opportunity to get a description of the travel arrangements and itinerary with a representative from Collette Travel who will also answer any questions you have about the trip. For more info call 508-476-4474.

DUDLEY SENIORS

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

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

FRIENDS OF THE

STURBRIDGE SENIORS

The Friends of the Sturbridge Seniors are happy to offer the following 2020 Trips to the General Public. Beginning on Thursday March 12th, join us as we travel by Deluxe Motorcoach on an approximately 60 minute ride to the Fabulous Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma. To see Ireland's Most Exciting Young Tenor, Emmet Cahill. Emmet is the Star of PBS Phenomenon Celtic Thunder. Hear Emmet perform many of the Irish Classics as well as some of your Favorite Broadway Hits. He will be joined by the Emerald String Quartet, who are four young Ladies creating the Sweetest Sounds from their String Instruments. And let's add the All Male Dublin City Dancers who will shake up the Audience with their high stepping dance numbers. For 92.00 everyone will have a Plated Lunch of Corned Beef and Cabbage or Baked Haddock, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minstrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea, Bus Transportation and this Fabulous Show.

On Wednesday July 15th come with us for a Lobster Bake at Foster's Clambake in York, Me. For 99.00 enjoy a 1 1/4 Boiled Lobster, Clam Chowder, Steamed Mussels, Fresh Steamed Maine Clams, Corn on the Cob, Potatoes and Onions, Blueberry Cake and a Beverage. Also available is 1/2 Barbecued Chicken in place of the Lobster. Now let us add the Ultimate Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show featuring Jimmy and the Parrots. They are the most requested Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band in the Country and they were also nominated as Band of the Year by Trop Rock Entertainer. Hear them play the favorite songs of Jimmy Buffett as well as songs by The Beach Boys, Paul Simon, Harry Belafonte, Bob Marley and many others. Included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Lunch and the Show.

On Tuesday August 18 to Friday August 21st, have your Passport ready for a Spectacular 4 Day/3 Night Motor Coach Roundtrip visit to Beautiful Montreal and Quebec Canada. For 849.00 pp Double or 1159.00 pp Single Occupancy. Included are 3 Nights Hotel Lodgings, 4 Meals, touring as described in your travel Brochure, Best of Times Travel Tour Director and all gratuities except Motorcoach Driver. gratuity are included. In Montreal take in a guided visit of Notre-Dame Basilica, the Botanical Gardens, the Biodome, enjoy time at Montreal Casino plus even more. In Quebec, visit the Basilica of Saint-Anne de Beaupre, Montgomery Falls, guided Tour of the beautiful Citadelle featuring the Changing of the Guard, the Royal Regimemnt Museum plus some Free Time to enjoy Quebec on your own.

On Thursday August 20th, get ready for the 10th Anniversary Tour of The Texas Tenors. These 3 very Handsome, Classically Trained Men have performed over 1300 Concerts with Headliner Shows in Las Vegas, China, the United Kingdom and accumulated 3 EMMY AWARDS. The Texas Tenors will sing many of the Broadway Show Classics as well as many of your favorite Pop Songs. They were honored to be included among the Top 50 Acts in the World. This could be the Best Concert that you will see this year. We are traveling approximately 60 minutes to the Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma.. For 99.00 included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Plated Lunch of either Chicken Parmesan or Baked Scrod, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minnestrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea.

We had 34 people travel to the Pennsylvania Dutch Country 3 Day/2Night Trip this past December and they had such a Great Time that many of them asked to go back again this September 23-25th. We will see the New Show "Queen Esther". One of the very most riveting Bible Stories of the Old Testament that comes to life in the Magnificent Sight and Sound Theater which incorporates Live Animals, Secial Effects and Jaw Opening Stage Sets. Ask anyone who has seen a Show at the Millenium Sight and Sound Theater and they will tell you this is a Must See. in your lifetime. Now let's add a 2nd Show called "Saturday

Nigh Fever" at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, a Backcountry Tour of the Dutch County Farmlands, enjoy your luck at the Sands Casino and more. Prices are 499.00 pp Double and 599.00 Single Occupancy and include 2 Nights Lodging, 4 Meals, Tickets to the 2 Shows,

Touring as Described and Tour Director Gratutites. Last years Trip sold out early so don't get left behind

Have you ever thought about visiting Nashville? Come along on a 4 Day/3 Night Trip December 4th -7th. Included are Roundtrip transportation to Logan Airport, Roundtrip Airfare to Nashville, 3 Nights of Premium Lodging, 7 Meals including a Sunday Brunch, An Exclusive Dinner Show featuring the Oak Ridge Boys, Ticket and Show at the Grand Ole Opry, plus a Tour of the Grand Ole Opry, Admission to Country Music Hall of Fame, a River Cruise aboard the General Jackson Showboat, Tickets for a Holiday Show at the Opry House, Admission to ICE at Gaylord Opryland, a visit to Historic Studio B and a Guided Tour Of Nashville. WOW!! Prices are 1949 pp Double and 2349 pp Single Occupancy which includes Tour Guides and Bus Drivers Gratuities as well.

For additional information on these Wonderful Trips, please contact Linda Fortier at 508 347 1452 or by email at bestoftimes2020@aol.com

LEICESTER SENIOR CENTER

For trip information and reservations, please call Joan Wall at (508) 892-3967.

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

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

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

MARY QUEEN OF THE ROSARY PARISH

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

*Japan: March 26 to April 9, 2020 *Japan with China extension: March 26 to April 22, 2020

*USA: Wonders of Northern California Redwoods, Oregon & Washington: August 3-15, 2020

*Spain & Portugal: Sept. 9-23, 2020

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

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

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

PAXTON SENIORS

Area Seniors are Planning Another Wonderful Trip

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

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

We fly into Budapest, Hungary and fly home from Munich.

Transportation from Paxton to and from Logan is included.

Four countries – Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany

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

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

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

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

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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

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

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2020

March 24, 2020 – Tuesday – Mohegan Sun \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Mohegan Sun at 4 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gambling and a buffet meal voucher.

May 19, 2020 – Tuesday – Foxwoods \$30 – 8 a.m. bus.

This one is for the bingo players and all others that want to go. You will have a

deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Foxwoods at 2 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gambling and a buffet meal voucher.

September 15, 2020 – Tuesday – Mohegan Sun \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Mohegan Sun at 4 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gambling and a buffet meal voucher.

October 13th -20th 2020 – ALL INCLUSIVE ARUBA Happily Full - I am taking names for standby on this trip. This is an all-inclusive trip – all flights, transfers, meals plus snacks, nightly entertainment, and alcohol included.

November 12, 2020 – Thursday – Foxwoods \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

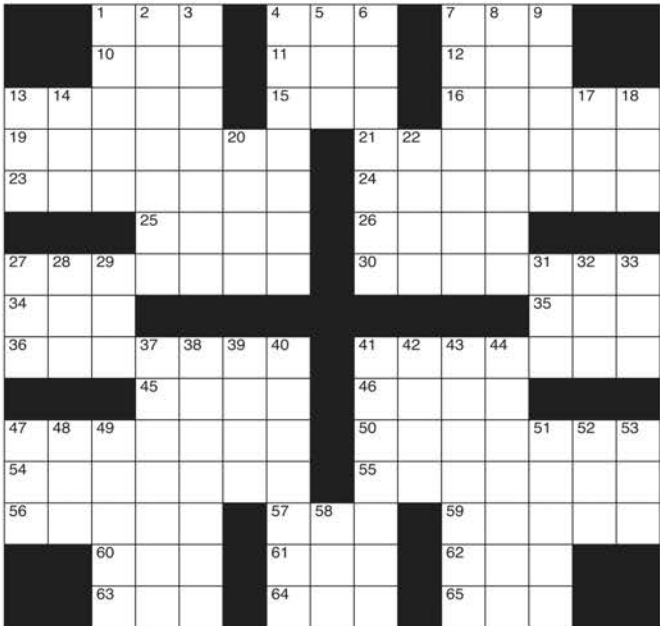
You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Foxwoods at 4 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gambling and a buffet meal voucher.

PAYMENTS DUE AT SIGN UP

Trips are open to the public!

Turn To **TRIPS** page **A12**



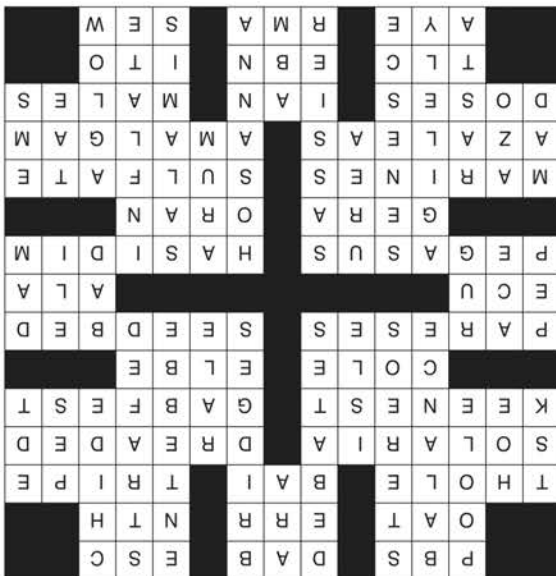
CLUES ACROSS

- Public broadcaster
- Hit lightly
- Keyboard key
- Grain
- Make a mistake
- To the __ degree
- Endure without complaint
- Chinese-American actress Ling
- Edible stomach lining
- Sunrooms
- Feared
- Most eager
- Excessive chatting session
- MLB ace
- Major Central European river
- Muscular weaknesses
- Where seedlings germinate
- Former monetary unit of the EU
- Personal ads abbreviation
- Mythical animal
- Members of Orthodox Jewish sect
- German city
- Algerian coastal city
- Military men
- Salt of sulfuric acid
- Rhododendrons
- Mixture
- Recommended quantities
- 007's creator
- Men
- Kids need it
- Midway between east and east-northeast
- OJ trial judge
- Yes vote
- USDA branch that manages the FCIC
- Create with cloth

CLUES DOWN

- English seaport
- What's owed
- Sound systems
- Elections feature them
- Southern constellation
- London and Brooklyn are two
- One-time Ugandan capital
- Attacked with bombs
- Rebuke
- Expression of disappointment
- A way to work the soil
- The human foot
- Sun up in New York
- A small island
- Abnormal rattling sound
- Make lively
- A team's best pitcher
- It goes on the floor
- Not good
- Peyton's little brother
- Barrier that holds back water
- Move quickly
- Deteriorate with age
- Colorless crystalline compound
- Cheekier
- Expresses praise or joy
- Famed boxing promoter
- Cured sausages
- Fill with air or gas
- Angry
- Chemistry prefix
- Practitioner of Jamaican religion
- Softly bright or radiant
- Buffer solution used to separate nucleic acids
- First responder group
- Defensive nuclear weapon

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Select a quality potting mix for gardening success



Quality potting mixes should be light, fluffy and moist to keep plants, like this coleus, healthy.

Melinda Myers Photo

Improve your indoor and outdoor container gardening success with a quality potting mix. This can be more difficult than it sounds since you can't see or feel the product you are about to buy. Ask your gardening friends for recommendations and once at the garden center, check the package, and compare label information before making a purchase.

You'll find a variety of bags labeled as planting mix, potting mix, container mix and more. Check the label to see what the bag contains and recommendations for its use. Look for mixes, we'll refer to as potting mixes, blended for

growing indoor, ornamental and edible plants in containers. They are a mix of organic and inorganic materials that retain moisture while draining well. Some mixes include sand and mineral soil while many are labeled as "soil-less." These lightweight mixes consist of peat moss, sphagnum moss and compost for moisture retention, vermiculite or perlite for drainage but do not contain mineral soils such as sand or clay.

Potting mixes may be modified to accommodate the needs of certain plants. Orchid mixes often contain more bark for better aeration, cacti and succulent mixes have more sand or

perlite for better drainage and African violet potting mix contains more organic matter to create a moist, rich growing medium.

Organic potting mixes are also available if you prefer to know the ingredients are free of pesticides and other contaminants. Check for the word organic and OMRI listed on the bag.

Potting mixes may or may not be sterilized to kill weed seeds and pests. If it doesn't say sterilized, it probably isn't.

As you narrow down your choices, continue checking the label for more details. Potting mixes often contain a "starter charge" of fertilizer. This mini-



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

mal amount of fertilizer is usually gone after two or three waterings. Some include additional fertilizer that provides small amounts of nutrients over a longer period of time. The label may say controlled-release, time-release or slow release fertilizer, providing nutrients for the allotment of time specified.

Natural or synthetic wetting agents are often included to reduce the surface tension of water, so it's better able to penetrate and evenly moisten the potting mix. Organic mixes often use yucca extract as a wetting agent.

Potting mixes should be light, fluffy and moist. Avoid bags that are waterlogged and heavy. The mix can break down, become compacted and some of the slow release fertilizer may be pre-released and damage young seedlings when saturated with water.

Moisten the potting mix with warm water before potting your plants. This helps ensure even moisture throughout. If the potting mix becomes overly dry, you may need to do a bit more work to rewet all the mix in the container. Set the pot in a container of warm water and wait for the potting mix to rehydrate. Or water thoroughly, wait 20 minutes and water again. Repeat until you achieve success.

Take the time to do a bit of research before buying your next bag of potting mix. Your efforts will be rewarded with healthy plants, beautiful blooms and a bountiful harvest from your indoor and outdoor potted plants.

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

LEGALS

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by John J. Gokey Sr. and Rachael E. Gokey to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for American Mortgage Network, INC., DBA American Mortgage Network of MA, A DE Corp., its successors and assigns, dated February 28, 2006 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 38498, Page 275 as affected by a Loan Modification recorded on January 31, 2014 in Said Registry of Deeds at Book 51995, Page 213, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, NA by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for American Mortgage Network, Inc., dba American Mortgage network of MA, a DE Corp, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 47346, Page 92 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on January 31, 2020 at 36 Chestnut Avenue, Auburn, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land in Auburn, with the buildings thereon, being shown as Lot 41 on a Plan of Pond Acres, dated February, 1951, recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 173, Plan 87, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a stone bound at the most westerly corner thereof, it being the intersection of the northerly line of Clark Street and the southeasterly line of Chestnut Avenue; Thence North 88 degrees 35' 30" East ninety-six and thirty hundredths (96.30) feet by the northerly line of Clark Street to an iron pipe at the southwesterly corner of Lot 40 on said plan; Thence North 1 degree 24' 30" West one hundred five (105) feet by said Lot 40 to an iron pipe in the southerly line of Lot

42 on said plan at the northwesterly corner of said Lot 40; Thence South 88 degrees 35' 30" West fifty and eighty-eight hundredths (50.88) feet by said Lot 42 to an iron pipe on the southeasterly line of Chestnut Avenue, it being the most westerly corner of Lot 42; Thence South 21 degrees 59' West one hundred fourteen and forty hundredths (114.40) feet by the southerly line of Chestnut Avenue to the point of beginning. Containing 7,727 square feet of land, more or less, according to said plan. For Title reference see Deed recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 18312, Page 192.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall

control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANDO PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
16-003326
January 10, 2020
January 17, 2020
January 24, 2020

(SEAL)

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Worcester, SS**

**Case No. 19 SM 000326 (GHP)
Cherolyn J Cariglio
VS.
John W Maher, et, al**

TO: John W. Maher, deceased, formerly of Auburn, Worcester County and said Commonwealth, Margaret A. Maher, deceased, formerly of Millbury, Worcester County and said Commonwealth, or their heirs, devisees, or legal representatives

You are hereby notified that a complaint has been filed by the above named plaintiffs in which you are named as an interested party. This complaint concerns a certain parcel of land in Auburn, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth being a portion of the property known as and numbered 17 Meadow Street and being more particularly shown as a 209 foot long strip of land situated between Parcel 1, Parcel 2 and Parcel 3 as depicted on an engineer drawing attached to said complaint as Exhibit 1, plaintiff seeks a judgment that she holds her title to said parcel free from any claims of the defendants, the plaintiff having estab-

lished her title by adverse possession and such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

This complaint may be examined at the Land Court, Boston, Massachusetts, or a copy obtained from plaintiffs' attorney.

If you intend to make any defense, you are hereby required to serve upon the plaintiffs' attorney, Paul J. Pellegrino, Esq., Pellegrino & Associates, LLC, whose address is 26 Meena Drive, Worcester, MA 01603 an answer to the complaint on or before the twenty-fourth day of February, next, the return day, hereof, and a copy thereof must be filed in this court on or before said day.

If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13(a), your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which you may have against the plaintiffs which arise out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the plaintiffs' claim or you will thereafter be barred from making such claim in any other action. It is ORDERED that notice be given by publishing a copy of this notice once in the Auburn News, a newspaper published in Auburn in the county of Worcester and said Commonwealth at least thirty days before the twenty-fourth day of February.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice, of the Land Court, the third day of January, 2020.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
January 24, 2020

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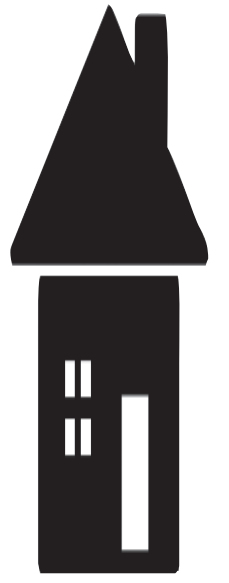
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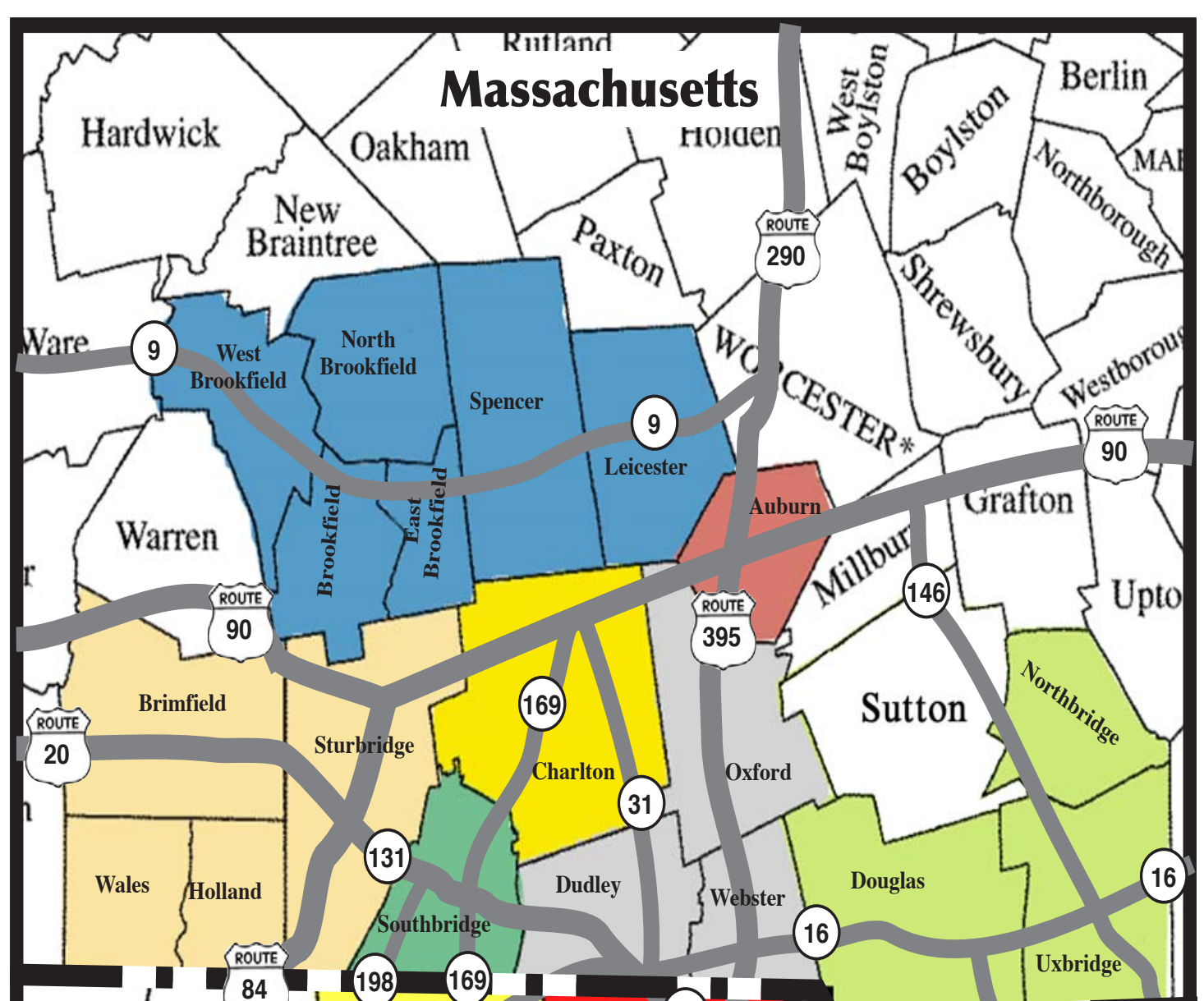
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OPINION/COMMENTARY



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Where does competitiveness come from?

With the match-up for Super Bowl LIV now decided, the mounting anticipation for kickoff between Patrick Mahomes’ Kansas City Chiefs and Jimmy Garoppolo’s 49’ers has had us wondering why fans in any sporting event are so fixated on getting the win. Why are humans so blisteringly competitive?

Granted, competition is fun in regards to sports and shouldn’t be taken so seriously; however, things get quite serious when millions of dollars are at stake.

Human beings are not just competitive athletically, but in their careers as well. Why are we always trying to keep up with the Joneses? Is this a genetic trait or has our society created it?

In an attempt to be the best, an individual or a team only has to beat out their closest competitor, but for what gain? Money and social status. In the case where hard work pays off, it is only natural to feel self pride, and we think that is OK.

A study conducted in 1974 by economist Richard Easterlin discovered that as countries become wealthier, its citizens do not find more happiness or more riches. Easterlin found that happiness was based on an individual’s wealth in comparison to others. Here in America, being competitive in the classroom as well as on the playing field has become a part of who we are and how we operate as a society. Experts say this could have been born because of our capitalist-driven society due to a limited amount of available resources.

The famous Charles Darwin explained the concept of the ‘survival of the fittest’ in “The Origin of Species.” Darwin felt that proficiency in one’s natural surroundings dictates a person’s success. Co- operation and dependence on others were tactics Darwin also attributed to an individual’s triumphs.

We’re all competitive in our own way, and this is a good thing in that it can improve any given situation. Competition drives our passions and motivates us. When we observe what others are doing and how they’re doing it, it can help us learn the ways in which we can become more efficient, smarter, wealthier, happier. Comparing yourself to another person is only OK if you can benefit from it. There are different styles of competitiveness, such as long- range competition or fast competition. When you find your style, your ability to excel will increase.

When we’re competitive, dopamine circulates in our prefrontal cortex. This is the portion of the brain that handles thinking, adaptation, memory, rule-changing and high-level planning. In her book, “Top Dog: The Science of Winning and Losing,” author Ashley Merryman explains the difference between a ‘worrier’ and a ‘warrior’ thusly: “Warriers have higher levels of dopamine, but in moments of stress, their brains get overloaded with it. Warriors, on average, don’t have enough dopamine, and they are thus more lethargic and don’t pay attention. But moments of stress and pressure bring dopamine to optimum levels in their brains, so they may need stress and pressure to perform their best.”

While there may be biological imperatives that drive us to compete, however, we should also remember that as reasoning beings, we have the ability to keep that competitiveness friendly and orderly. A little good natured trash talk before the big game can be fun, but when people surrender to their baser instincts and resort to violence and destruction of property in the wake of a win or a loss, as we saw in the streets of Philadelphia Sunday night, we need to stop and ask ourselves when competition crosses the line.

I’m a lumberjack and I’m okay ...

There are many things I enjoy in life. I’m a drummer and love to play music. I’m a fan of Drum Corps International and love keeping up with The Cavaliers, the corps I marched with in my teens. I love writing and I love splitting firewood. Surprised? Like the title says, I’m a lumberjack and I’m okay.

Monty Python fans will immediately recognize the title of this column as also the title of one of Monty Python’s most famous and enduring bits. At the time, it was very politically incorrect. Today, it seems quite in line with current sentiments. Go to YouTube and search, “Monty Python Lumberjack song” and you will see what I mean. Regardless, I am not that kind of lumberjack.

There is something about going out into the woods and cutting lumber. We don’t cut down trees but find fallen trees and chain saw them into sixteen-inch sections then split them into firewood. I cannot describe the enjoyment. We always split a few by hand, but quickly turn to a motorized splitter.

My friend Jeff, a local restaurateur, a former collegiate athlete is the strongest guy I know. He hooked me on splitting wood. When he picks up an ax, the wood trembles in fear and often splits itself. Me? The wood giggles behind my back and mocks me when I pick up my ax.

2019 was a tough year for me. I have pushed through a few serious and quite unexpected health problems and am facing a couple of surgeries. One of them is this week on Monday. Jeff called my wife yesterday and asked her if he could come by Sunday and cut wood. He says he needs wood, but I know it is his way of helping me keep my mind off the surgery the following day. I’m grateful for his hidden act of kindness. Jeff knows that I love being in the woods. It clears my head.

So, I put on my boots and red plaid shirt, pick up my ax and walk out of the garage. There is something that feels so manly about it. The only thing that rivals the feeling is picking up a baseball bat and walking to the plate. They are both incredible feelings. The truth is I was not a good hitter and probably a worse lumberjack, but that’s okay. I enjoy it anyway.

Last winter, I decided to split some wood. I put on my lumberjack clothes,

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

By GARY W. MOORE

picked up the ax (in this case called a rail-splitter) and walked out the door. Suddenly two women began screaming! They were lost and turned into my driveway. I live out on forty acres. When I walked out of the garage with an ax, they thought I was coming for them. Once I calmed them down, they told me they were from the city and had never seen a man with a real ax before and asked if they could take my picture. My testosterone began to flow. They both got out of the car and took turns posing with me. They then asked if they could film me splitting a log. Proudly, I set up the log, pulled my ax over my head ... and with a mighty swing ... I missed the log completely and drove my ax into the dirt. Once again, I heard the muffled giggles of the log and now my visitors joined in. Oh well, it was all fun and games until I missed the log. I, unfortunately, revealed myself as only a lumberjack wannabe.

So ... as for my surgeries, no problem. The human body has five feet of colon. I won’t miss the three feet they are removing. Maybe the missing parts will readjust my center of gravity and make me better with both my bat and my ax ... or maybe not. All I know is after the colon I have one more final surgery then I can pick up my ax and improve my aim. It’s my goal to never miss the log again.

Some guys enjoy golf and they don’t understand why I don’t. To each his own. All I know for sure is, if there is ever a contest between a man in plaid knickers holding a putter and a man in a plaid shirt holding an ax, I’m betting on the man with the ax every time.

I guess that splitting wood for me is not about doing but about being. I can buy a load of wood and save myself the trouble. It’s not about doing the work but about being in the nature and being with a friend. I’ll go into this surgery with the heart and attitude of a rail splitter, even if I don’t have the aim.

I’m a lumberjack and I’m okay.

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.

Praising the Virtues of Popcorn

Did you know National Popcorn Day was celebrated last week? Neither did I, thus the belated column to celebrate the pleasures of popcorn!

Whether popped in a kettle on the stove, zapped in the microwave, or pre popped in bags, on average, each of us consume almost 70 quarts of popcorn each year! And it’s no wonder America has a love affair with the native treat, after all, it’s economical, easy to cook, high in fiber and low calorie (sans the butter).

Read on for some popcorn trivia, popping tips and even a recipe spotlighting the wholesome, economical grain.

Perfect Popcorn: Want to make positively perfect popcorn? Here’s how: Heat a heavy pot on the stove, and then add oil to cover the bottom of the pan. The best temperature for popping is between 400 and 460 degrees, but oil burns at 500 degrees so be careful. Test the oil by dropping in a couple of kernels, if they pop, the temperature is right. Pour in just enough kernels to cover the bottom of the pan. Cover the pan loosely to allow a bit of steam to escape during popping. Shake the pan well and remove pan when pan fills up and popping slows considerably. Enjoy!

Keep Cool: It’s important to store popcorn correctly. Kernels left uncovered on a hot day can zap the moisture and render them unpoppable. Even a one percent drop in moisture will affect the quality of the kernels. For best quality, store kernels in a cool place.

While some advocate storing ernels in the refrigerator, the fridge contains little moisture and can actually dry out the kernels. For best results, use kernels within 18 months of purchase.

Water the Corn: If your popped corn is small or hully, it may be low on moisture. You can try to rehydrate the kernels by pouring them into a sealed



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

jar with a tablespoon of water. Shake the jar a few times and in a day or so, the kernels should be up to par for popping.

Stall Salting: Did you know salting kernels toughens popcorn? Never add salt to the pan before The corn has popped. Always add it to the popped corn.

Fine Finish: Finely ground salt sticks to the popcorn better than table salt. For a terrific taste, grind kosher salt to a fine consistency. Or pound kosher salt in a ziplock bag with a rolling pin.

Tender Treat: Did you know chewy popcorn is often caused by leaving the lid on tight while cooking? For tender corn, make sure the lid is slightly ajar.

Peeking: Pop corn in a pan with a clear lid so you can watch the action. It also helps you gauge when the popcorn is done.

FYI: Native American legend has it that spirits lived inside each kernel of popcorn. Some tribes believed when the corn was heated, the disturbed spirits burst out of the kernel in a fit of anger.

In fact, it is said Native Americans brought popped corn to the first Thanksgiving. Back then, popcorn, which was cooked over the fire, was commonly eaten right of the cob. Natives in the Americas were creative in their popcorn use, preparing such treats as popcorn beer and popcorn soup. Once the colonists were introduced to the mysterious, fluffy food, they included it in their daily diet, even enjoying it in a bowl with cream for breakfast!

Business owners: Plan for next phase of life



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

As a business owner, you’re always thinking of what you need to do now. But you can’t forget about the future – yours and that of your business. So it may be a good idea to consider your personal retirement plan and business succession strategy.

Let’s start by looking at a few retirement plan possibilities:

Solo 401(k) – This plan, which is also known as an Owner-only 401(k), is available to self-employed individuals and business owners with no full-time employees other than themselves or a spouse. A Solo 401(k) offers many of the same advantages of a traditional 401(k): a range of investment options, tax-deductible contributions and the opportunity for tax-deferred earnings growth. You may even be able to choose a Roth option, which allows you to make after-tax contributions that can grow tax-free. Your Solo 401(k) contributions consist of two parts: salary deferral and profit sharing. In 2020, you can defer up to \$19,500 of income, or \$26,000 if you’re 50 or older. Your profit-sharing contribution is based on your earnings. The sum of your salary deferral and profit sharing can’t exceed \$57,000 (or \$63,500 if you’re 50 or older). If your spouse is employed by your business, you each can contribute the maximum amount allowed.

SEP IRA – If you have just a few employees or are self-employed with no employees, you may want to think about a SEP IRA. You’ll fund the plan with tax-deductible contributions, and you must cover all eligible employees. (Employees themselves cannot contribute.) You can generally contribute up to 25 percent of compensation, up to \$57,000 annually. And you can fund your SEP IRA with virtually any type of investment.

Solo defined benefit plan – Not many businesses still offer pension plans, also known as defined benefit plans, but you can set one up for yourself if you’re self-employed or own your own business. This plan has high contribution limits, which are determined by an actuarial calculation, and your contributions are typically tax-deductible.

A financial professional can help you choose the appropriate retirement plan. But you’ll still need to think about succession planning. Of course, you can always sell your business outright at any time you like. Or you could leave your business to your children in your will, but if you give it to them gradually during your lifetime, you can become more confident they’ll be able to manage the business on their own.

Another alternative might be to transfer the business with a buy-sell agreement, which allows you to determine when, to whom, and at what price you can sell it. Because you can establish the purchase price as your business’s taxable value, a buy-sell agreement is useful in estate planning. If you want to keep the business in your family, you might want to consider funding the buy-sell agreement with life insurance, so family members can use the death benefit proceeds to buy your ownership stake.

In any case, given the complexities and tax issues involved with succession planning, you’ll need to consult with your legal and tax advisors when creating a strategy. But don’t wait too long. You can’t predict the future, but by planning ahead, you can help achieve the outcomes you desire.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

DON'T MISS A BEAT

CHECK OUT THE SPORTS ACTION!



Remembering the founders of your Fish & Game Club



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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RALPH
TRUE

The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club held their annual Founders Day celebration with a Prime Rib dinner this past Saturday at their headquarters on White Court in Douglas! The large gathering of sportsmen & women held their annual banquet to recognize all of the past and future members and officers of the organization, which was incorporated back in the 1950's. The original site of the Whitinsville Club was located in Whitinsville on the shores of Meadow Pond on Main Street. At that time, some of the officers and members of the club included Robert Campo, Dick Bosma, Horace Bassett, Jack Cunningham, Bob Blackley, Fran Magowan, Pete opperwall, William Todd, and this writer, to mention a few. Their trout pond was located at Riley's pond on Castle Hill Road for many years. The pavilion that was built some years later was dedicated to the late Richard Bosma, for all of his years of service to the club.

The club was known for their great Ham & Bean suppers and their coon & ham suppers back in the day. Selling tickets to a ham and coon supper today

would not have a very large turnout, but back in the day, coon hunting was very popular among many hunters, and all of the meat was donated to the club. It was delicious. Murray Andrews, David Greno and their band of coon hunters hunted racoon a few times a week during the fall hunting season. At that time, the group of hunters harvested a few hundred racoon annually with the help of their expensive and well trained hounds.

The Blackstone Fish & Game Club was disbanding their club some years later, and joined forces with the Whitinsville Club. They brought along their savings, and with the help of all the members from both clubs, built a state of the art clubhouse that serves as the club's headquarters today.

Because there were so many sportsmen that owned Beagles back in the day, a group of rabbit hunters decided to start a club that is still in existence today called the Blackstone Valley Beagle Club. The club was organized as an affiliate of the Whitinsville Club, but later separated from the club and had their headquarters at the site of the WFGC today. Fortunately, Jack Cunningham of Douglas convinced the WFGC to purchase the property for taxes which included 80-plus acres of land. Jack also convinced the Beagle Club to purchase another large track of land in Douglas Mass. for taxes although it was landlocked. Only a few thousand dollars was paid for each



parcel of land.

Many club members thought he was foolish, but after many club meetings on the property, he convinced the club to make the purchase. After a right of way was established through the court system, Percy Giou Construction was hired to build a road to the property. It took a few years to complete, but when finished the club started to build the

clubhouse. The road to the club was dedicated to the late Jack Cunningham, and is now known as Cunningham Way.

The bottom line is that sportsmen saw an opportunity to purchase land for a cheap price and seized the opportunity back in the day. It would be almost impossible to buy and build Rod & Gun Clubs today. Whitinsville Fish & Game Club along with other

local clubs like Singletary Rod & Gun, Uxbridge Rod & Gun, Wallum Lake Rod & Gun, 200 Sportsmen's Club, to mention a few, were built on the backs of generations of sportsmen, and would not be here today if they did not take the opportunity to purchase and build ranges, clubhouse, ponds, etc.!

The next time you are out hunting on club property or using the ranges or just relaxing fishing at the club pond, take the time to remember those responsible for your club. You can help by keeping your club free of litter and signing up for work parties when needed. Enjoy!

This week's picture shows recently elected president Matt Burbank with a couple of the newly elected Board Of Directors, with the new sign that was painted by Sarah Marohn. Great job. Special thanks to Rick Cahn and his committee for putting on a great meal.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club's ice derby may not be held this week if ice conditions do not improve. Call the club for updates.

The Firearms, Knife show & sale will be held at the Marlboro Royal Plaza Trade Center this weekend Jan. 25-26.

The New England Fishing Expo will be held at Boxboro Regency also this Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Check it out on their Web site.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

BAY PATH

continued from page 1

raisers for the academic year.

"The instructions were to take a baby bottle home, fill it with your loose change, your dollar bills, or a check if you want, and bring it back to the UNICEF Officers," continued Bolandrina. "In the end, the Baby Bottle Drive brought in close to \$80 and making UNICEF Club's total close to \$500

to date."

All donations are remitted to UNICEF USA towards works for survival, protection and development of children worldwide.

"We want the activities of the UNICEF Club to inspire others to take action," said Bolandrina. "I am in awe and inspired by the UNICEF Club's education, advocacy, and fundraising efforts."

HALL

continued from page 1

are approaching their fortieth wedding anniversary, have two children - one passed away at age twenty-eight, and have five grandchildren.

Steven Hall says, "It all started with a Toastmasters speech I gave on the rules of a relationship. It was a big hit with other Toastmasters so after some encouragement, we decided to write this book to help others with their relationships."

What makes this book special is the down-to-earth, real-life relationship advice, infused with the Hall's humor. It seems that often you meet or hear about so-called (credentialed) experts who are divorced or on their second or third marriage.

"Being well educated ourselves, we understand the value of higher education, but valuable, real-world education," says Hall.

Locally, the Halls have teamed up with Simple Indulgence Day Spa at their Publick House location, 277 Main St., Sturbridge, for a Thursday evening, Feb. 6 5-7:30 p.m. book signing and Spa open house. Valentine's Day gift packages and books will be available for that special someone in your life, or for couples to enjoy together.

For more information, you can call Simple Indulgence Day Spa at 508-347-5505 or the Hall's at 508-344-5980.

Janet C Hall is a registered nurse and healthcare executive and is highly respected in her industry and responsible for the development of many healthcare-related policies. Steven R Hall is a healthcare executive, inventor, voice actor, and award-winning speaker who has been credited with helping to develop a groundbreaking healthcare management program and two healthcare safety devices.

TRAINOR

continued from page A8

Do you ever wonder exactly what causes the corn kernels to burst? Each kernel contains a small drop of water stored inside a circle of soft starch. The starch is surrounded by the hard outer surface of the kernel. As each kernel heats up, the water expands and pressure builds against the hard starch. Eventually it gives way, causing the popcorn to explode. In order for popcorn to erupt

soft and fluffy, it should have a moisture content of about 14 percent. Any less and you will end up with half popped kernels and a pan full of "old maids."

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 renown restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

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Friday's Child



Makaila
Age 16

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

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

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

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

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

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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



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

www.StonebridgePress.com

SPORTS

Auburn defeats Leominster, grabs important two points in process

AUBURN — Fighting to get back to .500 and on pace to qualify for the Central Mass. Division 3 Tournament, the Auburn High boys’ varsity ice hockey team hosted Leominster High at the Horgan Arena in a crucial contest on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

And the Rockets did just that, defeating the Blue Devils 3-1 to improve to an even 4-4-1.

Auburn, which includes student-athletes from Millbury High, Tantasqua Regional and Shepherd Hill Regional as part of its cooperative agreement, fell behind 1-0 on a first-period goal by Leominster’s Jeremy Maillet. But

it would be the only goal allowed by Rockets’ goalie Tyler MacKoul.

Auburn then rallied with a pair of second-period goals in a 1 minute, 7 second timespan. First, with 5 minutes to play in the period, Nic Spanos scored a power-play goal, with Dominic DiPadua recording the assist. Then, with 3:53 to go in the second, the Rockets recorded another power play goal, this one off the stick of Hakim Kagni. DiPadua had the assist again.

Auburn put the game away with 1:06 remaining in the third period when Joel Miller scored, with Matt Schirm assisting.



Photos courtesy Mark Seliger, www.SeligerPhotography.com
Matt Schirm of Auburn controls the puck while a Leominster defender reaches in.



Auburn celebrates a goal on its way to defeating Leominster last Wednesday, Jan. 15.



Auburn’s Caleb Bartlett skates around a Leominster defender while possessing the puck.



Goalie Tyler MacKoul of Auburn dips into the butterfly position to make a save versus Leominster.



Auburn’s Dillon Winkelmann dumps the puck into Leominster’s zone.



Joel Miller of Auburn skates after a loose puck.



Auburn’s Hakim Kagni skates the puck down the ice and into Leominster’s zone.

“Every Town Deserves a Good Local Newspaper”

SPORTS

Pieczynski's offense, zone defense enough for Tantasqua to get past Rockets



Amid pressure from the Tantasqua defense, Auburn's Josh Adams flings the ball out of harm's way.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Will Pieczynski scored a game-high 16 points to lead the Tantasqua Regional boys' varsity basketball team to a come-from-behind 48-29 victory over Auburn High on Friday, Jan. 17.

With the win, their second straight and fifth in the last six games, the Warriors improved to 6-2 overall and 5-0 in Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) play. With the loss Auburn fell to 4-7 overall and 2-7 in the SWCL.

Pieczynski, a 6-foot-3 junior forward, scored his points on six field goals — including a pair of 3-pointers — and two free throws. Pieczynski provided Tantasqua head coach Scott Dion the spark he was looking for, doing all his scoring after Auburn took its only lead of the game, 20-19, on a layup by senior Cam Bolduc with 6:17 remaining in the third quarter.

“As a coach you love when

a kid responds to adversity. In our last game [a 54-49 win at Oxford on Tuesday, Jan. 14] Will didn't play a lot. He played in the first half but didn't play in the second half. It was a coach's decision,” Dion said. “I talked to him in practice the following day, told him he was going to get his chance but [Tuesday] night it was just how I saw things. Tonight's performance was how he responded. That's wonderful for these kids, it's a great life lesson.

“I can't imagine he was happy with his lack of minutes on Tuesday, but we talked on Wednesday and he was here [Thursday] with a smile on his face, had a good practice, got his chance today and everybody here saw what he did for us in that second half,” Dion continued. “That's what coaching's about; that's why we do what we do for a living. We teach these guys just because something didn't go your way one night doesn't mean it's not

going to go your way the next night. In life everything doesn't go your way. I'm super happy for him.”

The fact that the Rockets grabbed even a brief lead was somewhat surprising given Tantasqua led 11-1 after the first quarter. Auburn rallied in the second period, however, thanks to six points from senior Josh Adams — on two 3-pointers — and five from classmate Coleman Picard and trailed by just three, 19-16, at halftime.

The Rockets then scored the first two baskets of the third quarter, the first by senior Justin Skaparas (a team-high 8 points), the second by Bolduc.

“We spotted them 10 points and it's a tough environment to play in, but we competed, and we fought back, and we were in the game,” Rockets' head coach Dan Koen said. “We made some adjustments and we were gaining momentum and then they went to that zone defense and we just couldn't figure that out.”

Tantasqua trailed for just 27 seconds, taking the lead for good, 21-20, on a steal and layup by senior captain Troy Lee (8 points). The Warriors finished the third quarter on a 15-4 run to lead by 10 at 34-24 as play headed to the fourth and final frame. Pieczynski scored 10 points and drained both of this 3-pointers in the run.

Tantasqua put the game away in the first 2:20 of the final period, scoring eight straight points, the final one on a free throw by Pieczynski, to lead 42-24 with 5:40 remaining.

“Once Auburn took the lead we put the press on and switched out of our man-to-man defense into our zone defense and that got them out of what they wanted to do,” Dion said. “Auburn is a team that is very well-coached and when you play man-to-man there are a million sets that a team can run against you.

“Auburn is a very good set team. And, in each set they find their players and they've got good players,” Dion continued. “When you play zone, it makes the other team's offense become much more stationary and it allows the defense to be aware of where the shooters are. They're going to get some shots off, and they did, but our height and length can contest a lot of those shots.”

Koen said Tantasqua's zone defense is what did the Rockets in.

“We haven't seen that combination of speed and size, defensively, all year. Their defense



Auburn's Justin Skaparas holds off Tantasqua defender Joe Groccia while possessing the ball.



Auburn's Mike Breen looks to make a driving move past Tantasqua's Joe Groccia.

is tough to replicate in practice because we don't have anybody that tall or that long,” Koen said. “I was proud of our effort and our execution versus their man defense. They're a tough team defensively and you've got to hit shots. I explained to the kids that some of the

open shots that we get against other teams we're not going to get against Tantasqua. Against Tantasqua the window to get your shot off is just a little crack; a sliver really.”



Coleman Picard of Auburn sends a long pass down the court to teammate Cam Bolduc.



Cam Bolduc of Auburn gets ahead of Tantasqua's defense and attempts a shot.

Nick Ethier photos

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 23

WORCESTER MODEL RAILROADERS INC. ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE: 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Auburn Elks Club, 754 Southbridge St. (Route 12), Auburn. Admission \$5, children under 12 free. Handicapped Accessible. Info: Ralph Kimball, 508-868-5189, ralph-kimball@charter.net and www.wmrr.org. The show has approximately 25 model railroad dealers offering items for sale as well as HO scale, operating layouts available for viewing. Raffle tickets for a complete 4'x8' model railroad layout (on display) will be available at the show. Hourly raffle will also be held. The 41-foot-by-53-foot Worcester Model Railroad Club layout will be open and operating using Digital Command Control and is only 15 minutes from the show in Webster. For directions, go to www.wmrr.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

12 STEP PROGRAM: Christian 12 Step Program for Men and Women 7-8:15 p.m. every Tuesday at Faith Baptist Church, 22 Faith Ave, Auburn. Do you feel your life/relationships/habits are spinning out of control? A Christian 12 Step Program is the key to Christ and life providing abundance, blessing and grace. Come as you are or contact (508) 832-5044 x 155 for information.

SUICIDE PREVENTION: Attempted Suicide Prevention Group. Held each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at St Bernard's Church, 236 Lincoln St., Worcester Gym Entrance Side, second floor meet-

ing room. Parking & T services. Weekly facilitator, inspirational speaker, founder Dan Pelly, two time attempted suicide survivor. Your life matters, never give up. No charge. More info at (617) 592-5081.

STORY TIME: Have a little one in the house? Looking to get out and do something? The Auburn Public Library may have just the thing for you. Mother Goose Story time is for children ages 6-15 months. It's a great place for children and their grownups to listen to stories, share nursery rhymes and have time to connect with others during musical free play. Mother Goose Story Time is held Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Please stop by and join us. For information, you call the library at (508) 832-7790.

MUSEUM HOURS: The Auburn Historical Museum, 41 South St. is open Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon, and Saturday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Admission is free to see a variety of artifacts and memorabilia concerning Auburn as far back as when it was known as the town of Ward. All are welcome to come. For more information contact Sari Bitticks at sarilb@verizon.net.

NEW GROUP FORMING: If you're separated or divorced, you don't have to go through it alone. DivorceCare meets weekly, you'll receive practical support and find healing and hope for the future in a friendly, confidential setting. We meet Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m., beginning Feb. 1 at Faith Church, 22 Faith Ave., Auburn. Call (508) 832-5044 or email divorcecare@faithauburn.org for more information.

NUMISMATICS: Looking for a new

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

STORY TIME: Open Story Time will be held 4:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Auburn Public Library. No registration required. Please drop in. Open to all ages. For information, call (508) 832-7790.

BOYS' GROUP: Chuck wants boys in the 6th through 10th grades to join The Man Cave. The Man Cave is a boys' group that meets from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Thursdays at the AYFS, 21 Pheasant Court, Auburn. This is where members will learn that peers their own age share similar concerns. Group members will be able to discuss ways to cope with their concerns as well as receive positive feedback. Each week will center around a particular topic for discussion. No cost to join. For information, call Brandon Pare (508) 832-5707 x 16 or Dan Secor (508) 832-5707 x 14. Free food available.

PUMPKINS, GET YOUR PUMPKINS HERE!: The Pumpkin Patch at the First Congregational Church, 128 Central Street, Auburn will be open daily 10 a.m. (11 a.m. on Sundays) 'til dusk Sept. 28 through Oct. 31. There will be gourds and pumpkins of all sizes and prices – one for every need; be it for your fall decor, carving, baking – you name it! Taking in the beautiful sight of the pumpkins, in combination with the changing leaves and the backdrop of the church steeple – makes it worth the trip! If you have any questions, feel free to call the church office at 508-832-2845. See you there! Where do these pumpkins come from? The pumpkins are raised and harvested by the Navajo Indians on their reservation in New Mexico. The money they receive helps their schools and other programs and a percentage of the sales helps our church as well.

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

TRIPS

continued from page A5

Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association. Contact Jim Julian at the Casaubon senior center Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 AM or call 774 922 4049, or e-mail me jimtrips@yahoo.com

UNION SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE CHAPTER 12

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

UXBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER

All trips leave from the Whitinsville Walmart and the Stop & Shop at 32 Lyman St, Westboro. Make sure to include entree choice, phone # (esp. cell) and an emergency # when sending payment. "Like" us on Facebook!The Silver Club and

The Uxbridge Senior Center. Please call Sue at (508) 476-5820 for more information.

The Silver Club BUS TRIPS for 2020
Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information.

The Uxbridge Senior Center is offering the following bus trips for 2020.

April 16, 2020 - Magic Wings Butterfly Gardens and Yankee Candle with lunch at the Golden Corral w/Fox Tours - \$71.
April 27-29 Penn Dutch w/the new show Queen Esther at Sight and Sound -- (trip is full, sign up for the waiting list)- \$459.
May 4 -- Granite State Chocolate and Wine Tour with lunch at Warren's Lobster

House - Fox Tours - \$91.
May 9 - Albany Tulip Festival w/Conway Tours -\$115.
June 1 - Plymouth cruise on Pilgrim Belle with sightseeing tour and lunch at Hearth and Kettle - Fox Tours - \$91
June 26 - July 3 -- Atlantic Canada w/Conway Tours -- International Tattoo, ferry crossing, Hopewell Rocks, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, St. John, New Brunswick - 3 seats left - \$1899.
Aug. 30 - 31 - Saratoga Racetrack w/Conway Tours - enjoy a race at Saratoga, a tour of the town, a tour of Haven Oaks Horse Farm, and drive up Prospect Mountain - \$329.
Sept. 16 -18 - The Hamptons w/Conway. Three day trip w/4 meals, guided tour of

the "Rich and Famous," winery, ferry crossing, Old Westbury Estate & Gardens, Montauk Point Lighthouse, Sag harbor, etc. - \$579.
Oct. 6 -- Green Mt. Railroad w/Fox Tours -- \$101.
Nov. 19 -- Newport Playhouse w/Fox Tours - \$101.
Dec. 7 & 8 -- Equinox Resort and Hildene, VT w/Conway Tours. Two day trip with elegant dinner & piano entertainment, breakfast, tour of Hildene, chocolate tasting, etc. \$379.

Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information or to be put on the emailing list.



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

the deadline is Friday noon for the following week.

(Memoriams will run on the Obituary pages)

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

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

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

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





Send all obituary notices to


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Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail

to Obits@stonebridgepress.news

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“Bee” Thankful for Pollinators



(NAPS)
When you gather with family or friends around the table this holiday season, consider just how much pollinators contribute to your favorite dishes. Whether you’re recreating your grandmother’s famous pumpkin pie or forging new traditions in the kitchen, honey bees and butterflies are essential to the bountiful harvests that fill tables and spread cheer. As you dig into your favorite holiday dishes, take a moment to “bee” thankful for pollinators and the nuts, fruits and vegetables that depend on them to grow.
Refreshments
Many go-to holiday drinks would be lost without pollina-

tion. You can thank pollinators for pumpkin spiced lattes and hot apple cider. Nutmeg—the secret ingredient in eggnog—also grows thanks to pollinators. Even some plants that are self-pollinating, such as peaches, rely on pollinators to grow. If you’re looking to try something new, consider adding peach puree to your champagne for festive Bellinis.
The Main Course
Pollinators help make your table more “green” in every way, whether you’re dining on brussels sprouts or a green bean and onion casserole. Whether your turkey comes with “stuffing” or “dressing,” it will go well with cranberries—one of many fruits reli-

ant on pollinators.
Dessert
Contemplate the importance of pollinators over a slice of pumpkin, cherry, blueberry or blackberry pie. Along with the vanilla you may add to the pie filling, these can be added to the list of plants requiring pollinators’ services.
Feed a Bee
Honey bees and other pollinators play a significant role in pollinating many fruits and vegetables we eat each day, so it’s imperative we help feed them, too. Feed a Bee, an initiative of the Bayer North American Bee Care Program, increases pollinator food and habitat by supporting local groups who plant wildflow-

ers in their own communities across the U.S. To date, Feed a Bee has supported nearly 180 organizations in all 50 states by providing more than \$700,000 in funding to create or expand pollinator gardens.
What You Can Do
Anyone can play a role in supporting pollinators. For one thing, you can educate friends and family about the important role of pollination in many foods they eat. For another, you can bring the bees to your yard by planting:
• Lavender
• Coneflower
• Rosemary
• Sunflower
• Sage
• Lamb’s ears

• Catnip
• Bells of Phacelia
• Redbud
• Black-eyed Susan
• Aster
• Oregano
• Verbena
• Yarrow
Learn More
For further facts about bees and how you can support pollinator health, visit www.FeedABee.com.
The cranberries in your cranberry sauce—and many other fruits and vegetables... owe their continued existence to pollinators such as honey bees.

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

<p>SUNDAY, JANUARY 26</p> <p>RAFFLE BIG MEAT RAFFLE Spencer Fish & Game Club 2pm. Tickets \$1.00 6 Tables of all different kinds of meat Door Prize. Food & beverages for sale. 155 Mechanic Street, Spencer, MA 01562</p> <p>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2</p> <p>44TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL FISHING DERBY West Brookfield Boy Scout TROOP 118 Lake Wickaboag Public Boat Ramp, West Brookfield 7:30am-3:00pm. Trophies, Door Prizes. Tickets \$1 by Scouts or at derby In remembrance of Mark Cook, Peter Coulthard, J. Irving England, Michael Higgins, and Dick Shepardson (No ice date February 16)</p> <p>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8</p> <p>“THE LAKE IN WINTER” EVENT. 2:30: Ken Ethier: Presentation on Ice harvesting. East Brookfield Town Hall 3:30: Bonfire, Music, Skating and S’mores with DJ and concessions. Lake Lashaway Town Beach FREE -snacks for sale</p> <p>SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9</p> <p>6AM - 2PM FISHING DERBY - Details to come! See Facebook @EB100th or tinyurl.com/EB100th!</p> <p>Open House</p> <p>SATURDAY, MARCH 14</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE at Hodgkins Building (Museum/RR/Art Guild/ Boy Scouts) 108 School Street FREE 1:00-3:00</p> <p>TUESDAY, MARCH 24</p> <p>RE-ENACTMENT of signing of town bill and unveiling of Anniversary Quilt Senior Center, Pleasant Street. 6:30pm FREE</p>	<p>SATURDAY, APRIL 4,</p> <p>ROARIN’ TWENTIES DANCE at Sturbridge Host Hotel \$35, 5:00pm Tickets @EventBrite.com or at the library</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 11,</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR) 108 School Street, East Brookfield 1:00-3:00. FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 18,</p> <p>HISTORICAL TALK - Ed Londergan - The First and Second Settlements East Brookfield Town Hall 9:30 FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 25</p> <p>TOWN WIDE CLEAN-UP DAY Meet at East Brookfield Town Hall 9:00</p> <p>SATURDAY, MAY 2,</p> <p>EAST BROOKFIELD NATURE WALKS at Pelletier Woods Howe Street, East Brookfield 2:00. FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, MAY 9,</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR). 108 School Street, East Brookfield. 1-2:00 FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, MAY 16,</p> <p>7K RUN AND FUN WALK Timberyard Brewery, East Brookfield 10:0am. \$30.00 adults, \$15.00 kids</p> <p>SATURDAY, MAY 30</p> <p>HISTORICAL TALK - Ed Londergan - Murder in the Brookfields (Spooners / Newton Murders) East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30. FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, JUNE 6</p> <p>HISTORY & DESSERT at Podunk Chapel, East Brookfield 2:00 & 3:30 seatings. \$5.00 pp</p> <p>FRIDAY, JUNE 12</p> <p>COAST GUARD BAND East Brookfield Elementary School, 7:00 FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, JUNE 13</p>	<p>OPEN HOUSE at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR) 108 School Street, East Brookfield 1:00-3:00. FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, JUNE 20,</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE at Camp Frank A. Day (archery, boating, basketball, mini golf, lunch) Rain Date: June 21. 125 South Pond Road, East Brookfield. 11:00-3:00. FREE</p> <p>MONDAY, JULY 6</p> <p>SUMMER READING KICK OFF - EB Library - continues for five weeks. East Brookfield Town Hall. FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY JULY 25</p> <p>HISTORICAL TALK - Heather Gablaski - East Brookfield: 100 Years a Town East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30. FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, JULY 11</p> <p>INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION Parade & Fireworks Connie Mack Field East Brookfield</p> <p>SATURDAY, AUGUST 8</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR) 108 School Street, East Brookfield, 1:00-3:00. FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12</p> <p>PARADE AND FAMILY FUN EVENT! Route 9, East Brookfield, 9:30 -7:00. FREE. Rain date Sept 13</p> <p>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR) 108 School Street, East Brookfield, 1:00-3:00. FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 3:30</p> <p>BUS AND CEMETERY TOUR, ending in dinner at Podunk Chapel. Meet at East Brookfield Town Hall. \$15-\$20.00 pp</p> <p>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7</p> <p>HISTORICAL TALK - Guy Morin- Central</p>	<p>Massachusetts during the Revolution East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30 FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR) 108 School Street, East Brookfield, 1:00-3:00. FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12</p> <p>HISTORICAL TALK - Ken and Tina Ethier - “Trolley Talk” East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30. FREE</p> <p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR) 108 School Street, East Brookfield, 1:00-3:00. FREE</p> <p>ONGOING</p> <p>MARIACHI BAND First Thursday of the month 5-8 p.m. MEXICALI MEXICAN GRILL Webster location 41 Worcester Rd., Webster, MA 508-461-5070</p> <p>TRIVIA SATURDAY NIGHTS 7:00 p.m. register 7:30 p.m. start up HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB 325 Pleasant St., Leicester, MA 508-892-9822</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY NIGHT HEXMARK TAVERN AT SALEM CROSS INN 260 West Main St., W. Brookfield, MA 508-867-2345 sailemcrossinn.com</p> <p>THE CENTRAL MA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED meets the first Monday of every month from September through May. We discuss a variety of conservation programs to improve the local cold water fisheries, local fishing opportunities. Our annual High School Fly Fishing Championship (open to all MA high school students) And our annual fund raising banquet. Auburn Sportsman’s Club 50 Elm St., Auburn, MA</p> <p>SUMMER CONCERT SERIES July/August every Thursday 6:00-8:00 Connie Mack Field East Brookfield. FREE - Food and Drinks for sale.</p>
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payments

0%
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until 2021!¹

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- With our special **Cold Weather Installation Method**, our team works room by room, window by window, so your exposure to the cold weather will be minimal.
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DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 2/8/2020. You must set your appointment by 1/31/2020 and purchase by 2/8/2020. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or patio door, get one (1) window or patio door 40% off, and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 12/29/2019 and 2/8/2020. 40% off windows and patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or patio door in the order. Additional \$50 off each window or patio door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 1/31/2020 and purchase by 2/8/2020. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky[®] consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.

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MILLBURY – WATERFRONT! Ramshorn Lake! 51 Davis Rd! Beautifully Landscaped & Private 1.22 Acres w/500' on the Water! One of Ramshorn's Premier Properties "Royledge"! Sprawling 3,117' French Country Villa w/Panoramic Water Views from this Perfect Peninsula! Ideal for Entertaining! Stonewalled Gated Entry, Long Private Drive to its Stately Appearance! Sprawling Stone & Slate 6+ Rm Masterpiece! Light Abounds! Cathedral & Tray Ceilings w/Skylights! Unique Country Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm! Frpld Great Rm! Lake Facing Spacious Master Suite w/Everything You'd Expect! 3 Comfortable Bdrms! 3 Full Bathrooms! C/Air! Garages – 1 & 2 Car Detached Garages! Reward Yourself! **\$999,000.00**



AUBURN – 16 Lorna Dr! 7 Rm Split Entry Ready for the Next Owner! Located on a Cul-de-sac! Many Recent Updates! Windows 2006! Roof 2010! Siding 2016! Water Heater, Garage Door & Opener 2017! Driveway & Deck 2018! Applianced Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tile Floor! Dining Rm! Spacious Liv Rm! Master Bdrm w/Hrdwds! 3 Comfortable Bdrms Total! Full Bath! Finished Lower Level Fireplace Fam Rm w/Custom Bar, Recessed Lighting & 2nd Bath! Screened-in Porch to a Private Yard w/New Pressure Treated Deck is Ready for Entertaining! Nicely Landscaped! 1 Car Garage! Shed! Ideal Commuter Location! **\$325,000.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 9 Pebble Beach Rd! Middle Pond – Winter Cove! Private Peninsula Protected from the Storm – Safe Harbor! Custom 3,179' 8 Rm Contemp Ready for Your Immediate Enjoyment! Grand Entry Foyer! Ideal Open Fir Plan w/Sky Lighted Cathedral Ceilings, Tall Windows & Hrdwd Flrs! Beautiful Applianced Custom Granite Kit w/Center Isl! Formal Din, Fireplace Liv Rm w/Water/Estuary Views! 1st Fir Laundry! Second Floor Master Suite, Ideal Full Bath, Huge Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms Total! 2 Full & 2 Half Baths! Walk-out Lower Level Fireplace Fam Rm! Buderus Oil Heat! C/Air! Oversized 2 Car Garage! **\$779,900.00**



OXFORD – 27 Rocky Hill Rd! Move Right Into this 6 Rm Ranch! Bright, Fresh Kitchen! Dining Rm! 20' Living Rm! 3 Comfortable Bdrms! Nice Bathrm! Deck w/Awning! All the Work has been Done! Roof, Siding, Windows, Insulation, Gas Furnace, Gas Hot Water Heater, AC, Front Porch Windows, Door, Living Rm Floor, Skylights, Kitchen, Bath & Dining Rm Floors! 2 Bdrms' Wall to Wall Carpeting & the Interior Freshly Painted 10/2019! Quick Closing Possible! **\$269,900.00**

WEBSTER – 27 N. Main St! 3 Family! 55/9 Rms! 3/4 Bedrooms! 1st Fir w/Eat-in! Liv Rm! 3 Bdrms! Updated Bathrm! 2nd Fir w/Kit w/Din Area! Liv Rm! 3 Bdrms! Updated Bath! 3rd Fir w/Eat-in! Kit! Liv Rm! Bdrm! Full Bath! Long Term Tenants! Sep Utilities! Vinyl Sided! Laundry Hook Ups! Freshly Painted Hallways! **\$249,900.00**

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

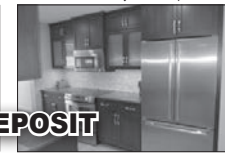
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CHARLTON – 105' WATERFRONT! Baker Pond! 63 Lincoln Pt Rd! East Facing = Fantastic Sunrises! Custom 9 Rm Colonial! Beautiful 1/2 Acre Lot w/Lawn to Water's Edge! 2 Story Foyer! Natural Woodwork! Open Fir Plan! Applianced Granite Kit w/Ls, Recessed Lights,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

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WEBSTER - 5 SURREY LN

BRAND NEW TO MARKET! FIRST TIME OFFERED!
Welcome Home! RARE FIND!! Gently Used 5 Bdrm Colonial, or 4 Bdrms & Game Room! This 24 x 28 3 Car Garage HAS HEAT! Radiant Heat in Floor, 8' High Garage Doors. Open Concept Kitchen, Dining & Living Room, Full bath, Beautiful Granite Counters w/Breakfast Room, Full Bath & Patio – Second Floor – 5 Over-sized Bdrms! Bath & Laundry Rm! Walk up Attic for storage! Bsmt is Plumbed & Wired for bath & Kitchenette!

\$409,000.

WEBSTER - 8 MAPLE ST



Updated 2 Family – Vinyl Siding – 1st Floor: 6 Rooms, 3 bedrooms, 1 Full Bath, open Kitchen. Fully Applianced. Washer & Dryer Included. New Carpeting, Hardwood Floors. 2nd Floor – Open Kitchen with Gorgeous Kitchen Cabinets – 6 Rooms, 3 Bed, 1 Full Bath Hardwood Floors. New carpeting. Each Apartment has 1,200+ sq ft plus. Oil Heat – 2 New Oil Tanks, Circuit Breakers. Off street parking. Town Water & Sewer, 3rd Story Unfinished. Great Commuter Location. **\$237,500**

WEBSTER - 17 PINWOOD DR



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

WEBSTER - 14 HIGHCREST #4



Ready to move in! 2 bedroom 1 & 1/2 bath condo. Large bedrooms with large full bath master bedroom private access. Skylight Hallway, extra large living area with separate dining! Access to private deck via sliders, fully applianced kitchen, loads of counter space, tons of storage. Full finished basement, brand new heat and a/c system. **\$134,900.**

POMFRET, CT - 280 RIVER RD



Cape gutted to the studs and remodeled, 3 Br, 1 bath; 1.7 acres. New kitchen cabinets w/granite counters and center island. New electrical/plumbing. Large Gambrel Post & Beam. 2 bay garage w/loft. New septic. **NEW PRICE \$244,900**

WEBSTER - 212 SCHOOL ST



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

WEBSTER - 3 STEFANIAK AVE.</



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MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE AT PUBLIC AUCTION

Monday, January 27, 2020

12:00 PM-DUDLEY
51 Old Southbridge Road
sgl fam, 1,728 sf liv area, 1.12 ac lot, 6 rm, 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, Worcester(Worc): Bk 30636, Pg 70

2:00 PM-DUDLEY
177 Dresser Hill Road
sgl fam, 1,779 sf liv area, 7.78 ac lot, 6 rm, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, Worcester(Worc): Bk 45942, Pg 14

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

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PENDING



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3 Bedroom, Ranch
Recently Remodeled

SOLD



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

PENDING



DUDLEY, MA - \$248,500
5 Fairview Ave
Under Priced, Needs Work

FEATURE PROPERTIES

PENDING



New Construction

WEBSTER, MA - \$288,900
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WEBSTER, MA - \$1100/mo
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ADDRESS	STYLE	TIME	PRICE	REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE
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AUTOMOTIVE

The basics of driving with trailers in tow

Active adults and busy families understand that one perk to owning a pickup truck or an SUV is the ability to tow items behind the vehicle. Many of these trucks already come equipped with trailer hitches that make it possible to tow boats, RVs, snowmobiles and more. But safe and successful towing requires knowledge of the basics of hitching a trailer and some special rules of the road. The following are a few safety tips for drivers unaccustomed to towing.

- Know your vehicle's tow weight capacity. The owner's manual will list the maximum weight a vehicle can tow safely, but this is just a simplified estimation of data. To tow successfully, it's important to know your vehicle's gross combined weight rating, or GCWR. This includes the vehicle itself, its passengers and cargo, as well as the trailer and the trailer's cargo. More passengers on board reduces the amount of weight you can pull. Another weight factor is the tongue weight, or how much of the trailer's weight rests on the hitch, which should be around 10 percent of the trailer's weight. This helps reduce trailer sway and can improve steering.

- Practice proper weight distribution. Distribute the weight of the item being towed to make towing smoother and safer. The cargo's center

of gravity should be low, and most of the weight should be toward the front. Weight on either side also should be even. These steps will help prevent the trailer from fishtailing or flipping over.

- Use the right hitch equipment. Adjust the hitch so that the trailer being towed is relatively level to your vehicle when attached. Connect lights to your trailer through the hitch system so that brake lights and other indicators work properly. Make sure the hitch ball is the right size for your trailer, otherwise the trailer might disconnect during towing. Use a pin and safety chains to keep the trailer secure.

- Check if extra brakes are required. Many states require a separate braking system on towed vehicles with a loaded weight in excess of 1,000 pounds. Newer trucks may have a built-in controller for brakes or you may need to have a system installed. Experts from Popular Mechanics advise using a trailer brake output system that matches the trailer brake output to the tow vehicle's deceleration.

- Slow down and drive more cautiously. A vehicle towing a trailer will not maneuver the same way as a vehicle without a trailer attached. Give yourself a greater cushion of space between other vehicles. It may take longer for you to brake because of the added weight.



Safely and successfully driving with a trailer takes practice and patience.

Get used to using side-view mirrors because the trailer may block your rearview. Larger, extended side-view mirrors may help you feel more comfortable and safe. Make wide turns so that the trailer will clear curbs and not tip over.

- Avoid backing up. Unless

you're experienced with driving large rigs, you may find reversing with a trailer very challenging. Limit situations that require backing up. Park in pull-through parking spots when possible. If you need to back up, move slowly and with your hand on the bottom of

the steering wheel, turning it in the direction you want the trailer to go.

- Practice, practice, practice. Get acclimated with towing in a parking lot or on empty streets before taking your trailer out on the open road.

Why clean air filters are important



Replacing air filters is an inexpensive way to keep vehicles performing at peak capacity.

Vehicle owners likely know to check fluid levels and get their cars' oil changed, but air filters may not be at the top of their maintenance checklists. Despite being a relatively inexpensive part, air filters often go overlooked.

Air filters have an important job in a vehicle, prolonging the life span of engines and helping cars run more smoothly and efficiently.

Purpose of vehicle air filters

Vehicle combustion engines operate with a mixture of fuel and air. Without oxygen, gasoline or diesel fuels cannot burn properly and power the engine. The air filter's job is to prevent dirt, dust and other debris from being sucked into an engine. Otherwise, grime can build up and impede engine performance or cause erosion of parts under the hood.

It is much more cost-effective to routinely change air filters than replace expensive engine parts. Rather than ignoring air filters until the last minute, drivers can take steps to keep filters clean and functioning at peak performance.

- Improve fuel efficiency. Clogged air filters reduce air flow to engines, resulting in an improper ratio of air to fuel. As a result, spark plugs can be negatively affected and the engine may idle roughly or misfire. These scenarios can greatly affect fuel efficiency as well as cause engine deposits from rich fuel. To save money and trips to the fuel pump, replace filters regularly. According to GearHeads, for older cars, studies have indicated that by replacing a dirty air filter, one can improve gas mileage by as much as 14 percent.

- Reduce stress on the engine. Because of the air-to-fuel mix in engines, even a mixture that is slightly off balance can affect what is going on under the hood. That means the engine must work harder to get enough clean air into the chamber to complete the combustion cycle, says the Automotive Training Center.

- Enjoy more power. A filter that is saturated with dirt will restrict air flow. In such instances, drivers may notice a lack of power during acceleration. Replacing the filter can easily restore that pep.

- Reduce vehicle emissions. Environmental concerns are a priority for many people. By keeping the engine working properly, with the advantage of clean, unobstructed air entering the chamber, a vehicle may produce lower emissions.

Replacing air filters is an easy fix that many drivers can do themselves, or ask their mechanics to do during oil changes or other repair shop visits.

Safety in numbers: Why it pays to replace headlight bulbs in pairs

(MS) — When it comes to vehicle maintenance, the rule of two has long reigned among professional automotive technicians and driving safety advocates. In accordance to this rule, drivers replacing important parts in their cars and trucks, such as tires, brakes, shocks and wiper blades, should always do so in pairs.

Replacing parts in pairs can ensure vehicles are properly balanced and functioning safely. But it's not just tires, brakes and other big-ticket components that should be replaced in pairs. Vehicle lighting plays an integral role in keeping drivers and their passengers safe, and motorists should exercise the same caution regarding their vehicles' headlights, taillights and turn signals that they do when maintaining the rest of their cars and trucks.

Why replace aging headlight bulbs?

Few drivers include headlight bulb replacement in their vehicle maintenance routines. But old headlight bulbs can drastically compromise visibility at night, when drivers' visual acuity is naturally reduced by as much as 70 percent. As headlight bulbs age, the effects of exposure to sunlight, ozone and pollution can significantly reduce their light output. According to Philips Automotive, a leading manufacturer of vehicle lighting components, headlight bulbs begin to project significantly less light within two to three years of their initial usage, producing dimmer light outputs that compromise the safety of drivers and their passengers. For example, new headlight bulbs capable of projecting 240-foot beams in front of a vehicle may see that projection dwindle to just 160 feet within two to three years.

Why replace bulbs two at a time?

In an effort to promote the importance of changing headlight bulbs two at a time, Philips developed the "Change In Pairs" safety campaign, which aims to educate motorists about the dangers of dimming lights while promoting the many reasons that changing bulbs in pairs makes the road safer for all travelers. To support this safety initiative, Philips also packages its Upgrade Headlight Bulbs in pairs.

Though replacing two head-



Changing headlight bulbs in pairs assures that the road ahead will be properly illuminated and that drivers will get the full safety benefit of the vehicle's headlights, just as the carmaker intended.

light bulbs when only one is dimming may seem unwarranted, maintaining a consistent light output in both headlights makes the road safer for drivers, their passengers and oncoming motorists. When only one bulb is replaced, the resulting light output can be both unbalanced and unpredictable, providing inadequate lighting that can compromise driver visibility. In addition, oncoming motorists may experience difficulty seeing vehicles with just one headlight operating at full capacity, and some may even mistake oncoming cars and trucks for motorcycles, creating positioning issues for drivers on both sides of the yellow line.

How else can drivers improve visibility?

In addition to replacing headlight bulbs in pairs every two to three years, drivers can take the following proactive measures to reduce the likelihood that their vision will be compromised while on the road.

- Replace worn out wiper blades. Wiper blades need to be changed each season or in three-month intervals. Rubber wiper blades can grow brittle rather quickly, potentially compromising driver visibility at times when they need their vision to be as strong as possible, such as when rain or snow is falling.

- Clean interior glass and mirrors. Over time, interior glass can develop a film-like buildup that reduces vision and creates hazy reflections from the sun. Smokers may notice such buildup is especially thick in their vehicles. Periodically clean interior glass and mirrors to prevent this film from compromising your vision.

- Don't hang accessories in your vehicle. Fuzzy dice, photos and other items hung on rear-view mirrors can prove distracting and block you from seeing the road.

Learn more about the "Change In Pairs" campaign by visiting www.philips.com/automotive.

Keep Your Car On The Road To Safety And Savings



Proper precautions and preparation can help you stay safer on the road no matter what weather elements are thrown your way.

(NAPS)

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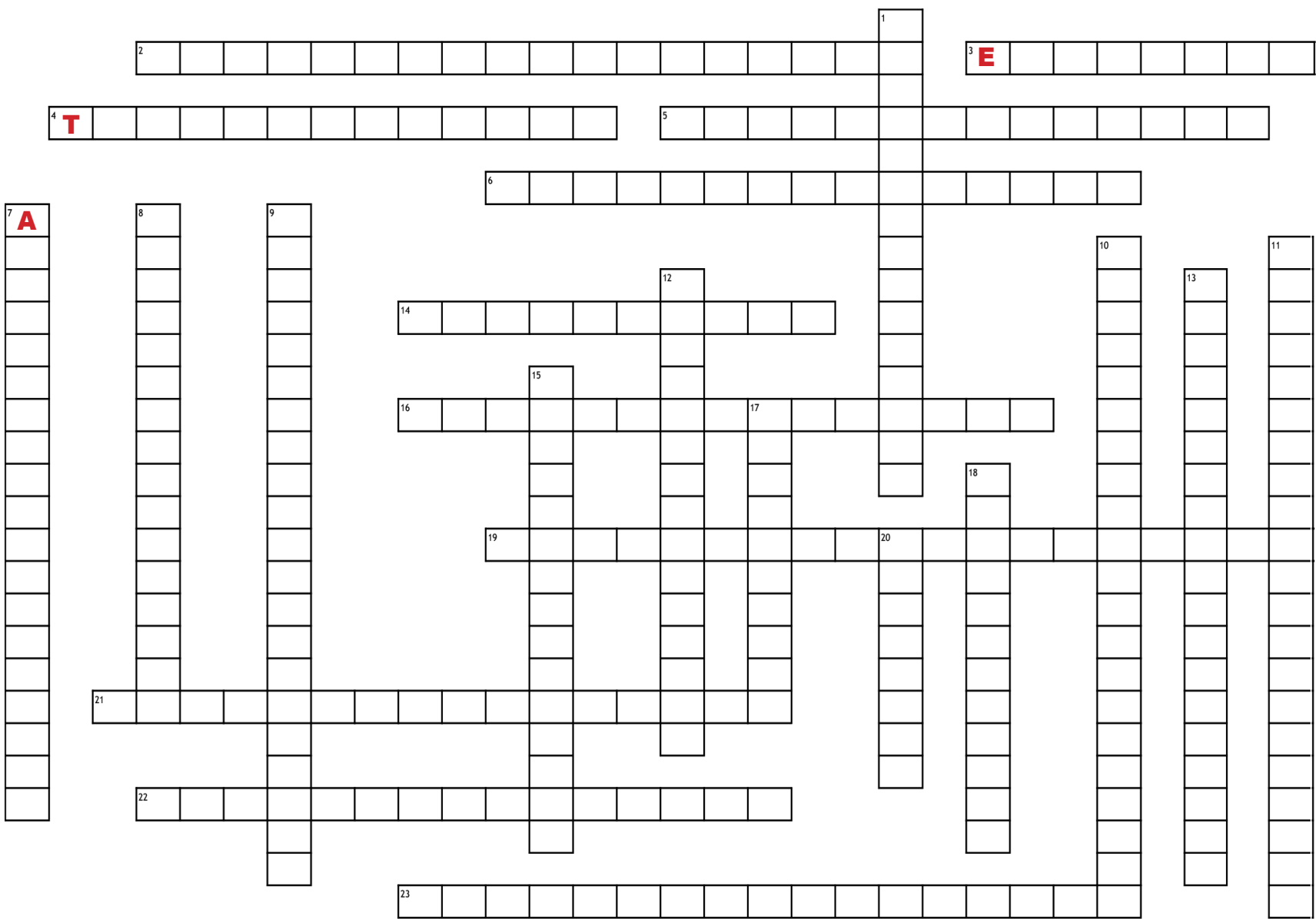
Here are five tips that can help you outsmart winter:

1. Plan your trip. Check the weather, road conditions and traffic along your route. Allow plenty of time so you don't have to rush. Familiarize yourself with directions and maps before you go, even if you use a navigation app, and let others know your route and anticipated arrival time.
 2. Carry a safety kit. It should include a snow shovel, broom and ice scraper for getting mud, snow and ice out of your way and off your windshield; abrasive material such as sand or kitty litter, in case your vehicle gets stuck in muck, ice or snow; jumper cables; a flashlight so you're not left in the dark; warning devices such as flares and emergency markers so you can be seen on the side of the road; blankets for protection from the cold; a cell phone with charger; and bottled water so you stay hydrated.
 3. Check your tires. Inspect your tires—including the spare—at least monthly and before long road trips. It takes only about five minutes. See that each is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure, listed in your owner's manual and on the driver's side door frame. Look closely at the tread. Put a penny in, Lincoln's head facing down. If you can see all of Lincoln's head, the tread depth is less than 1/16th of an inch and it's time for a new tire.
 4. Stay up-to-date on your car's health. With an all-in-one connected car solution such as Hum by Verizon, you can check the status of critical features including battery and engine from your phone and detect problems before you hit the road. Hum automatically sends alerts for hundreds of issues, including problems with the coolant, alternator, electronics, wiring and more. It even gives you the Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC) so you can be on the same page as your mechanic.
 5. Be prepared for accidents or breakdowns. Connected car solutions can help you request roadside assistance for flat tires, dead batteries, break-downs, lockouts, towing, fuel delivery and more. If you do get stuck along the road, stay with your car and keep the interior light on.
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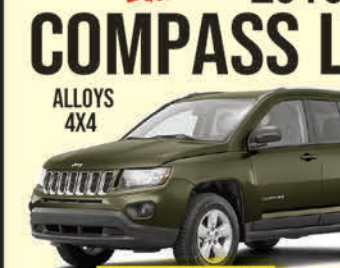
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2016 FORD ESCAPE SE
#18694A • BACK-UP CAM, TURBO, ALLOYS, BLUETOOTH, SPOILER

NEW Retail Price: ~~\$24,845~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$15,855**

SAVE \$9,000 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

LIKE NEW 2017 HYUNDAI SANTA FE ULTIMATE
#H0194



NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$40,335~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$26,799**

Sport 2.0L Turbo Trim, Moonroof, Heated Leather, Alloys, Navigation.

SAVE \$13,500 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
#H8550A • GT HATCHBACK, HEATED SEATS, 17" ALLOYS

NEW Retail Price: ~~\$22,305~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$8,488**

SAVE \$13,800 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2017 HYUNDAI SONATA
#H0523 • SPORT TRIM, TURBO, HEATED SEATS, BACK-UP CAM

NEW Retail Price: ~~\$28,775~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$16,999**

SAVE \$11,800 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

LIKE NEW 2015 FORD F-150 4x4 SUPERCAB
#P11746L



NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$38,965~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$30,355**

2.7L V6 EcoBoost, Alloy Wheels, Bluetooth, SYNC, Back-Up Cam.

SAVE \$8,600 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

SALE ENDS 01/30/19. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT OR PROMOTION AND MUST USE DEALER SOURCE FINANCING. SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE US FOR DETAILS. NEW RETAIL PRICE BASED ON MSRP OF NEW MODELS. NOT VALID WITH PRIOR SALES. SELLING PRICE INCLUDING OUR \$1,000 IMPERIAL TRADE ASSISTANCE BONUS FOR A QUALIFYING 2007 OR NEWER TRADES. SEE US FOR DETAILS. ADVERTISED PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE TAX, TITLE, REGISTRATION OR DOCUMENTATION FEE. VEHICLE MUST BE PAID IN FULL AND TAKE SAME DAY DELIVERY. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS. CALL 1-800-526-AUTO TO SEE WHICH INCENTIVES YOU QUALIFY FOR.

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