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Friday, December 20, 2019

Joshua Hyde Library offers an evening of intrigue



Sturbridge to re-launch Business Tours program

STURBRIDGE — In 2020, the town of Sturbridge will be re-starting its "Business Tours" program.

In this program, town officials visit and tour local businesses to better understand what they do and learn how they support the Sturbridge economy. This also provides business leaders with the opportunity to ask town officials questions, raise concerns, and share ideas for the future of the town.

The goals of this program are to create a positive and healthy dialogue between business and local government, promote the town, and identify ways in which we can collaborate to improve our community. For this reason, it is a goal of the town to reach as many businesses in 2020 as possible. All of Sturbridge's 500-plus businesses are welcome and encouraged to participate.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE - Residents are eagerly anticipating a night of mystery and intrigue next month at Joshua Hyde Public Library.

On Thursday, Jan. 16, the library will present its annual Stewing Over Mysteries event at the Publick House. Set for 6:30 p.m., the event will once again feature dinner and a presentation from a New England

mystery author. Since 2011, residents have enjoyed the opportunity to get out on a winter night and have some fun with friends.

"This is not a fundraiser, but a community event subsidized by the Friends of the JHPL and supported by the Publick House and Old Sturbridge Inn & Reeder Family Lodges," said Becky Plimpton, the director of Joshua Hyde Public Library.

This year's featured mystery

author is Peter Swanson, who has penned five novels, including "The Kind Worth Killing." The novel was the winner of the New England Society Book Award. Swanson also wrote "Before She Knew Him," "All the Beautiful Lies," and "Her Every Fear," which was named an NPR Book of the Year recipient.

A graduate of Trinity College, the University of Massachusetts

Business leaders who would like to sign up for the program can contact Kevin Filchak at (508) 347-2500, ext. 1411, or kfilchak@town.sturbridge.ma.us for more information.

Smola announces grants for local fire departments

BOSTON – Rep. Todd M. Smola R-Warren, Ranking Member, Member, (R-Warren, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that the Brimfield, Palmer, Sturbridge and Wales fire departments have been awarded grants for gear and equipment that will reduce firefighters' exposure to cancer-causing chemicals on the job.

"The first responders in our community face every imaginable type of danger," said Smola. "These grants

will help them be better protected and demonstrates how grateful we are for their dedicated service."

The Firefighter Turnout Gear Grant program will provide firefighters with new hoods and gloves for structural firefighting activities. These items will reduce exposure to cancer-causing chemicals in the head and hand areas, which are high-risk areas for dangerous chemicals to enter the body. Through this program, Brimfield will receive \$3,744; Palmer will receive

\$1,700; Sturbridge will receive \$850; and Wales will receive \$2,475.

Through the Washer-Extractor Equipment Grant, departments will receive a new washer-extractor to clean their structural firefighting gear after exposure to smoke and other toxic chemicals. A national standard set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) on the care and cleaning of structural firefighting gear delineates specific types of machines that should be used to effectively remove cancer-causing chemicals after each fire. All washer-extractors purchased with this grant will meet this standard, and enable personnel to wear clean gear each time they leave the fire station for an emergency. Sturbridge will receive \$6,416 as part of the Washer-Extractor Equipment Grant.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd. Smola@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2100.



Courtesy Photo

Pictured here is one of the Scouting Groups which utilize Hitchcock Academy facilities throughout the year.

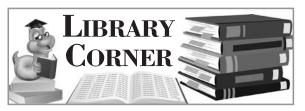
Hitchcock Academy still working toward fundraising goal

BRIMFIELD — Before the end of the year, Hitchcock Academy, which serves all of the surrounding communities, hopes to reach its fundraising goal of \$10,000. It is about \$1,500 short. Monies raised in this campaign work hard for the community. There are 75 different groups who call Hitchcock Academy home including a Union 61 pre-school program, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts. 4-H, the American Legion, Brownies, Brimfield Community Partnership, Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy Scouts and the Opacum Land Trust to name a few.

Donations allow Hitchcock to keep

the costs of such classes as art, babysitting, CPR, watercolor, felting, cheese making, dog training, genealogy, cake decorating, yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, Judo, fencing, and ravioli making at affordable levels. While these are important aspects of Hitchcock's function as a community center they are just a part of the picture. Hitchcock Academy sponsors the Farmer's Market, which runs from April through October, the Summer Fun program for ages three to 12, Concerts on the Common, Make Music Day, December Delights, and

Please Read LIBRARY, page A3



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

Monday, December 28

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

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

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

YOGA: 7:15-8:45 PM (Make up class for 12/2) This 90 minute Hatha Yoga practice will relax and rejuvenate you with guided meditations. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Instructor: Sharon Palmer M.Ed. Certified 500 hour Kripalu Yoga Teacher

Tuesday, December 24 – Thursday, December 26: Closed for the holiday.

Sue Gregory and the staff of Hitchcock Academy wish one and all a safe and happy holiday season. Friday, December 27

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

FUNDRAISING

service.

continued from page ${\bf 1}$

the Town Wide Tag Sale. When

the area was hit with a tornado

several years ago Hitchcock was

the locale that served as the hub

for donations. In the aftermath

it became the venue for a sup-

port group to facilitate healing.

Hitchcock Academy's mission

is, above all else, community

This year Hitchcock's Friends

3 – Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday's promotion featured the words and drawings of local community members who recognized Hitchcock's positive contributions to the local climate. The Friends Campaign continues this focus with its Giving with Gratitude slogan, which asks donors to contribute to honor a skill, a friendship, the memory of an alumnus, a concert, anything leading to

Campaign was initiated on Dec.

the formation of a good memory facilitated by an interaction involving Hitchcock Academy. People are encouraged to share those stories on Hitchcock's Facebook page. Those stories are the reminders that the work of Hitchcock Academy is not finished. Hopefully, it never will be. Donors are asked to give at www.hitchcockacademy.org. Just click on the Events page to find Friends Campaign.

Conservation Commission sponsoring annual Winter Tree Scavenger Hunt

STURBRIDGE — Join the Sturbridge Conservation Commission for our 10th Annual Winter Tree Scavenger Hunt, a great free and fun event at Heins Farm.

Walk the beautiful Heins Farm trails between now and Jan. 1 to find the trees decorated by Sturbridge Town Hall departments and local organizations and businesses. Maps are available at the farm's kiosk or may be downloaded at www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission/2019-winter-tree-scavenger-hunt.

Find a decorated tree, take a selfie with the tree, and post it on the town of Sturbridge Facebook page, then identify which town department, organization or business decorated that tree and email your guess, along with your picture and contact information, to SturbridgeConservation@gmail.com to be entered into our grand prize drawing. Find as many trees as you can for additional chances to win. The winner will be drawn and announced at the first Conservation Commission meeting of 2020, and all participants will receive a certificate of participation.

Enter as an individual or a team! We encourage family and group participation, but primary participants should be under the age of 13. The grand prize drawing is limited to children 12 and under.



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– REAL ESTATE

STURBRIDGE

\$410,000, 34 Tannery Rd, Dinh-Le, Thuvan, and Le, Sonnil, to Mbouadeu, Augustin, and Mbouadeu, Abdonne.

\$325,000, 264 Big Alum, Vanvooren FT, and Vanvooren, Michele T, to Lorraine M Bellerose T, and Bellerose, Lorraine M.

\$150,000, 121 Paradise Ln, Robert F Para FT, and Whittemore, Nancy J, to Comtois, Stephen J.

\$150,000, 40 Glendale Rd, Robert F Para FT, and Whittemore, Nancy J, to Comtois, Stephen J.

\$140,000, 177 Leadmine Rd, Horn Francis W Est, and Horn, Christine A, to Jane Polston RET, and Prouty, Jane.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute students return from intensive research projects

residents were among students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) who recently completed intense, handson research projects.

Jacob Goodwin of Sturbridge, a member of the class of 2021 majoring in chemical engineering, was a member of a student team that completed a project through the WPI project center in Denmark. The project was titled Cleaner Air in Copenhagen: Mitigating Traffic-Related Particle Pollution.

In their project summary, the students wrote, "The goal of our project, sponsored by Miljopunkt Indre By & Christianshavn, was to identify political, technological, and social solutions to lower traffic-related UFP exposure for citizens in Copenhagen.'

Veronica Melican of Fiskdale, a member of the class of 2021 majoring in computer science, was a member of a student team that completed a project through the WPI project center in Iceland. The project was titled Evaluating Pulse Scheduling in the Straeto Bus System.

In their project summary, the students wrote, "The public bus system in the Capital Region of Iceland, operated by Straeto bus, uses pulse scheduling,

where buses from multiple routes meet at a common station at about the same time to facilitate convenient transfers However, factors such as traffic congestion and rider boarding behavior have caused frustrating delays in the system. The goal of this project was to evaluate Straeto's pulse scheduling and develop recommendations to improve the service.'

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, interim dean of the WPI Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.'

About Polytechnic Worcester Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

Victim of Sturbridge collision identified

Charlton to assess Friday tax deadlines

STURBRIDGE - A West Brookfield man was identified as the victim of last week's fatal pedestrian collision on Main Street.

Peter Morin, 67, was struck on Dec. 13 at approximately 5:40 p.m. The incident took place in the area of 173 Main St. (Route 131) near the intersection of Fairview Park Road. Morin was walking on the westbound side of the roadway when he was struck by a passing vehicle, police said.

Investigators believe several factors may have contributed to the collision, including poor lighting and weather.

This area of roadway is not a well-lit area, there is no sidewalk, and the weather was raining with patchy fog present," read a statement released by the Sturbridge Police Department.

With assistance from the Sturbridge Fire Department, officers administered treatment to Morin before he was rushed to Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.

Route 131 was closed for three hours during the initial investigation. Members of the Central Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council's accident reconstruction team continue to investigate the collision along with members of the state medical examiner's office.

No criminal charges have been filed, police said. The driver who struck Morin stayed at the scene following the wreck.

BY JASON BLEAU VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON - While Charlton's tax deadline doesn't always land on a Friday, it did in 2019 with Nov. 1 landing at the end of the week when Charlton's town hall is normally closed.

As a result, taxpayers who waited until the final day of the pay period were unable to pay their taxes without an interest fee, a situation that disappointed one resident, Stephan Sage, who brought his concerns to the attention of selectmen in late November. Sage said there were actually two occasions in 2019 where tax payments were due by a Friday and the town hall was closed both times.

"When real estate tax bills are due on a Friday — and it happened, I believe, in February and on Nov. 1 — the town hall is closed on that Friday. I questioned the folks in the tax collector's office what happens to pe get their taxes in on that Thursday, Oct. 31. When they come in on Monday, they will be charged interest. I thought that was kind of unfair to be penalized for the fact that the day the taxes are due this building is closed so you cannot come in and pay that bill," Sage said. Sage did acknowledge that this applies more to people who wait until the last minute or don't use online payments for their taxes. Charlton does offer online bill payments and encourages all citizens to pay their taxes promptly rather than wait, but every citizen's financial situation and availability is unique. It

DON'T MISS A BEAT

was also noted that this is not a common occurrence and that the deadline won't be on a Friday again until 2024. Still, Sage found it disappointing that taxpayers who do wait until the state mandated Nov. 1 deadline to pay, should it land on a Friday, would be forced to pay extra if the town hall was not available to them. He suggested one solution is to extend payments to Monday without penalty in those circumstances.

That would be, to me, a simple solution," said Sage. "The second solution would be that in those years where Friday is a tax due date, you could have employees in that office take another day off and come in on that Friday to make that building available to people to come in."

Selectmen didn't dismiss the idea of making changes to accommodate taxpayers, however they were indecisive on what compromise can or could be made. Selectman Bill Borowski even questioned whether or not the town should go back to opening, at least partially, on Fridays altogether. The town had previously decided to close on that day each week as a way to cut costs. 'I've never seen quantitively what the benefits are to close on Friday, and I'm sure there are," Borowski said. "I'd probably weigh that against the qualitative impact.' Selectman John McGrath made a suggestion to have the tax collector assess the situation and give information to help selectmen make a more educated decision on how to handle Friday tax deadlines in the future.

LIBRARY

from page **1**

first-class author," Plimpton added. "We are thrilled to have author Peter

at Amherst, and Emerson College, Swanson lives in Somerville. His books have been translated into over 30 languages, and his stories, poetry, and features have appeared in several magazines. These include Asimov's Atlantic Science Fiction, The Monthly, Measure, The Guardian, The Strand Magazine, and Yankee Magazine.

Residents and library officials alike are looking forward to Swanson's presentation. There is always plenty to learn about mystery and suspense writing when you hear from the author in person. Moreover, the event always attracts many local writers and aspiring novelists, as well as readers who are passionate about the mystery genre.

"Our goal is to make this an affordable and entertaining evening with a Swanson as our guest of honor."

A dinner of beef stew will be offered to guests, who always enjoy the cozy atmosphere of one of the oldest taverns in the Commonwealth. On a cold winter night, residents are invited to warm up over dinner and a suspenseful story.

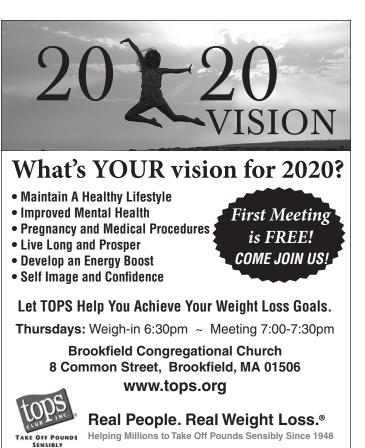
The event is limited to 80 people and has frequently sold out in the past. Tickets are available for \$15 per person, which includes beef stew, rolls, coffee, and dessert.

Tickets and books can be purchased at the library, or by visiting www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org.

In case of inclement weather, a snow date would be held on Jan. 23. For more information about the program, call the library at 508-347-2512.



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Overlook CEO named 2019 Outstanding Woman in Business

WORCESTER

Tameryn Campbell, President & CEO of Masonic Health System of Massachusetts, Inc., was recently named one of six outstanding women in business by the Worcester Business Journal. This year 65 nominations were received, with the Worcester Business Journal selecting just six nominees to be named Outstanding Women in Business.

Campbell joined Masonic Health of MA, Inc. (The Overlook's parent organization) in 2014 to help redefine the overall business strategy, spearhead a financial and cultural transformation and bring The Overlook back to its status as a highly sought-after retirement community.

When Campbell was hired, The Overlook relied on money from the Masonic Trust to fund daily operations. Her main goal was to create a self-sustaining retirement community and a work environment with great morale and the highest quality of care.

13

19

48 53

In four short years, she helped guide the organization to an unprecedented outcome. In 2018 the organization reinvested \$1.3 million dollars back into the Trust for the first time ever and achieved several industry achievements and satisfaction awards.

For more than 100 years, The Overlook, sponsored by the Masonic Health System of MA, Inc. (MHS) has served thousands of Massachusetts' older adults and has also successfully partnered with and managed Briarwood Retirement Community in Worcester for the past eight years.

Under Campbell's leadership, the organization has begun to broaden its involvement with the surrounding community, expanding its summer concert series on the common and offering regular farmer's markets. A group of The Overlook residents also formed the Brew Crew. The brewery is wittily and suitably named "Senior Moment" and the craft beers have won several local awards and been highlighted as a "gem" of New England on Chronicle, Channel 5's Boston television program.

Campbell's vision is to expand The Overlook's large campus beyond its singular use as a retirement community to a popular mixed-use environment, attracting chefs, artisans, select retailers and visitors of all ages from the surrounding region and beyond. Campbell believes strongly in the growing evidence that mixed-use environments and an intergenerational approach will benefit residents, families and team members--giving them immediate proximity and access to shopping, restaurants, entertainment, outdoor activities and more.

Coupled with the Town of Charlton's plans for a Village Center, The Overlook's expansive land, buildings, trail system, mushroom farm, hotel, barn and other facilities will enable The Overlook to become a trailblazer in Senior Living through a Village Center concept that takes mas-

ter planning to a whole new level. Campbell is pasan center,

boutique hotel and farmto-table restaurant— attracting more people to Charlton and enabling The Overlook to further invest in its mission and the wonderful people it serves!

Campbell's mind and sights are set firmly in the future, laying the groundwork for continuous improvement and innovation. Over the past year and a half, Campbell spent more than 100 hours helping to design and launch The Overlook's Culture of Excellence training program, offered to over 700 team members. This will be the fourth organization where she has spearheaded similar programs, emphasizing integrity, communication, hospitality and teamwork through clearly defined "Guiding Principles" that establish the foundational expectations and behaviors in The Overlook's workplace.

Asked what advice she has for women in the business world, Campbell said, "Choose a field you are passionate about. Be your authentic self; support one another and give encouragement. Don't be overcome by the imposter syndrome - nothing is impossible! When insecurity and fear get in the way, focus on being in service to others.

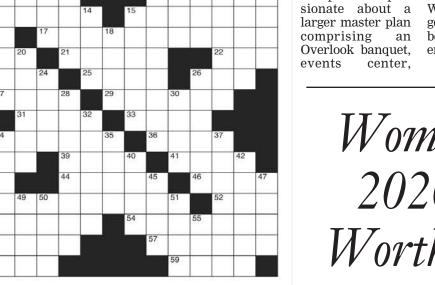


Tameryn Campbell

This focus on service to others has yielded a clear growth and change in the Masonic Health System. With Campbell at the helm, The Overlook has opened Fieldstone, a Memory Care neighborhood, a pulmonary care specialty program, an adult day program for people with dementia-related challenges, as well as expanding The Overlook's home care and hospice services across

The Commonwealth.

"We want to continue to educate, inspire and improve the quality of life for our residents, patients, families, team members and the surrounding community. We're just getting started," Campbell said. "Pay close attention to The Overlook over the next five years - you're going to want to be part of it!"



Woman in Business kicks off 2020 with presentation on Worth, value and negotiation



STURBRIDGE — Woman in Business, Inc., (WIB) will welcome women's leadership pro-

CLUES ACROSS

1. No longer on the market 33. Witnesses

- 5. W. African language 9. A way to open 11. A type of pigeon 13. Japanese warrior 15. Pelvic areas 16. No seats available 17. Not working 19. In a way, soaks 21. Growing outward 22. Ritzy local ____ Air 23. Telegraphic signals 25. Metric units 26. Large wine cask 27. Fiber from the husk of a coconut
- 34. They make great neighbors 36. The sun does it 38. Used to store ashes 39. First Chinese dynasty 41. Network of nerves 43. Word element meaning ear 44. Metric unit of length (Brit.) 46. Tributary of the Danube 48. Off-limits 52. Appeal earnestly 53. It's good to have them 54. Commercial flying company 56. Acted out in protest 57. Took to the sea 58. Cuckoos 59. Drove fast

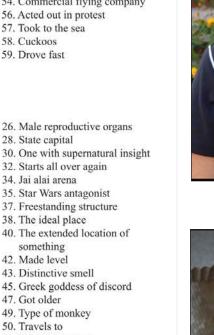
CLUES DOWN

1. Trapped 2. About osmosis

29. Gets up

31. French river

- 3. Romanian monetary unit
- 4. Form of Persian
- 5 Cold wind
- 6. Leave out
- 7. Small vehicle
- 8. A little off
- 9. Soviet Union
- 10. A narrow path or road
- 11. Contrary beliefs
- 12. One who speaks Gaelic
- 14. Private school in New York
- 15. Jackson and Townshend
- are two
- 18. Soldier in an airborne unit
- 20. Taken illegally
- 24. Capital of Valais



1 8

S

- 51. Geological times
- 55. Edge

Rachel Ferreira



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fessional and Nichols College administrator Rachel Ferreira to the first meeting of the organization's 2020 calendar.

The lunch presentation, "How to Successfully Negotiate Your Worth," will be held Wednesday, Jan. 15 inside Crafts Hall at the Publick House in Sturbridge. Registration is now open by visiting wibsturbridge.org.

The January meeting offers women in all walks of career paths the opportunity to gain confidence and improve negotiation style with tips to help better identify and articulate personal value and develop strategies for making the ask, including deflection, building a pitch, and responding persuasively.

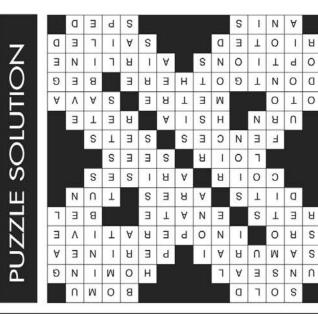
Before she started working at Nichols College six years ago, Ferreira's focus was on human rights and access to education working in the non-profit sector. In her current role as Director of the Institute for Women's Leadership, she works to bring awareness and advocacy to the issues that face women in their professional lives. She also acts as a resource for female students at Nichols and engages men and women in conversation to

bring about change in the wage gap, underrepresentation in leadership, and confidence, in addition to other topics facing women in the workplace.

The registration price is \$20 for WIB members and \$30 for nonmembers; cost includes lunch.

Woman in Business, Inc., was founded in 1985 and provides a network to share business experiences, knowl-edge and ventures. New members are welcome from all over south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. From in-home sales to executive managers, WIB offers something for everyone.





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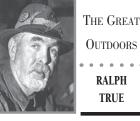
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Reflections on hare bunting



OUTDOORS RALPH TRUE

With the shotgun deer season over, hunters that still have antlerless deer permits to fill are finding many opportunities to use their deer tags. The snow that was predicted for this past Tuesday made tracking conditions ideal. The final few days of the shotgun deer season had great tracking conditions and resulted in a huge harvesting of deer, making up for the slow start at the beginning of the deer season due to heavy snow.

Because hunters did not need to bring the harvested deer to a checking station during the second week of shotgun season, but reported the deer online, results will not be available for a few weeks. The two week black powder season for deer in Massachusetts requires all deer harvested to be reported on line also.

A local sportsman and his buddies reported on a piebald buck they shot this past hunting season. The inherited genetic problem can leave a deer with numerous problems. The genetic



mutation which can leave a deer with spots of white on their coat, sometime having almost a one hundred percent white coat. They are often called albino which they are not. Piebaldism is a rare genetic abnormality in whitetails that can include a range of potential deformities, from coat coloration to skeletal alignment, which can be mild to severe. Over the vears, numerous piebald deer have been harvest-

ed in the valley area by

In talking with a few archers this past week from the Petersham area of the state, I found that hare hunting in the area was still being enjoyed by a few hunters that own beagles. This is the time of year, back 40 or 50 years ago, hare (rabbit) hunting was enjoyed by many local sportsmen. Local sportsmen's clubs in the area bought hare from a trapper in Canada. The rabbits were transported live to

hunters.

the valley area, and were distributed to local woodlands and swamps.

The rabbits did very well and provided local sports the opportunity to run their beagles throughout the summer months. It was a great pastime listening to the hounds trail the elusive rabbit through the swamps and woodlots for hours. We often had as many as 15 hounds trailing the hare, which provided us with music only a rabbit hunter could enjoy.

Every hound had a different bark or yodel as they trailed the rabbit, allowing each dog owner the opportunity to know where his dog was. As the hounds came close to our group of hunters, the hare often crossed a path or road allowing us to visually see the hare and observe which dog was leading the pack. The rabbit seemed to enjoy the hunt as much as we did, often running down the road and quickly run-

ning back over his track trying to mislead the hounds. It often worked, but it was not long before one of the hounds picked up the trail baying loudly and the others soon joined in, and the hunt was on again.

Unfortunately, the hare program was stopped by anti-hunting groups, and now the valley has lost another species of wildlife in our forest, not to mention the great pastime local sportsmen enjoyed for years.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season.

It is hard to believe that there are only a few days left till Christmas, and shoppers are trying to finish their Christmas shopping for that special sportsman or woman. A Massachusetts hunting or fishing license makes a great idea, but gift cards are the easiest way to get the shopping done fast. The gift cards will also allow that special sportsman to do his own shopping after Christmas during huge sales at most all stores, making the gift card worth a lot more.

Take A Kid fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

Wishing all of our servicemen and women a very Merry Christmas and thank you for keeping us safe.

We auction many antique and vintage musical instruments found in local homes and estates. Musical instruments are often overlooked by the owners, but some can be very valuable. Rare violins can sell for six figure sums and Stradivarius violins have sold for millions. We sold a Hawaiian steel guitar that brought figures in the low thousands. A cello fetched \$1,300. A sterling silver flute sold even better when it brought a figure in the mid-thousands.

Flutes have a very long history. In 2008, a flute was discovered at Hohle Fels Cave in Germany that dates back at



Silver flutes

years, according to Britannica. com. The flute has five finger holes, is eight and a half inches long, and was made from the bone of vulture. а Other flutes of similar age have also been covered in

least 35.000

ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES dis- WAYNE TUISKULA



Southwestern Germany.

Britannica.com notes that the flute we typically see in Western music is the "transverse flute held sideways to the right of the player." They were used in Ancient Greece and Etruria in the second century BC. They were then played in India, followed by China and Japan. 16th century flutes combined a tenor flute, descant flute, and bass flute. In the 17th century, the Hotteterre family of Paris created a conical flute "made in separate joints, the head joint being cylindrical, the others contracting toward the foot." There were some other advancements before Theobald Boehm replaced "closed chromatic keys with open-standing keys, devising for their manipulation a system of ring keys on longitudinal axles" in 1832. Boehm continued his work to refine the instrument. In 1847 he created a flute with a "cylindrical bore (having a contracting or parabolic head)" which is the design that has been used since.

Flutes made from silver can be very valuable. The silver flutes look similar to common nickel-silver flutes. You can look to see if it is marked sterling (92.5 percent pure silver) or Ag 998 which are 99.8 percent pure silver.

Many craftsmen and manufacturers have made silver flutes that have sold well at auction. A silver flute made mv Wm. A Haynes sold for \$3,000 in 2008. A Verne Q Powell flute went for \$4,250 in a 2014 auction. A John Lunn flute sold for \$5,600 in 2011. A Louis Lot silver flute reached \$8,000 at an auction in 2011. A Boehm system silver flute also sold for

\$15,000 in 2011.

Custom flutes can be made from even more valuable materials. William S. Haynes of Boston currently offers flutes made of silver and 5 percent gold, 10-karat, 14-karat and 19.5-karat gold along with platinum. A 9-karat antique gold European flute struck a note with a bidder and sold for \$18,000 at auction in 2013.

A Lillian Burkart 99.8 percent silver flute will be among the offerings in our Jan. 30 antique estates auction in Worcester. I'll be teaching my "Evaluating your antiques" class on March 3 at the Bay Path Adult Education program in Charlton. Other events are being scheduled. Please see www.centralmassauctions. com for details on these and other events.

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

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GARDEN MOMENTS MELINDA

MELINDA MYERS

The holidays are upon us and busy schedules often send us into a panic when looking for the perfect gift for those on our list. No matter your budget, there are affordable gift options your friends and family will love.

Tools are always a welcome gift. Most gardeners are reluctant to invest in that cool new hand trowel, shovel or rake. And that's what makes them a great gift. Or create a starter kit from your extra tools for a new homeowner or gardener. Clean them up, sharpen the blades and bundle them with a bow. Add a gift card from a nearby garden center if your budget allows.

Help your favorite gardener avoid skin cancer and protect their hands when working in the garden by creating a garden basket with gloves, a hat and sunscreen.

Clean up a corner of the basement or spare bedroom to create a seed starting station. Purchase the lights and fixtures or set a table in front of a sunny window. And if your budget is limited, scour the garage and shed or talk to gardening friends to secure items that can be cleaned and reused.

Or give your favorite gardener all they need to start a windowsill herb garden or terrarium. Purchase or recycle the containers and take cuttings, make divisions or purchase the plants you need.

A trip to the basement or thrift store may pro-



Melinda Myers Photo

Create a tropical paradise in a terrarium as a unique gift for a loved one.

vide the perfect vessel for your terrarium. Convert an old aquarium into a tropical biodome. A large clear glass serving dish, salad bowl or vase may make a unique terrarium sure to intrigue the recipient and their guests.

Help your favorite indoor gardener dress up their favorite hanging plants. Macramé is back in vogue and adding flare to indoor gardens. Create a few plant hangers from jute and beads.

Preserve a garden

memory with a photo of your or the recipient's garden or favorite plants. A collection of photos can be made into a calendar for a gift that keeps giving all year long.

Share a bit of your garden. Pass along some seeds you saved or start a few cuttings from your favorite heirloom houseplant. Dress up your gift with a painted pot or basket.

And don't forget to share some dried herbs and flowers or preserves made from your garden harvest. Nothing tastes better or is more beautiful than when it's homegrown. Don't have extra this year? Make a note on next year's calendar and plan ahead.

Give the gift of time. Most of us can use an extra set of hands at certain times of the garden season. No dusting required and it's a great way to ensure time together.

Put your artistic skills to work and create a gar-

den journal. A simple notebook dressed up with some photos, artwork or stickers can provide an attractive and inviting place for your favorite gardener to record their gardening successes, failures and other useful garden information.

As you can see, the possibilities are endless. And getting friends and family involved in creating these gifts is a great way to enjoy time together while preparing for the holidays. Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her web site is www. MelindaMyers.com.





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BRENDAN BERUBE EDITOR

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

Hints to Fix Holiday Hassles

EDITORIAL Breaking the ice

It's holiday party season, and for most of us, that means enjoyable times ahead. We get together with friends and family, enjoy some eggnog and a plethora of our favorite appetizers. Oftentimes, however, we find ourselves invited by our significant others to attend a work soiree, invite them along to one at our own place of work. Being in a room where you only know one or two people can seem like a daunting task for our introverted readers, but have no fear. We have some ways for you to have memorable conversations that you may end up actually enjoying.

Instead of discussing the weather or asking the mundane questions such as 'Where are you from?' why not shakes things up and make the conversation interesting by asking, 'What's your story?' Other conversation starters include, 'How do you know the host?', 'What was the highlight of your week?' or 'Are you working on anything exciting?'

If you're shy or feeling a bit awkward, you can keep the conversation going by talking about the food being served or the venue where the event is taking place. Asking a person what they have tried so far, and how they liked it is an easy conversation starter. If you research the history of a place, you can always begin with the 'Did you know?' questions. We know everyone loves a good history story and bits of local trivia.

If the person you are speaking with is from the area, ask them what they do for entertainment in town, including where and what their favorite restaurants are. Looking up recent sports standings is never a bad idea, even if you don't particularly care for sports. This way when you nod and smile, you can have some confidence in knowing that you are at least somewhat in the loop. If you've bumped into a fellow skier, discussing snow conditions and ski hills is an easy topic. Look up a recent odd news story that is interesting and humorous — that way, during a lull, you can say, 'So I was reading about a man who appeared before a Dutch court and requested that he legally be made 20 years younger.' (Yes, that actually happened. If you see one of us out and about at a holiday gathering, tell us you read about it here and we'll give you the details.) Most conversations remain on the surface which is appropriate when you don't really know someone. However, if you feel comfortable and are enjoying the conversation don't be afraid to go a bit bolder. Generally, most people like to talk about themselves, not necessarily for selfish reasons, but who doesn't want to be known and appreciated? We all have unique personalities that are worth sharing. Such questions that go beneath the surface may include, 'What is your biggest fear?' 'When you were growing up, what was your dream job?' 'Have you been to any interesting places lately?" 'Have you learned anything this week, that you weren't aware of last week?.' The easiest thing to do while in conversation this month is to ask how a person celebrates the holidays. Asking about traditions and the best holiday a person has ever had brings up fond memories and positive energy. These questions tend to snowball naturally and voila a solid, meaningful conversation has been had and you could even make a new comrade along the wav.

Decking the halls, trimming the tree, and prepping for the holidays is a seasonal tradition - but the tasks are not always the joyous chores of Christmas carols. If the hustle and bustle of the holiday has you frazzled as you rush

to get everything done

right and on time - take heart. The following problem solvers offer quick and inexpensive fixes to save precious time and money this holiday season.

Problem: Christmas light strings are a tangled mess!

Solution: First make sure you have lots of room to spread out the snaking lights; the floor is an ideal space. Locate the plug and work your way from there to the other end. Gently spread the strings and work the plug in and out of the tangles. Using a chopstick, bamboo skewer, or pencil, work any knots out of the strings. Untangled lines should be laid straight along the floor.

To prevent this hassle next year. Wind each string around a stiff cardboard; tape the end and place into a plastic grocery bag. Place into a plastic grocery bag (only one string per cardboard) and stack to store.

Problem: Wreaths are a fire hazard, especially when hot lights are strung around it.

Solution: Here is a flame retardant that can help prevent a fire on your decorative wreath and boughs. It does not totally fireproof the fresh greens, so continue to use standard fire precautions. To make: Mix together five tablespoons Borax and four tablespoons Epsom salts in two quarts of water. Fill a spray bottle and spritz the tree or wreath completely, then allow to dry.

Problem: Christmas dinner requires



hips; 2 tsp orrisroot; 2 drops pine-scented fixative or oil. Mix the bayberry, balsam, pine cones and rose hips in a large bowl. Add the orrisroot and fixative and stir gently. Store in a jar with a tight fitting lid. Note: To rejuvenate and

extend your pine potpourri, try this economical trick: Put some ground corn cob material (sold as cellulose or litter material at the pet store) in a jar. Add several drops of essential oil, place lid on jar and shake. Shake the jar every day for about a week or so. Add it to your potpourri, to give it body and hold the scent.

Problem: You want to give a holiday present to your mail carrier, but heard there are strict gift regulations:

Solution: For reference: Mail carriers working for the United States Postal Service are allowed to accept the following items during the holiday season:

Snacks and beverages or perishable gifts that are not part of a meal.

Small gifts that have little intrinsic value (travel mugs, hand warmers, etc...) and are clearly no more than \$20 in value.

Perishable items clearly worth more (large fruit baskets or cookie tins) must be shared with the entire branch.

Mail carriers working for the United States Postal Service may not accept the following:

Cash gifts, checks, gift cards, or any other form of currency.

Problem: Old fashioned flaming pinecones for fireplaces are not readily available and when found are costly.

Solution: Make your own! The traditional firestarters of days of yore are easily crafted. Best of all, pinecones not only add a great seasonal scent to a cozy fireplace, they can also add some delightful color with the addition of a few pantry ingredients. Here's how to make your holiday hearthside flames fabulous: Dip pinecones in wax (recycle candle stubs) and roll in table salt for bright yellow flames; If you use a no-salt substitute, you'll be treated to violet flames. For green flames, dip the pinecones in borax (found in the laundry aisle). Baking soda will reward you with bright yellowish orange flames, and Epsom salts will result in white flames. For hot pink flames, dip or roll pinecones in plaster of Paris. For more economical and natural looking pinecones without the wax properties, simply marinate the fire flashers. Dissolve eight ounces of one activator(salt, borax, etc) in a half gallon of water. Soak pine cones for about six hours. Dry them in a warm, dry place for a few days. For giftgiving, fill up a cellophane bag, add a bow, and attach a tag with the color codes. Pinecone Pointer: To prompt tight pinecones to open fully, heat them in a 220 degree oven on a foil lined cookie sheet. Caution: Make and use firestarters and flamers with care and at your own risk. Do not mix activators.

Financial moves for life's 'Inflection Points'



Y o u ' v e p r o b a b l y heard or read about inflection points. The term has a specific definition in mathematics,

but it's also used widely to describe historical or technological events, such as the Industrial Revolution or the creation of the internet – events that changed human existence in some important way. However, you have personal inflection points, too – and when they occur, you'll need to make the right financial moves.

Here are four of the most important of these inflection points, along with suggestions on dealing with them:

Marriage - When you get married, you and your spouse will need to discuss a variety of financial issues: What assets and liabilities do you each bring to the marriage? Should you combine your finances or continue with separate accounts? Is one of you a "saver" while the other is a "spender?" Do you share similar investment philosophies, or is one of you much more aggressive than the other? You don't necessarily have to agree on everything, but you should at least try to gain enough knowledge so you can avoid unpleasant surprises, such as hidden debts, and find enough common ground so your household can advance toward your common financial goals.

New child - When you welcome a new child into your family, you'll need to make sure vou have adequate life insurance. You'll also want to review the beneficiary designations on any existing insurance policies, as well as on your IRA and 401(k). And if you can afford it, you may want to start contributing to a college fund, possibly using a 529 savings plan, which can provide you with tax advantages as you put money away for your child's higher education. Divorce – It's unfortunate, but true: Divorce is still pretty common, and it's neither pleasant nor cheap. You might not be able to avoid some of the costs, such as lawyers' bills, but if you and your ex-spouse can work together amicably, you both may be able to avoid serious financial disruptions. You'll need to work out how to divide your financial assets, paying attention to beneficiary designations, which you may well need to change. Also, as a newly single individual, you may need to review and revise your long-term investment strategy to accommodate changes in your goals and your retirement income. Retirement – By the time you retire. you will have hopefully been investing in your IRA and 401(k) or other retirement plan for several decades. But once you do retire, you'll need to determine how much you can afford to withdraw each year from your various retirement accounts. Your withdrawal rate will depend on your age, your asset level and your retirement lifestyle. And you'll also want to consider other issues: Are you prepared to deal with health care costs? Even with Medicare, these costs may be higher than they were when you were working. And how about your estate plans? Are they up to date? Have you protected your family from the possibility of your estate going through the time-consuming, expensive and public process of probate? You may need to work with your financial, tax and legal advisors to develop an effective estate strategy. By making smart decisions following your own inflection points, you can ease the transitions in your life - wherever life takes you.



perfect gravy, but it's a challenge to get it right.

Solution: Why not go to the source of "foolproof" gravy, Betty Crocker? After all, the cooking icon's recipe has been at America's holiday table for decades!

Ingredients: 1/4 cup turkey drippings (fat and juices from roasted turkey); 1/4 cup all-purpose flour; 2 cups liquid (juices from roasted turkey, broth, water); 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1/2 teaspoon pepper.

Directions: Pour drippings from roasting pan into bowl, leaving brown particles in pan. Return 1/4 cup drippings to roasting pan. (Measure accurately because too little fat makes gravy lumpy.) Stir in flour. (Measure accurately so gravy is not greasy.)

Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is smooth and bubbly. Stir in liquid. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil and stir 1 minute. Stir in a few drops of browning sauce. Stir in salt and pepper.

Problem: Commercial spray on "snow" for windows is messy and expensive.

Solution: This DIY version of artificial snow is inexpensive and easier to clean up! Best of all this faux frost can create a crystal ice painting on even the most insulated windows!

Ingredients: A few tablespoons of Epsom salts; one can flat beer; cotton balls.

Instructions: Use a cotton ball to dab the mixture onto clean windows. Treat only the corners for a realistic look.. As the mixture dries, it crystallizes.

Problem: You love that delightful pine scent of your Christmas Tree and wish you could extend the fragrance throughout the season.

Solution: You can! This homemade Pine Potpourri offers a fresh, evergreen scent any time of year! To do: Mix together: $\frac{1}{2}$ cup bayberry leaves; $\frac{1}{2}$ cup snipped balsam needles ; $\frac{1}{2}$ cup miniature pine cones; $\frac{1}{2}$ cup rose Win Dinner for Two

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

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

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.

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

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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

The Daughters of Isabella proudly present our 2019 Fantastic Worldwide Tours! For reservations contact Jan Caouette at (508) 887-2215. Make checks payable to Bernadette Circle #709 and mail to Bernadette Circle #709, PO Box 201, Webster MA 01570. The Daughters of Isabella is a nonprofit and charitable Catholic women's organization

DOUGLAS SUNSHINE CLUB

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

DUDLEY SENIORS

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

Dec. 31 New Years Eve "DAY" at the Lake Pearl in Wrentham, Mass. Let's Celebrate the New Year during the

to the park. Keighan recently went

camping for the very first time where



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

May 15, 2020 to May 22, 2020 Cruise 8 Days/7 Nights Boston to Bermuda aboard the Norwegian Cruise Lines "GEM" SHIP. Leave Boston Friday, May 15 and return Boston Friday May 22. Included are All of the Following, Roundtrip Transfers from Sturbridge to Boston and back. The Ultimate Beverage Package, The Ultimate 4 Night Dining Package, Specialty Restaurants for Free, Exclusive Best of Times Cocktail Party, All Luggage Handling Fees, Drivers Gratuities and Best of Times Professional Tour Director. Early Booking Discount for those people who Book a Balcony Cabin by October 1st. you will receive a 1 Category Upgrade & Special On Board Credit. Prices start at \$1,199 Double Occupancy for an Inside Stateroom, \$1,399 for an Oceanview Porthole Window. \$1.899 for a Balconv Stateroon on Deck 9, \$1,949 for a Balcony Stateroom on Deck 10, and \$1,999 for Balcony on Deck 11. ALSO Add \$400 for Taxes, Transfers, and Gov't Fees. Single Occupancy is Avaiable upon request. Please contact Dick Lisi at 508-410-1332 or at lisirichard15@yahoo.com for questions or information on any of the above Trips.

LEICESTER SENIOR CENTER

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

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

fly home from Munich. Transportation from Paxton to and

from Logan is included. Four countries – Hungary, Slovakia,

Austria and Germany

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

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

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

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

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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

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

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS 2019 TRIP SCHEDULE OPEN TO PUBLIC PAYMENT DUE AT SIGN UP

Trips are open to the public!

Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association.

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

UNION SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE CHAPTER 12

Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Chapter #12, Southbridge, is sponsoring a variety of excursions for all to enjoy in 2019. We are a non-profit family oriented Franco-American fraternal society since 1900. As always, you do not have to be a member to participate in any of the scheduled events. All are welcome. Gift certificates purchased in any amount can be used by the recipient to any event at face value. For information or reservations contact Ted at (508) 764-7909.

Keighan Age 10

he enjoyed fishing, swimming and making s'mores.

Legally free for adoption, Keighan is in need of an active two-parent family. Keighan has requested his future family have a mother, father and older siblings. He would like to continue visiting with his foster family and his brother once his future placement is identified, therefore his social worker is exploring in-state families at this time.

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



000 00001

*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

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

The Silver Club BUS TRIPS for 2019 Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for *Turn To* **TRIPS** *page* **A14**



A Holiday Gift Favorite! Nueske's Family Breakfast Box

Enjoy an extraordinary breakfast or send our best-selling breakfast assortment as a thoughtful gift. From our smokehouse to your table, we continue Old World traditions smoking our superior quality meats over glowing Applewood embers to achieve a rich, smoky flavor. Our delicious breakfast assortment includes:

Applewood Smoked Bacon (12 oz.) – The Official Bacon of Baconfest, our bacon is lean with a rich, smoky Nueske's flavor.
Comed Beel Hash (1 lb.) – Lean comed beef cured with sait, peppersons and bay leaves along with dioed potatoes and select spices.
Pancake Mix (16 oz.) – Serve a platter of approximately ten savory, fluffy buttermilk pancakes.
Maple Symp (loz.) – Old-fabined godness from our Wisconsin sugar maple trees.

Visit Nueskes.com/holiday39 or Call 1-866-925-7321 to Order Item #990

Only \$35.99* (reg. \$42.99), plus \$14.99 shipping & handling. Order by Dec. 17, 2019 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery.

Order now and Save over 15%



*\$14.99 shipping applies to standard delivery only to the 48 contiguous states for item #990. Not vaid with any other offer. Offer ends January 1, 2020 or while supplies last.



Community Connection

Your area guide to buying & shopping locally! Support your community







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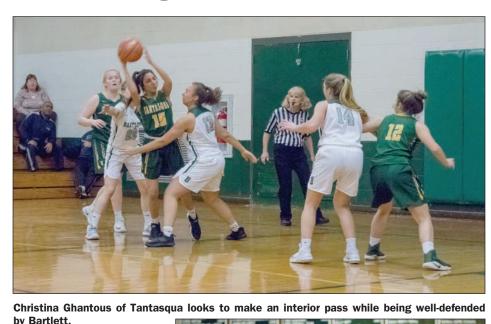


Advertising Works! Call Mikaela at (508) 909 - 4126mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

SPORTS

Tantasqua opens season by taking care of Indians





Tantasqua's Haley Courtney heads down the court with the ball.

Jason Mckay photos

Y KEN POWERS SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Juniors Ainsley Way and Emerson Cherry scored 11 points each, and senior Lydia Boland added 10 to lead the Tantasqua Regional girls' varsity basketball team to a dominating season-opening win on the road, the Warriors defeating Bartlett High, 63-29, on Monday, Dec. 16.

The Indians, who won their season-opener on Thursday, Dec. 12 — an 81-36 victory over Southbridge High — saw their record level off at 1-1.

Tantasqua took control of the game midway through the first quarter, scoring the final 10 points of the period to lead, 17-7, as play headed to the second quarter. The Warriors outscored Bartlett 17-4 in the next frame to take a 34-11 lead into halftime.

Tantasqua picked up in the third quarter where it left off in the second, scoring 20 points in the period to lead 54-20 after 24 minutes of play.

Cherry opened the scoring with a right-side 3-pointer 13 seconds into the game. She finished with three 3-pointers and looked to have hit on a fourth, but the officials ruled she had a foot on the line when she took the shot.

The Warriors, as a team, hit seven 3-pointers in the game. Boland canned a pair of shots from beyond the arc, while Way also hit a trey, as did freshman Haley Courtney (seven points).

"I thought we played pretty well tonight," said Boland, who has been a starter for Tantasqua since her freshman year. "We didn't make as many turnovers as we usually do in the first game of the season and we didn't have any jitters in the beginning of the game. I thought we played well as a team. Everybody is well conditioned and it showed."

Sophomores Sophie Law and Shea Coleman added 7 points each to help the winning cause while classmate Bridget Bellezza added 6. Another pair of sophomores, Alexxis Cutler and Christina Ghantous, scored 2 points apiece.

"We have a lot of new players on the team this year; a lot of girls who have come up from the junior varsity, and I think they're ready to work hard and be a part of this team," Boland said. "In practice we play as a team. It's not five and five or first team and second team. Everybody plays with everybody; we're all interchangeable. Everybody can be a starter on this team. Everybody fights for a starting spot every week in practice. I like it; I think it pushes us to be better."

Tantasqua head coach Tom Goyette was pleased with his team's performance in its 2019-2020 season debut, especially defensively.

"I was really happy with the defense tonight,'

Goyette said. "The kids played some good lockdown defense. Bartlett came into this game after scoring 81 points their first game, so we knew we were going to have to play some good solid defense out there and I definitely think we did."

Goyette said he thinks the versatility of his offense is a strength of the team.

"We've got multiple weapons, we have an inside and outside game; we're not one-dimensional," Goyette said. "We can score multiple ways. A lot of our kids are multithreats. We don't have kids that are one-dimensional. We can shoot the 3, but we can take it to the hoop as well, and we can score from the post. I think we're going to be tough to defend because it's tough to concentrate on any one thing we do or any one player.'

Sophomore Cam Heenan, who scored a game-high 13 points, led Bartlett. Junior Kayla Berthiaume and sophomore Samantha Tremblay added 4 points each while senior Brittany Ward and fresh-



Tantasqua's Lydia Boland runs into the lane looking to attempt a shot.

man Victoria Spitz added 3 points apiece.

"There are a lot of things that we have to work on and right now we're just focusing on getting better day by day," Kashawn Hampton, Bartlett's first-year head coach, said. "I want the girls to get used to things. I want them to get used to the system and get used to the level of speed we're working at. Overall they're doing well. We

won our first game by 45 points, but against a competitive team the girls still have to learn about the little things.

"We've got a young team, a lot of freshmen and sophomores, but they're going to get it. If they keep working hard every day, they're going to get it; I guarantee it,' Hampton added. "Come see us at the end of the season, we're going to be a much-improved team."

Tri-Y Torpedoes-NE swim All-Stars

announced at postseason banquet

Below is a list of the All-Stars from the Tri-Y Torpedoes-NE swim team: Molly Bilodeau, 13-14, Sturbridge Neave Bilodeau, 8 & Under, Sturbridge Brynn Boucher, 8 & Under, Southbridge

Nathaniel Cute, 13-14, Charlton Evan Dambly, 11-12, Sturbridge Kira Dambly, 13-14, Sturbridge Jack Davis, 15-18, Dudley Jade Desmond, 13-14, Woodstock Kylie Formigal, 9-10, Sturbridge Sonia Ganski, 11-12, Dudley Adrian Ignatovich, 15-18, Dudley Dominik Ignatovich, 9-10, Dudley Sarah Kersting-Mumm, 15-18, Oxford Abbey Korenda, 9-10, Sturbridge Ethan Korenda, 13-14, Sturbridge Hailey Mathurin, 8 & Under, Fiskdale Eben Mazieka, 13-14, Sturbridge Ryan McKenzie, 15-18, Charlton Sam Merchant, 11-12, Sturbridge Thomas Morrison, 15-18, Fiskdale Abigail Morse, 13-14, Woodstock Miles Oprica, 9-10, Brookfield Emily Owens, 13-14, Fiskdale Maria Piekarczyk, 15-18, Dudley Jonah Scherer, 11-12, Sturbridge Keenan Scherer, 9-10, Sturbridge Ava Serrano, 9-10, Dudley Axel Soderquist, 13-14, Sturbridge Katelyn Spillane, 9-10, Fiskdale Jack Sullivan, 9-10, Sturbridge Max Sullivan, 13-14, Sturbridge Quinn Sullivan, 11-12, Sturbridge Akshat Viswanath, 13-14, Charlton Sunday Voraraj, 11-12, Dudley Andrew Wade, 15-18, Sturbridge Ethan Zhu, 11-12, Fiskdale Zoey Zhu, 13-14, Fiskdale



Courtesy photo

Local swimmers from the Torpedoes-NE team attended a banquet at Leicester Country Club on Nov. 24. The banquet celebrated all swimmers that made the top-three in each individual event at the Championship Meet. These All-Stars from the Tri-Community YMCA team posed for this picture.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Thursday, Dec. 12

Sabis 45, Tantasqua 34 — Playing in their first game after just one practice, the Warriors' boys' freshman basketball team couldn't get their shots to flow. Jace Phillips led Tantasqua with 8 points.

Friday, Dec. 13

Wachusett 104, Tantasqua 66 — Despite the loss to the Mountaineers in girls' swimming,

the Warriors had some great first swims. Sarah Kersting-Mumm was a double winner in the 200 IM and the 100 Freestyle.

Wachusett 84, Tantasqua 82 — In a very close match, the Warriors lost to the Mountaineers' boys' swim team. If the meet had been in Sturbridge, Tantasqua could have won because diving results would have been factored in. The

medley relay team of Andrew Wade, Adon Osimo, Eben Mazieka Cameron Chisholm placed first, as did Dan Sickenberger in the 200 Freestyle, Wade in the 500 Freestyle, Eli Currier in the 100 Backstroke, and the 400 Freestyle relay team of Sickenberger, Jonah Green, Currier and Wade.

OBITUARIES

Andrew D. Esslinger, 84



STURBRIDGE -Andrew D. Esslinger, passed away 84. on Dec. 10th, in the Boston Medical Center, Boston, after a short illness. his He leaves beloved wife of 55

Phyllis C. years, (Czaplicki) Esslinger; his two daughters, Ellen-Jean E. Cooley and her husband Patrick of Watertown, and Amy E. Litman and her husband Dana of Malden; a brother, Joel C. Esslinger of Bartlesville, OK; and his sister, Mary Esslinger of Washington, DC. Andrew was born in the Panama Canal Zone,

(Crowley) Esslinger. Andrew served honorable in the United States Army. He worked in the insurance industry for over 40 years,

the son of William H. and Eileen C.

retiring in 2001 from Farmers Insurance after working as a claim's supervisor. He was a true history buff and enjoyed old maps and military history. Andrew was an avid reader and loved going for walks

with family. He was a member of St. Anne's Church in Sturbridge.

Andrew's funeral was held on Tuesday, Dec. 17th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge with a Mass at 10:00 am in St. Anne's Church, 16 Church St., Sturbridge. Burial will follow in St. Anne's Cemetery, Sturbridge. A Calling hour in the funeral home was held on Tuesday, Dec. 17th from 8:30 to 9:30 am prior to the Mass.



Martin Philip Carlson, 'Phil', 90

Martin Philip Carlson, 'Phil', 90, husband, devoted father, grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 10, following a short hospital stay. He leaves his loving and

devoted wife and partner of 32 years, Astri Carlson, of Sturbridge, MA; his daughter, Melanie Carlson of Concord, MA; his son, Mitchel Carlson and his wife Kathy of Charlton, MA; his stepson, Eric Kastango and his wife Judy of Florham Park, NJ; his step-daughter, Eve Kinne and her husband Corbin of Longmeadow, MA; his step-daughter, Kari Kastango and her wife, Alison Garvey of South Hadley, MA; and his six grandsons, Steven Carlson, Tyler Carlson, Nicholas Kastango and his wife Nicole, Alexander Kastango, Maximilian Kinne, and Tucker Kinne and his wife Hayley. He is predeceased by his former wife, Myrta Lou Carlson, and his son, Scott Carlson.

Phil was born in Jamestown, NY, on August 27, 1929, the son of Martin and Anna Carlson, who came to the United States from Smaland, Sweden. He lived in Sturbridge for many years and was proudly employed by the JCPenney Company for almost 40 years. Phil loved his occupation and left for work each day with a smile for the day ahead. Phil was devoted to his community and was a proud member and contributor to the Rotary International Services

organization giving generously of his time to the organization in many different capacities since the early 70's. He was a Paul Harris Award recipient, the highest Rotary award, for outstanding contribution to the community. Phil visited Jamaica for several humanitarian missions along with his wife, Astri, with Doctors without Borders, helped build homes in Florida with Habitat for Humanity, and enjoyed delivering Meals on Wheels for many years in the Sturbridge area. Phil loved to golf and enjoyed playing with family and long-time golf partners. He also loved to travel, and together with his wife, Astri, visited many destinations across the world. Most of all, Phil loved people, and many benefited from his kindness and loving spirit. He loved to gather with his family for any occasion and has many treasured friends in the Sturbridge area that he traveled, golfed, sailed and experienced 'a tremendous' life with. A funeral service will be held on Friday, December 20, at 11 a.m., at the Sturbridge Federated Church, followed by a burial service at the North Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made, in memory of Phil, to the Sturbridge Federated Church or Sturbridge Rotary Scholarship Fund via Sturbridge Rotary Club Charitable Accounts, P.O. Box 357, Sturbridge, Ma, 01566

Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home, 51 MArcy St. Southbridge is directing arrangements

An online guestbook is available at ww.BelangerFuneralHome.com

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



CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 15

PRESCHOOL SCREENING FOR RESIDENTS OF STURBRIDGE: For

CHARLTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 391 meets every fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Charlton Grange Hall. All veterans are welcome. We'd love to see you. We sponsor Boy Troop 165 as well as t Staters & assist young men interested in attending the State Police summer school. We also assist the Charlton Little League financially, as well as other things such as veteran's wakes & funerals. There's plenty we can still do to help our community.

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

nity resources. Contact Kathy Walker at (508) 434-2551 or kawalker@overlook-mass.org for more information. Presented by Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter, visit (800) 272-3900 or alz.org.

Cecelia A. Switzer, 92



STURBRIDGE-Cecelia A. (Krehling) Switzer, 92, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 10th, in the Overlook Masonic Healthcare Center, Charlton, after an illness.

husband, Her

Robert P. Switzer, passed away in 1996. She leaves her son, Robert J. Switzer and his wife Marilyn C. Switzer of Bonita Springs, FL; and two grand-children, Michael Switzer and Andrea Switzer. She was predeceased by her brother, Peter J. Krehling and her sister, Margaret Doherty. She was born in Southbridge the daughter of Peter T. and Margaret J. (Kregal) Krehling.

Cecelia worked as a waitress at the Publick House Restaurant and as a hostess at the Lincoln House Restaurant, both in Sturbridge. She also worked as the Assistant Town Clerk for the Town of Sturbridge and as the secretary to the Selectmen of

the Town of Sturbridge. After retiring, she worked at the Sturbridge Antique Shops. She was a longtime member of St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish in Sturbridge. Cecelia and her husband moved to Stuart, FL in 1982 and she returned to Sturbridge in 2010. While in Florida she was a longtime volunteer at the Martin Memorial Hospital in Stuart. Through her many years and jobs in Sturbridge, Cecelia developed many great friendships.

Her funeral was held on Monday, Dec. 16th,from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in St. Anne's Church, 16 Church St., Sturbridge. Burial will follow in St. Anne's Cemetery, Sturbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Sunday, Dec. 15th, from 4:00 to 6:00pm.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the to the Sturbridge Police Department in memory of Cecelia Switzer, 346 Main St., Sturbridge, MA 01566

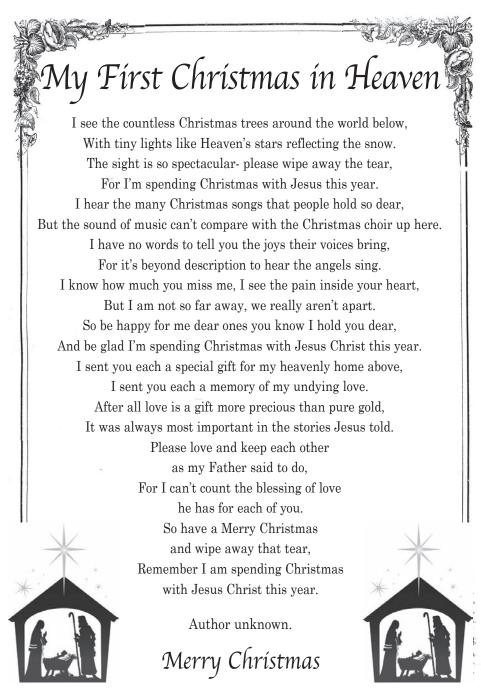
www.morrillfuneralhome.com

three- and four-year-olds. By appointment only. If you have concerns about your child's development and would like them screened, please call (508) 347-7041 for an appointment.

ONGOING

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

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



Pilgrimage to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje

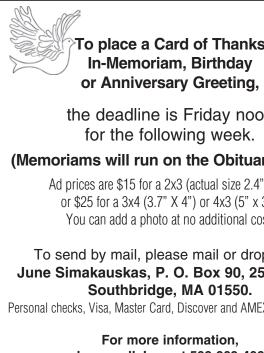
St. Joseph's Church in Charlton is sponsoring a Pilgrimage Sept. 29- Oct. 9, 2019 to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje with Fr. Robert Grattatori. The cost is \$4,599; 11 days includes 4-5 star hotels, airfare, luxury transportation, and breakfast/dinner daily. A \$500 deposit is due at the time of registration.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

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: First and third Thursday of each month, 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Overlook Independent Living Building, fourth floor Solarium, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton. The intent is to build a support system, exchange practical information, talk through issues and ways of coping, share feelings, needs and concerns and to learn about commu-

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

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

ALCOHOLICS **ANONYMOUS:** Turn To CALENDAR page A15



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!







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continued from page A10

more information.

The Uxbridge Senior Center and its Silver Club travelling group is offering the following trips for 2019:

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 - \$81. April 27-29 Penn Dutch w/the new show Queen Esther at Sight and Sound -- (trip is full, sign up for the waiting list) 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 -TBA June 1 - Plymouth cruise on Pilgrim Belle with sightseeing tour and lunch at Hearth and Kettle - Fox Tours - \$91 June 29 - July 6 -- Atlantic Canada w/Conway Tours -- International Tattoo, ferry crossing, Hopewell Rocks, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, St. John, New Brunswick - 8 seats left Pops August 9 by the -Conway Tours TBA Sea. 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 Nov. 19 -- Newport Playhouse w/Fox Dec. 7 & 8 -- Equinox Resort and Hildene, VT w/Conway. Two day trip with elegant dinner & piano entertainment, breakfast, tour of Hildene, chocolate tasting, etc.

There is also still space for the Newport Playhouse trip on Dec. 18, 2019. For \$79 experience the play "A Christmas Cactus" along with a full buffet lunch and a Christmas Carbaret.

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

Most trips leave from Whitinsville WalMart, 100 Valley Pkway and Stop & Shop at 32 Lyman St Westboro.

Newport Playhouse and some others will leave from the Millbury Park and Ride as well as the Whitinsville WalMart. Please always include entree choice, phone number (especially cell) and an emergency number.

Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information or to reserve.

The Silver Club of the Uxbridge Senior Center invites you to join them on a couple of Christmas trips.

There is a trip to Boothbay Harbor, Maine for the Gardens Aglow on

Nov. 21 and 22 for the great price of \$199. After traveling along the Maine Coast, we'll arrive in Freeport, Maine to explore this quintessential Maine village. There will be time for shopping at the dozens of brand-name outlets, flagship L.L. Bean Store, and local boutiques housed in historic brick buildings; then enjoy an included late lunch buffet at the Harraseeket Inn. We will arrive in Boothbay Harbor in the late afternoon and check in to the Flagship Inn. This evening we'll experience Gardens Aglow; walk through the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens' dazzling, outdoor display of 650,000 lights illuminating their meticulously cared for gardens. You'll also have a chance to peruse the visitor's center & gift shop and get a bite to eat. We will stop in the village of Boothbay Harbor afterwards to experience "The Festival of Lights." After breakfast we will head home with a stop in Kennebunkport for lunch and shopping. *Please note this tour includes periods of outdoor walking on dimly lit, potentially uneven surfaces, and overnight accommodations that require walking up and down stairs.

On December 5 and 6th there is a trip to the Trapp Family Lodge and it includes one dinner and one breakfast both at the lodge, glassblowing at Simon Pearce Company, a meeting with a member of the Von Trapp family, a stop in Montpelier, and of course the luxury of being at the Trapp family Lodge! It is \$379 for the double occupancy per person and \$499 per person for a single.

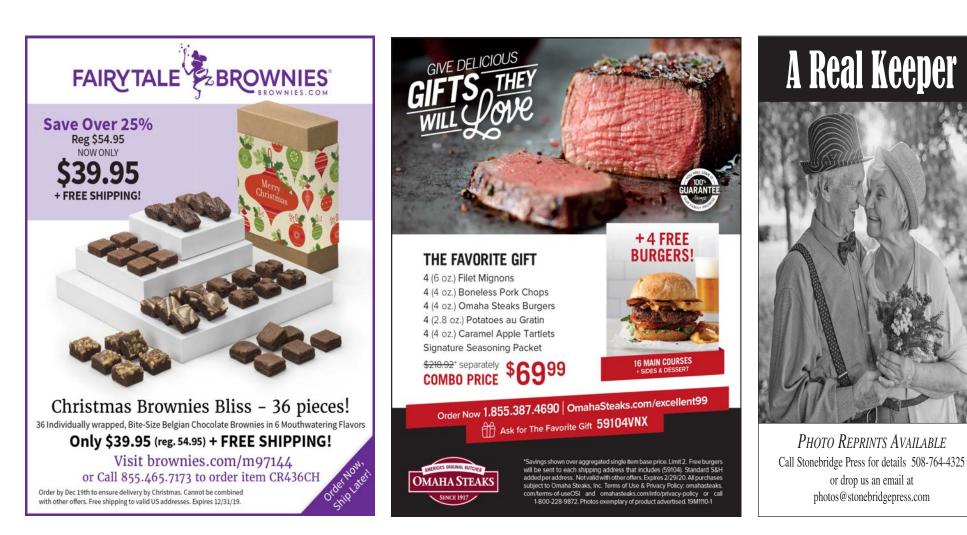
Capture the Christmas spirit as we

enjoy a little of Austria and a lot of Vermont on this memorable getaway. Situated on 2,500 acres in Stowe, Vermont, the Trapp Family Lodge serves as our magnificent home away from home. Enjoy great shopping, superb dining and exceptional hospitality on this great Christmas holiday tour.

On Wed, Dec. 18 we will travel to the Newport Playhouse to see "A Christmas Cactus" For \$79, you will enjoy a great play, a bountiful buffet and the Christmas Cabaret.

Show Synopsis: Christmas Eve is tough for private investigator Cactus O'Riley, a white-hot redhead with the holiday blues. She is trying to lure her secretary Fred away from his protective mother, dodging the affections of Deputy D.A. Windsor, and considering closing her business. She doesn't need the added aggravation of two fugitives who burst into her office looking for justice and a dead detective named Jake Marley. Cactus also doesn't need Fred's mother, who arrives to take Fred home but decides to stay because she thinks this is the Christmas murder mystery party she has always dreamed of attending. Christmas turns into a dickens of a holiday for Cactus as she solves mysteries, delivers small miracles and takes a second chance on love and sleuthing.

All trips leave from the Whitinsville WalMart. Call Sue at 509-476-5820 for more information.



No Substitution

"If you want to know what's going on in your town – whether the news is about the mayor or taxes or high school football – there is no substitute for a local newspaper. Wherever there is a pervasive sense of community, a paper that serves the special informational needs of that community will remain indispensable...



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CALENDAR

continued from page A13

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

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

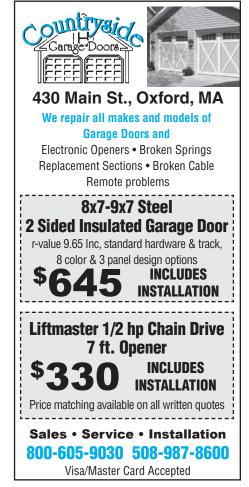
SEN-I JUDO CLUB: This course runs all year long on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield, and is well suited for all levels of practitioners, including beginners! Call Sensei Israel Lopez at (413) 279-4330 for more information.

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

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

FENCING: Fencing is a sport of combat that originally started as practice for dueling with swords. Since that time, it has grown into a modern sport while maintaining those virtues that made it great: honor, valor, and grace. Bring a water bottle, sneakers and comfortable clothing. Youth and adult classes with Andy Bloch at Hitchcock Academy. Fee: \$99.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS: Is food a problem for you? Have you been worried about the way you eat? Do you resolve to go on a diet tomorrow, only to fail again and again? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? You are not alone. Overeaters Anonymous can help. No dues, no fees, no weighins. 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.oa@charter.net or visit oa.org.



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Your friendship and memories made will always be held dearly to us.

E.B. Flatts' new owner, Jeremy, has been employed with us this past year, learning the E.B.

Flatts way. We hope that you embrace him and his girlfriend Sarah as you have embraced us.

Scott and Grace

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Items necessary to fix a flat tire



Flat tires are a nuisance, but even the most well-maintained vehicles can be vulnerable to the occasional flat. Ensuring tires are properly inflated and in good condition can help drivers avoid accidents, but won't necessarily

make tires immune to flats. The following are some essential items that all drivers should keep in their vehicles so they can quickly and correctly replace flat tires.

• Spare tire: Spare tires are typically

located in the trunk beneath the carpet-like mat covering the area. SUV drivers may have their spare tires mounted on the back of their vehicles, but some are located beneath the automobile. Periodically inspect spare tires to make sure they are inflated. When buying or leasing new cars, drivers should always confirm if the vehicle comes with a spare.

• Jack: A jack is necessary to change a flat tire. Scissor jacks are widely used and tend to be the jacks most people keep in their trunks. These jacks are lightweight and won't take up much space, and the handle is typically the tire iron that comes with the vehicle. Some jacks are specially designed to fit the vehicles they came with, so when shopping for replacement jacks, make sure any you are considering are compatible with your car or truck.

• Lug wrench: A lug wrench is necessary to remove hubcaps or wheel covers. Drivers should determine if their vehicles require a special tool to remove wheel covers. Such information will be indicated in the owner's manual, which should be kept in the vehicle at all times.

• Wheel wedges: Wheel wedges can be placed in front of or behind tires to prevent the car from rolling while drivers change their flats. When changing a rear tire, place the wedges in front of the front tires. When changing a front tire, place them behind the rear tires.

Miscellaneous items: While the aforementioned items are all that's necessary to change a tire, some miscellaneous items can facilitate the process of replacing a flat. In their cars, drivers can keep a small cloth bag containing a pair of gloves, a flashlight, batteries to go with the flashlight, a poncho to keep them dry should they need to change a tire in the rain, and a ballcap that can keep rain or sunlight out of their eyes so they can focus on the job at hand. It's also a good idea to keep a blanket in the trunk of your car so passengers can stay warm inside while the flat tire is replaced.



122 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 508-347-9017

Pickup trucks remain popular among car buyers

Pickup trucks have long been among the most popular vehicles sold, and Statistica states the number of new pickup trucks sold in the United States continues to grow. Between 2015 and 2016, 2.7 million pickups were sold, and some 2.24 million of those were fullsized pickups. According to the data and statistics site GoodCarBadCar, Canadian sales of pickup trucks jumped by 8 percent in 2016, equating to roughly 27,000 additional units sold.

A recent study from the Automotive News Data Center found the big three pickup manufacturers, which include Ford, GM and Dodge, sell an average of 6,500 trucks every day in North America. The automotive news resource The Drive points out the Ford F-150 has been the best-selling truck for 40 consecutive years.

While the popularity of pickup trucks may be evident to today's motorists, just who is behind the wheels of those trucks may come as a surprise. According to a recent study from MaritzCX, covering the 2016 model year, more people from affluent fami-



lies are opting for pickup trucks than economy cars. The Ford F-150 was the most popular vehicle among households earning more than \$200,000 a year. Jeep Grand Cherokee, Honda Pilot and Jeep Wrangler were also tops among high-income Americans.

Other factors also may be contributing to the popularity of pickup trucks. A survey from Insure.com asked 2,000 licensed drivers ages 18 and up to rank the kinds of vehicles driven by the most attractive members of the opposite sex. The survey found that women prefer drivers of black pickup trucks.

Motorists who have never before driven pickup trucks but are mulling whether or not to join the truck-loving masses can consider a host of factors as they begin looking for trucks.

• Size: Pickups are larger than many other vehicles and tend to be heavier. As a result, when driving a pickup, leave more space for braking and do not tailgate.

• Blind spots: Because pickup trucks are longer than cars, they may have larger blind spots. Drivers should adjust the mirrors to diminish as much of their blind spots as possible. Also, give ample notice when changing lanes or making turns.

• Reverse: Upon purchasing a pickup, first-time truck owners may benefit from practicing driving in reverse so they can grow accustomed to doing so in a truck.



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• Inclement weather driving: Pickup trucks have very little weight in the back when their beds are empty. This can cause trucks to fishtail on wet or snowy roads. Alleviate this by placing some sandbags in truck beds before driving in poor weather.

Pickup trucks are among the most popular vehicles on the road, but drivers may need to alter their driving habits when operating them.







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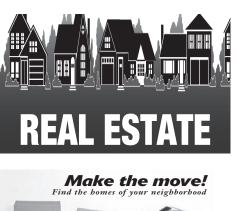
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LEGALS

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY **OUTREACH MEETING REGARDING PROPOSAL OF** HEAL STURBRIDGE, INC. **TO OPERATE ADULT-USE MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT** AT 660 MAIN STREET, FISKDALE (STURBRIDGE), MA

Heal Sturbridge, Inc. ("Heal") will be hosting a Community Outreach Meeting ("the Meeting") on January 7, 2020 at 660 Main Street, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), Massachusetts (the "Property"), at 6:00 p.m. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the Meeting, at which Heal will outline its proposal to apply for a Marijuana Retail license at the Property pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 94G and Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, and other applicable laws and regulations promulgated thereunder, including those promulgated by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. Please note that the information provided at this meeting will be similar to that provided at Heal's previously noticed outreach meeting on May 30, 2019.

Information presented at the Community Outreach Meeting will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The type of Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment to be located at the Property.

2. Information adequate to demonstrate that the Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment location will be maintained securely.

3. Steps to be taken by the Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment to prevent diversion to minors.

4. A plan by the Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment to positively impact the community.

5. Information adequate to demonstrate that the location will not constitute a nuisance to the community by noise, odor, dust, glare, fumes, vibration, heat, or other conditions likely to cause nuisance.

Members of the Sturbridge communi-

ty will be encouraged to ask questions and to engage in discussions with representatives of Heal.

A copy of this notice is on file with the offices of the Town Clerk and the Town Administrator, along with the offices of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board, Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. A copy of this notice was mailed at least seven calendar days prior to the Community Outreach Meeting to abutters of the Property, abutters to abutters within three hundred feet of the Property, and the owners of land directly opposite the Property on any public or private street or way, all as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list, notwithstanding that the land of any such owner is located in another city or town. December 19, 2019

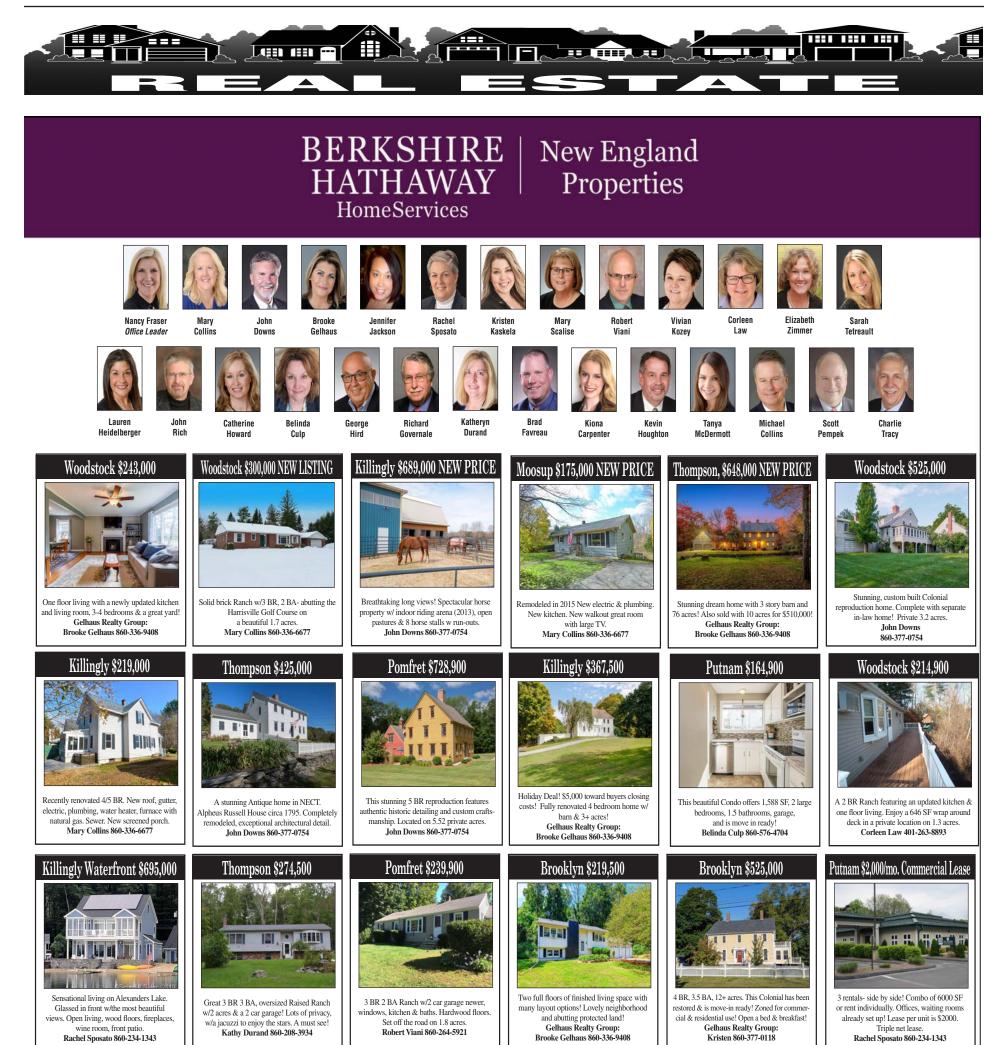
Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Brimfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing, on the following:

The Brimfield Planning Board will be holding a Site Plan Review

Public Hearing for <u>Sunpin Solar</u> <u>Development</u>, <u>LLC</u> for the proposed project of a Gravel access drive and utility connections for a solar project located in the Town of Warren which is located at Brookfield Road (parcel id: Map #4B Block# A, Lot 18) on January 8, 2020 at the Brimfield Town Hall (21 Main Street) at 7:30pm.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Brimfield Planning Board or appear at the time and place designated above. A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Board Office in the Town Hall, please call 413-245-4100 x1153 or email planning@brimfieldma.org. December 13, 2019 December 20, 2019



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wine room, front patio.

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Local Events, Arts, and HERE & THE **Entertainment Listings**

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Robert Viani 860-264-5921

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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

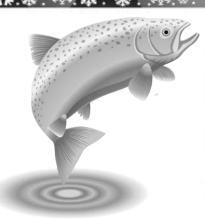




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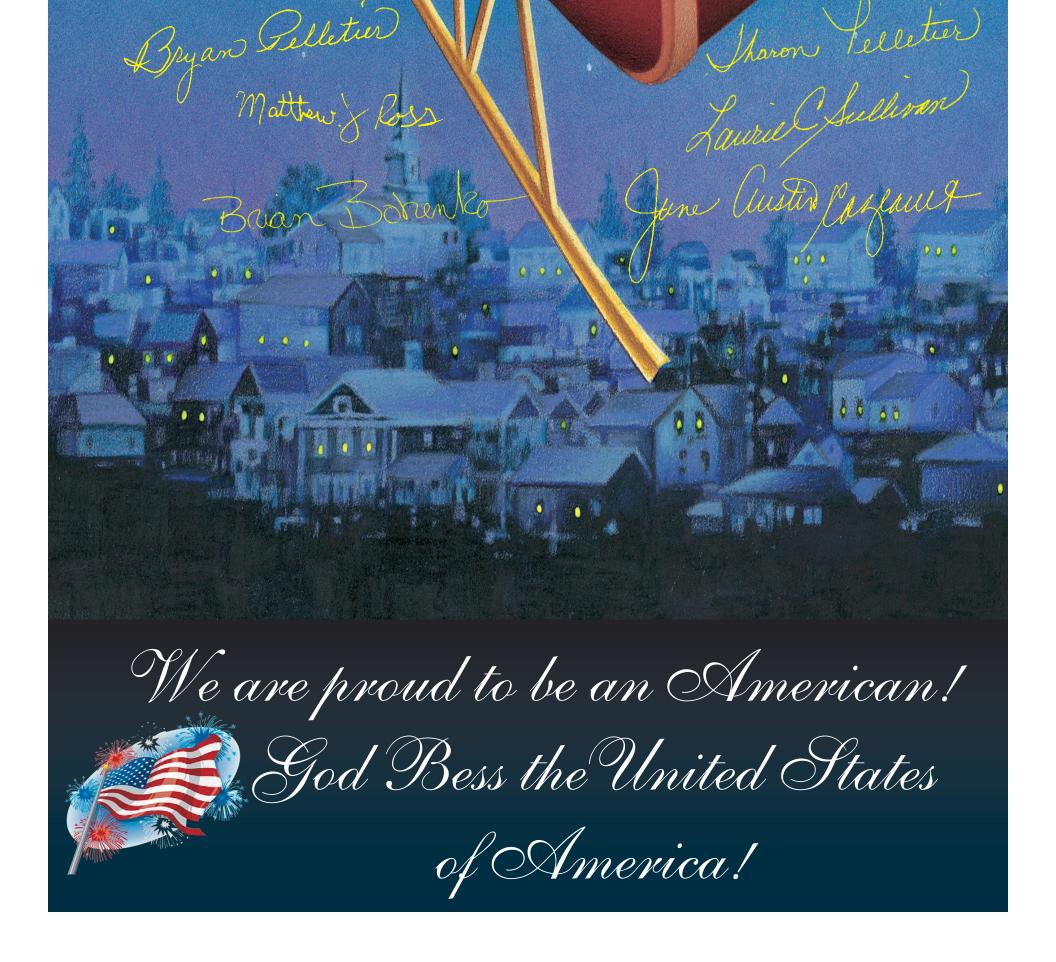
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by Princess.	Speakers. 114-241-0021	call 508-347-3145		& a following of many sat-	CALL (508)637-1698		2014 Victory Vision Tou
if interested please	FREE ITEMS		100 GENERAL	isfied customers. We also	SOLID OAK	715 Auto Services	Loaded with options Only 2,000 miles, not even broken in Paic
call between	Large Picture Frame. Portable		IUU UENERAL	sell a nice selection of fine	RECTANGULAR	\$100 CASH FLAT RATE for	\$20,000. Asking \$13,500. Cal
9am-6pm	Air Conditioning Unit-plus much			jewelry, antiques & col-	DINING TABLE	any Junk Vehicle No title/no	774-200-6387 email
508-764-8870	more		107 MISC. FREE	lectibles. Bring in your items & see what they're	about 35 yrs old in sturdy condi-	keys OK. Free pick up. Call 401-	moehagerty@msn.com
CHINA FOR SALE	Please call 508-340-6701 for in-	TRAC VAC		worth. You won't leave	tion but could use a light sanding	648-9300	2014 Victory Vision Tou
8 place settings of Golden Peony	formation	Model 385-IC/385LH	ANTIQUE GLENWOOD GAS	disappointed. Honesty and	on top to		Loaded with options Only 2,000
by Princess. if interested please	FURNITURE FOR SALE	Used Once	KITCHEN RANGE	fairness are our best poli-	refresh Asking \$75. CALL (508)637-1698	725 AUTOMOBILES	miles, not even broken in Paic
call between	dinning room set with	Best Offer	Used until last year. Needs some	cies! Lee's Coins & Jew-	CALL (300)007-1090	2002 BMW 525iA. \$3995. Call	\$20,000. Asking \$13,500. Cal
9am-6pm	HUTCH like new perfect con-		work but beautiful.	elry, 239 West Main Street,	454 Home	Rav for more details. 508-450-	774-200-6387 email
508-764-8870	dition. Bar with 3 stools.	BEAR CAT	Located in Spencer. Free if you	East Brookfield (Route 9 -	IMPROVEMENT	5241	moehagerty@msn.com
Couch, 84 inches long. Dark red	Must See. Stereo Equipment	VAC-N-CHIP PRO	come get it (it's heavy !)	Panda Garden Plaza)			
fabric with pillows, good condi-	Love seat and chairs and Misc items. 508-234-7252		Free construction wood and	(508) 637-1236 or	FURNITURE DOCTOR: Have	2003 MERCURY GRAND	2014 HARLEY
tion. \$150. 508-410-5167	WISC ILCITIS. JUO-204-7202	& VAC PRO	kindling wood; beams, ply-	(508)341-6355 (cell)	your furniture Professionally	MARQUIS GS Like New 21712 miles.	DAVIDSON
	FURNITURE FOR SALE	Models 72085, 72285,	wood, 2x4x, 2x6s, 2x8s, good for		restored at reasonable rates. Furniture face lifting, painting,	CALL	(low rider). Accessories added
CUB CADET SNOWBLOWER.	dinning room set with	72295	woodstoves, not for building.		striping to Refinishing, caning and	508-377-8729	windshield, crash bar, saddle
13hp Tecumseh OHV. 45 in. width,	HUTCH like new perfect con-	Used Twice	Clean. Delivery possible. Ask for	WAR RELICS & WAR	repairs. ANTIQUE DOCTOR,		bags. 5300
trigger steering, 6 FRWD, 2 REV,	dition. Bar with 3 stools.	Best Offer	J.D. 413-262-5082	SOUVENIRS WANTED: WWI	Daniel Ross (508) 248-9225 or	2006 MUSTANG GT-50k, 5sp	babied miles and care Silver metallic. Recorded 100%
new condition. Hardly used! \$1,600.00. 508-347-3775	Must See. Stereo Equipment	CALL		& EARLIER CA\$H WAITING!	(860)382-5410. 30 years in	fully modified. Call or email for details and photos. 508-476-2293.	mechanically sound by Shel-
ψ1,000.00. 300-0+1-0113	Love seat and chairs and	(508)765-5763		Helmets, Swords, Daggers,	business!	savianojohnt@yahoo.com	don's of Auburn. Bike is truly
DUCK STAMP RW#1.\$150. got	Misc items. 508-234-7252	TO SEE COME TO		Bayonets, Medals, Badges,			new condition
stamps?. Call Ron 413-896-		22 TAFT ST. 2ND FLR	130 YARD SALES	Flags, Uniforms, etc. Over 40		2007 TOYOTA COROLLA S	Call 508-414-9134
3324 stamps wanted.	GENERAC GP500 Gasoline	SOUTHBRIDGE, MA		Years Experience. Call David 1-(508)688-0847. I'll Come To	500 REAL ESTATE	\$3995. Call Ray for more info. 508-450-5241	for showing. Firm \$12,000 as
DUCK STAMP RW#1.\$150. got	Generator -Unboxed, never used. Original manual + war-	SUUT IIDNIDUE, INA	*****	YOU!		000-400-0241	bike is MINT!
stamps?. Call Ron 413-896-	ranty card. Provides 5500		DEADLINE FOR			2010 MAZDA M3 iSV. \$6800.	
3324 stamps wanted.	watt power supply. Asking		YARD SALE			Call Ray 508-450-5241	
ENCYLOPEDIA Britannica-24	\$575. 203-209-6418		SUBMISSIONS IS		505 Apartments for	2016 CHEVY CRUZE LT.	
volume 9th edition(1880)		TRAC VAC	NOON MONDAY		Rent	79,000 miles. 1.4 liter engine,	
leather bound with marbled	GENERAC GP500 Gasoline	Model 385-IC/385LH	FOR ALL			blue, remote start, Weather tech	
edges. Excellent Condition.	Generator-Unboxed, never	Used Once	MASS. WEEKLY	300 HELP WANTED	NICE 1 BEDROOM	mats. \$9000. Call 508-234-	
\$500. call 860-774-1871	used. Original manual + war- ranty card. Provides 5500	Best Offer	PAPERS		APARTMENT	6944.	
ENCYLOPEDIA Britannica-24	watt power supply. Asking		Deadline subject to		Large rooms. Has heat and air	FOR SALE	760 VANS/TRUCKS
volume 9th edition(1880)	\$575. 203-209-6418	BEAR CAT	change due to holidays	310 General Help	conditioning	1999 GMC 3500	
leather bound with marbled		VAC-N-CHIP PRO	Call for more info	WANTED	(not included) \$800	8 foot bed. 454 cubic inch en-	
edges. Excellent Condition.	HOME SEWING	& VAC PRO	******		please call 774-230-7640	gine. New front and rear breaks.	2000 GMC 2500 SIERRA 4 door cab & 1/2, 4-wheel drive, nc
\$500. call 860-774-1871	SUPPLIES			FOSTER PARENTS	or (508)943-1593	New front routers.	rot, with plow + truck moun
ENTERTAINMENT	including a large assortment of	Models 72085, 72285,	135 Lost and Found	WANTED: Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central	01 (000)040-1000	New radiator & water pump. Four general ten ply tires. 1 year	slide-in Fleetwood Alcorr
CENTER	fabrics in both prints and solids to choose from. Also includes	72295		MA To Provide Foster Care		old.Well maintained. \$2500	camper (2001) w/bath, fridge
FREE	choices of a variety of laces,	Used Twice Best Offer	STEREO EQUIPMENT	To Children In Need. 24/7		508-826-8891	a/c, kitchenette. \$6300 508-341
3 Pieces Each 6 ft 2 inches Tall	trims, sequins and beads etc.	CALL	RECEIVER ONKYO AV HT	Support. Generous Reim-			6347
31 Inches Wide Adjustable shelves for TV's ect	Please call		R8230Digital Dolby Wrat	bursement. \$1000 Sign-On	530 Houses for Sale		
Cabinets for storage	413-436-5073.	(508)765-5763	Wide Range Amplifier Tech. TEAC W-450R	Bonus. Call For Details.	JOU HUUSES FUR JALE	VEHICALS FOR SALE 1999	
Call 1-508-347-3145		TO SEE COME TO	Stereo Double Reverse	Devereux Therapeutic Fos-		F150 118k miles. 4x4 single	
ENTERTAINMENT	HOME SEWING SUPPLIES	22 TAFT ST. 2ND FLR	Cassette Deck Dolby-BC	ter Care. (508)829-6769	PARK MODEL MOBILE	cab stepside capt. chairs Loaded Red with Cap	
CENTER	including a large assortment of	SOUTHBRIDGE, MA	NR HXPRO Auto Reverse		HOME - Highview Campground,	\$4,000. 2002 Chevy Silver-	
FREE	fabrics in both prints and solids to		SONY Mega Storage 300	(1)	West Brookfield. Season begins April 15th and closes Oct. 15th.	ado 2500 HD black long bed-	8' PLOW - three cable hook, ir
3 Pieces Each 6 ft 2 inches Tall	choose from. Also includes	Terrere at the first of the fir	CD High Density Linear	VIPVPreliv	New windows, furnace, refriger-	loaded with plow. Low mil-	good condition. \$700 or bes
31 Inches Wide	choices of a variety of laces,	Transport chair, Excel Deluxe by Medline 19" seat, up to 300	Converter System Asking \$175 call 508-347-3145	DUNIUM	ator, and kitchen floor. Call 508-	lige. 67 thousand. \$7500.	offer. Call Jim at 774-317-0628
Adjustable shelves for TV's ect.	trims, sequins and beads etc.	lbs. Used once. 508-637-1304	φ170 0all 000-047-0140	ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	873-6312.	Would consider partial trade.	No texting please.
Cabinets for storage Call 1-508-347-3145	Please call 413-436-5073.					Call Mike 508-752-7474.	

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We hope it's filled with an abundance of cheer, prosperity, and health.





Janet Jones VP/Branch Manager NMLS# 408571

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