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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, December 24, 2021

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

WHITINSVILLE — Students from Whitinsville Christian High School spent time outside of the classroom recently, focused on service learning while working in groups, learning, and cleaning up litter in several areas of the community.

The service-learning day had a theme—Water is Life—and, according to a school statement, students were able to learn about water challenges around the world, as well as conservation methods here at home.

The day also featured a guest speaker—Jodi Koeman of World Renew. Students learned that access to clean water is becoming a critical problem in countries like Kenya, Cambodia, and Bangladesh, the school released, but also in Australia and the United States.

purification systems provide access to clean, safe water in places like Cambodia,” said Koeman. “Closer to home it is also important to consider our own water usage and the ways industries misuse water, and to look for ways we can make personal changes to make an impact.”

Working in groups, the students headed out to several areas of the community and cleaning up litter, the school released, after which they reported that they enjoyed “the chance to help the community.”

“It was a great activity,” said Trinity, WCHS junior. “We were able to spend some social time together while working hard. We cleaned up everything from plastic bottles to pieces of electronics. It was a great opportunity to serve.”

“I’m excited that Whitinsville Christian School students are both learning about and actively engaged in



Courtesy
Students from Whitinsville Christian High School spent time outside of the classroom recently, focused on service learning while working in groups, learning, and cleaning up litter in several areas of the community.

helping to make water clean and accessible both in their community and around the world,” Koeman added. “This service-learning day is a great first step in being good water stewards. It has been fun to plan activities and share resources and engage with students at all grade levels.”

Douglas awarded \$3 million in MassWorks grant funding

Sutton police to participate in BFit Challenge

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS — The town of Douglas has received \$3 million in MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant funding that will support water and sewer upgrades for the system that serves Douglas, Sutton, and Uxbridge.

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito was recently joined by state and local officials to announce the grant. According to a town statement, the upgrades are “critical to the advancement of two warehouse developments that will be constructed as a result of \$147 million in private investment” and are expected to support the

creation of approximately 800 new jobs.

“I am excited to see the State’s commitment to support this infrastructure project that will allow for smart development along the Route 146 corridor,” said Rep. Joseph D. McKenna. “Many have worked hard in Douglas, Sutton, and Uxbridge to bring this upbridge forward and it represents a tremendous collaboration from municipal, to state, to private commitment; with federal support hopefully soon to follow.”

Polito also announced a \$314,850 award from the Site Readiness Program to support preliminary

design and engineering of additional water and sewer system upgrades in Douglas, the town released.

“Once again, we are seeing that the Commonwealth recognizes the economic strength, resilience, and opportunity in the Blackstone Valley region,” said Sen. Ryan Fattman. “This grant will improve vital infrastructure capacity that will pave the way for significant business development in this area. I’m grateful to the Baker-Polito Administration for recognizing the promising future ahead for our region.”

The two programs

are included in the “Community One Stop for Growth” platform, a single application portal and collaborative review process of grant programs launched in January 2021 that make targeted investments based on a development continuum. MassWorks is a program that offers cities and towns flexible capital funding to support and accelerate housing production and job growth and is the largest program in Community One Stop for Growth.

“I want to congratulate Douglas for the success through the One Stop program and commend the town for setting the example of how the One Stop can support a community’s efforts to pursue local development opportunities that attract significant private investment and create jobs,” said Polito. “Through these awards, Douglas can continue along the path of economic growth

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

SUTTON — Through an upcoming “BFit Challenge,” the Sutton Police Department hopes to raise donations that will help support the families of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

The sixth annual challenge will take place on Feb. 6 at the TD Garden. The event invites both first responders and anyone in the community to walk, run, or step to benefit First Responder Charities.

“The BFit Challenge is where teams navigate through the TD Garden levels by climbing stairs,” said Sutton Police Lt. Lisa Sullivan. “There are different levels of varying difficulties, with the hardest being a course that runs through every level of the Garden.”

Each year, the Sutton department has had a team participate in this event, they have always opted for the most difficult course, Lt. Sullivan said. Now, for the third year, Sutton Police will have a team participating, and this year, it is the department’s biggest team yet.

“We have a great team shaping up for this year’s event; Lt. Sullivan, Sgts. Fortunato, Jacques and Bohanan, Patrolmen O’Rourke, Sinni, Perry, Graves and even our intern, Carina, is going to join us,” the department released in a statement on social media.

DA’s community outreach talks reach audience of 600,000



WORCESTER — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr.’s office has officially reached more than 600,000 people with his crime prevention and community safety programming.

“We are at schools, senior centers and community events across Worcester County nearly every day, presenting on topics such as bul-

lying and cyber bullying, scams and fraud, drugs and alcohol, and texting and driving,” Mr. Early said. “I’ve always said I’d rather prevent a crime than have to solve one. I’m proud to say we’ve officially reached 600,000 residents with this programming, many of them youth.”

The District Attorney’s Community Outreach Team, made

up of 10 staff members, presents programming to schools and groups of all sizes by request. These presentations are always free and can be tailored to the specific age range or audience. Our Outreach Team also runs our intern program and manages grant implementations.

The most popular program is bullying

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Worcester Children’s Chorus to perform with NESO in “Festive Baroque and Beyond” concert at Mechanics Hall



WORCESTER — The Worcester Children’s Chorus will appear with the New England Symphony Orchestra in a “Festive Baroque and Beyond” concert, taking place in Worcester’s Mechanics Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18. Tickets are available through the orchestra’s Web site (newenglandsymphony.org) or from the Mechanics Hall box office at 508-752-0888.

The Worcester Children’s Chorus is led by its Artistic Director, Pamela Mindell, along with Associate Director Philip Montgomery. The mission of the Worcester Children’s Chorus is to

enrich the lives of children ages eight to 18 by providing a quality musical experience through training in choral singing. WCC’s ensembles enhance young people’s lives, helping them to develop qualities of self-reliance, personal integrity, compassion, and confidence in their abilities. The Worcester Children’s Chorus has performed at Carnegie Hall (2015 and 2017) and has toured to New Orleans, La. (2016) and Canada (2018). Recent highlights include Bach’s Saint Matthew Passion with the Worcester Chorus, Benjamin Britten’s War Requiem with several choruses in Central Massachusetts,

a 10th Anniversary tour to Canada, James MacMillan’s “Passion According to Saint Luke” with WPI and Trinity Lutheran Church, and collaborations with several other area choruses and orchestras.

Also appearing with the orchestra will be soprano soloist Elaine Daiber. Mechanics Hall composer in residence Leonard Ciampa has composed a new piece especially for this concert by the NESO, Worcester Children’s Chorus, and Elaine Daiber. NESO Music Director Roderick MacDonald will give a free pre-concert talk for ticket holders

at 6:30 p.m.

New England Symphony Orchestra continues to operate as a volunteer-led, non-profit professional symphony orchestra serving the people of New England. This season’s strategic plan includes a three-concert series at Mechanics Hall, streaming performances as part of the NESO At Home series, and more. For information about volunteering or sponsorship, call 603-438-8920.

MIAA keeps mask mandate in place for winter sports

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
REGION — With COVID-19 conditions worsening again — and a new variant making headlines — high school winter sports athletes will once again have to mask up this season.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) board of directors recently decided to keep the mask mandate in place for winter athletes. The decision reflects the indoor mask mandate still in effect

statewide at public schools, per order of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

“It makes no sense to do something that contradicts what goes on during the school day,” said MIAA Executive Director Robert Baldwin during a recent meeting.

All coaches and guests must also be masked while attending winter sports venues.

For many local athletes and coaches, the mask mandate is a source of frustration. The mandate even applies to fully vaccinated students, and there are no exemptions for schools that have reached an 80-percent vaccination threshold, as the state allows in schools.

Since Thanksgiving, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have increased sharply across the state and nation. Several days during the last week-plus have topped 120,000 new cases nationwide, and MIAA officials aren’t taking any chances with winter sports, especially

with the emergence of the omicron variant.

Over the last three weeks, local athletic directors have met with coaches and team leaders to emphasize the importance of following the rules and maximizing safety. The ultimate goal is to ensure that every sport completes its schedule without postponed or canceled games due to COVID-19.

“Given that we didn’t play basketball at all last year, we support anything that will allow us to get this season in safely,” said Quaboag Regional Middle High School Athletic Director David Bouchard. “We wanted to convey to our athletes that they all have an important role to play in making sure we are able to have a full season.”

The DESE indoor mask mandate for public schools remains in effect through at least Jan. 15. MIAA officials said a new decision on masks for winter sports athletes could come

then, depending on COVID-19 conditions. First, athletic officials will wait for DESE leaders to make their evaluation and then consult with them.

“The department will continue to work with medical experts and state health officials to evaluate the mask requirement beyond January 15,” read a statement released by DESE Commissioner Jeffrey Riley.

For now, local athletic directors and coaches are following the regulations and focusing on safety this winter.

“If the guidance changes, we would act accordingly. Right now, we are wearing masks inside the building and making sure we are doing the right thing,” Bouchard told the New Leader.

Added David Prouty High School Athletic Director Charles Fahey, “We are just following DESE regulations heading into the winter.”

Omicron Delta Kappa celebrates new members

LEXINGTON, Va. — Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, welcomed more than 1,100 new initiates from 41 universities during November 2021.

Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35 percent of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Margaret Gurney of Douglas Amanda Brodeur of Uxbridge

Omicron Delta Kappa Society, the *National Leadership Honor Society*, was founded in Lexington, Va., on Dec. 3, 1914. A group of 15 students and faculty members established the Society to recognize and encourage leadership at the collegiate level. The founders established the ODK Idea—the concept that individuals representing all phases of collegiate life should collaborate with faculty and others to support the campus and community. ODK’s mission is to honor and develop leaders; encourage collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and promote ODK’s leadership values of collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, and service on college and university campuses throughout North America. The Society’s national headquarters are located in Lexington, Va.





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to All



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P.E.O. Sisterhood helps Bay Path students reach for the stars



Chapter R members at a recent social

CHARLTON — Sarah Garcia of Charlton was presented with a \$2,000 grant on Oct. 23 by members of an organization that’s helping women reach for the stars.

Garcia was one of three women (and the most recent) from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy who received a grant from the Philanthropic Education Organization. P.E.O. has 6,000 chapters across the United States and Canada.

Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director said she didn’t know much about P.E.O., other than her students and alumni receiving grants.

“It is amazing what P.E.O. does,” she said, thanking the members of Chapter R, who presented Garcia with the award.

Chapter R nominated Garcia for the Program for Continuing Education (PCE) and helped her with the process.

The P.E.O. began as a bond of friend-

ship among seven young women in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and is now one of the oldest women’s organizations in North America. According to the P.E.O. website, “since its inception in 1869, the nonprofit has helped more than 105,000 women pursue educational goals by providing more than \$321 million in grants, scholarships, awards, and loans.”

“I came across information on P.E.O. back in 2018 when I was researching scholarships for my nursing students,” said Bolandrina.

The P.E.O. sisterhood has brought together women in the United States and Canada who are passionate change-makers helping women’s advancement through education, support, and motivation.

“There are meetings and socials,” said Bolandrina, who has now been newly inducted to Chapter R. “I am very excited to participate, and there are special interest groups!” she exclaimed.

Chapters hold fundraisers throughout the year to support the organization’s scholarship programs, as well as the stewardship of Cottey College, a nationally ranked, fully accredited, independent, liberal arts and sciences college in Nevada, Mo. The women’s college has been owned and supported by the P.E.O. since 1927. The fundraisers are as varied as the chapters that hold them.


“I saw the beautiful dishcloths of Chapter R,” said Bolandrina.

Chapter R also holds a Chocolate Sunday fundraiser. The fundraisers help support the national organization and help local women like Garcia.

Membership is by invitation only. Philanthropy is the goal of P.E.O. however, friendship is its cornerstone. The P.E.O. has a long legacy of sisterhood.

“The friendship and sisterhood brought me in,” concludes Bolandrina.

Courtesy



ACCURACY WATCH

The *Blackstone Valley Tribune* is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page A3 in a timely manner.

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

UniBank to host free home buying Webinar

WHITINSVILLE — UniBank will be hosting a free home buying webinar on Thursday, Jan. 13 from 6 to 7 p.m. Join UniBank’s Mortgage Representative, Karen Beane (NMLS #485228) and Matt McLaughlin, REALTOR® from Premeer Real Estate for this educational opportunity that will provide homebuyers with valuable information about finding and buying the home of their dreams. Important discussion topics include: Negotiating a Winning Offer, Finding the Right Mortgage and Pre-Qualifying, Down Payment Options, The Importance of Home Inspections, and more.

Attendees will be entered for a chance to win a \$100 Koopman’s gift card. Sweepstakes to win gift card is subject to complete official rules which are available at www.unibank.com. To enter, individuals must register and attend the seminar. No purchase or account required to enter or win.

All seminar attendees will receive a \$500 mortgage closing cost coupon from UniBank.

To register, visit www.unibank.com.

UniBank is rooted in the Blackstone Valley with assets of \$2.5 billion as of Sept. 30. A full-service, mutually owned community bank, UniBank has branches in Central Massachusetts and the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. UniBank is dedicated to contributing to the overall quality of life and economic health of the communities it serves, while maintaining a high level of financial soundness and integrity. UniBank is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC and Member DIF. UniBank NMLS #583135. The company Web site is www.unibank.com.

Last-minute holiday shopping tips



Some people thrive by doing all of their tasks early. Others seem to do their best work when faced with a time crunch. The methods individuals use to manage their time at work and play may extend to the ways they approach holiday shopping as well.

There’s no right or wrong way to handle holiday shopping tasks, though Christmas Eve crowds at malls and throughout shopping districts suggest that there’s more late comers than there are early birds. The following tips can help those who typically wait until the last minute to check names off their lists.

- Utilize free shipping services. Shoppers who shop for gifts online at the last minute run the risk of gifts not arriving on time. Many online retailers charge a premium for expedited shipping. Try to stick to shopping at online retailers that offer free shipping even in the eleventh hour.
- Create a budget. When rushing around from store to store, it may be easy to spend more than you want to. Make a list of how much you want to spend on each person, and stick to that limit for each person. Move on to the next store if you didn’t find what you need in your price range.
- Establish a time limit. Stores have strategies in place to keep shoppers in their establishments longer, hoping you’ll make impulse buys. These tricks include scenting the air with inviting aromas, putting necessities at the rear of the store, failing to display the time, and putting discounted items by the registers or door to attract shoppers. Set an alarm on your watch or phone for each store so you get what you need and get out on time.
- Subdivide bulk gifts. Think about purchasing bulk gifts like gift baskets from wholesale clubs and then breaking them down into individual gifts. This way you can gift several people on one purchase and save time in the process.
- Choose one-size-fits-all gifts. Think about a gift that can be purchased for multiple people so you can save time shopping for individualized gifts for everyone. For example, print a personalized photo calendar for several members of your family. You also can purchase multiple subscriptions or memberships to zoos or magazines for people on your list. Streamlining gifting in this way may save money as well as time.
- Choose in-store pickup. Rather than scouring various aisles, you can shop a retailer’s website and then pick up items in the store. You’ll save on potential shipping fees but still benefit by avoiding crowds.

Some people wait until the last minute to do their holiday shopping. A few tricks of the procrastinator’s trade can make last-minute shopping go smoothly.

Some people wait until the last minute to do their holiday shopping. A few tricks of the procrastinator’s trade can make last-minute shopping go smoothly.



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SPORTS

Relentless defense fuels Douglas past Pirates

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

DOUGLAS — Employed with nine smaller players on his roster, Douglas High girls' varsity basketball head coach Jerry Grudzien has decided that he will try his mightiest to not allow the opposition to wear the Tigers down inside the paint. Instead, Douglas has hopes of creating havoc before teams get too far past the midcourt.

Against Oxford High on Wednesday, Dec. 15, the Tigers' relentless defense was sharp, as they had countless steals and held the Pirates into single-digit scoring totals in all four quarters.

Douglas won the game, 39-25.

"We don't want them to come down

and pick us apart. We're not a super big team, so we don't want to get into that half-court game with these bigger teams," Grudzien explained.

Morgan Berthiaume, a Tigers' senior co-captain, led the defensive charge. She finished with an impressive 11 steals.

"We really cut her loose. I have her pick [the opposition] up high and say, 'pick pockets, pick pockets. If not, get back and help,'" said Grudzien. "She's just a competitor. She's an athlete. She could be playing badminton and I guarantee you she'll be on the floor diving."

Berthiaume filled out the stat sheet even further with 12 points and 7 rebounds. Other top contributing Tigers included senior co-captain Triniti Sughrue (13 points, 14 rebounds) and sophomore Ava Lemire (10 points).

"We used everybody today. You have to develop and at the same time compete," said Grudzien, whose team improved to 1-1 following a season-opening loss to Blackstone Valley Tech.

Oxford, meanwhile, also has a team of nine players. They are much younger, though, as they are equipped with a senior, three juniors, two sophomores, a freshman and two eighth graders.

"It's the first game in two years for us," said head coach Joe Pietrzak, as the Pirates did not play in the winter of 2020-2021 due to COVID-19, while Douglas did compete against fellow Dual Valley Conference opponents. "We're trying to find our way."

"We started pretty good in the first quarter," added Pietrzak, as the Pirates held an 8-4 lead and trailed by just three



Nick Ethier photos

Douglas' Morgan Berthiaume looks to make a move on Oxford defender Myah Guivas.

points (11-8) after the opening frame. "And then after that, I think they just wore us down."

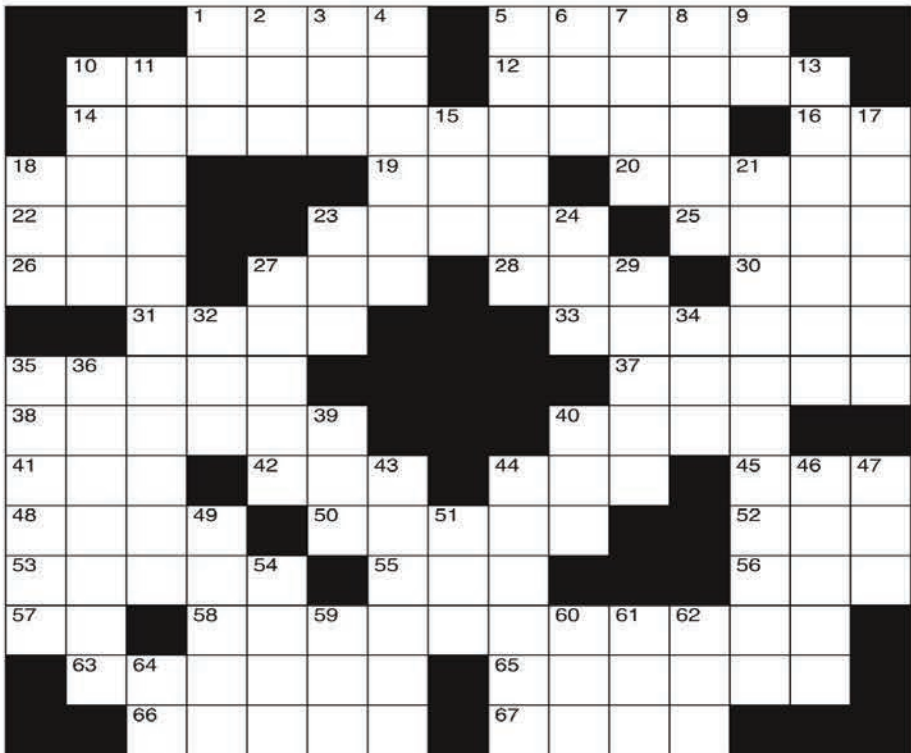
Douglas led at halftime, 20-17, before winning the third (9-6) and fourth quarters (10-2) to take the game by 14 points.

"Their physical strength overwhelmed us at times. Their guards are very good and they're very strong physically," said Pietrzak.

Senior Olivia Clarkson (11 points) and junior Alexis Steiger (10 points, 9 rebounds) scored 21 of the Pirates' 25 points, with junior Angelina Steiger and freshman Sophia Cornacchioli adding baskets. Junior Carly Cornacchioli pulled down 12 rebounds.



Cece White of Douglas flings a pass away from pressure applied by Oxford's defense.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Chinese Muslim group

5. Alternative name

10. Resounds

12. Supporter

14. Furnishes anew

16. Beloved Hollywood alien

18. Supervises flying

19. Ballplayer's tool

20. Coarse edible red seaweed

22. Former CIA

23. Basketball player

25. Travel necessities

26. Honey producer

27. Military analysis (abbr.)

28. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo

30. Mental sharpness and inventiveness

31. Popular Easter meal

33. Man (Spanish)

35. ___ de la ___
37. Counterweights

38. Made a harsh, grating noise

40. Monetary unit

41. Commercials

42. Cool!

44. Partner to cheese

45. Expression of creative skill

48. Unit of angle

50. Transported

52. N. American people of Kansas

53. Computer game character Max

55. Moved swiftly

56. Everyone has one

57. Tin

58. A mole is one

63. Nocturnal hoofed animals

65. Oppositional to

66. Monetary units

67. Not on time

CLUES DOWN

1. Hogshead (abbr.)

2. Misery resulting from affliction

3. Defunction European group

4. Line on a map

5. Becomes less intense

6. Back muscle

7. Frosted

8. Ethiopian town

9. Midway between south and east

10. Wipe from the record

11. In a continuous way

13. Breathe

15. Cleaning device

17. Male organ

18. Tab on a key ring

21. Criminals

23. Taxi

24. Cheer of encouragement

27. Wartime American escort carrier
29. Polish river

32. Current unit

34. Life form

35. Painful contractions

36. Glowing

39. Press against lightly

40. Melancholic

43. Something you can be under

44. Of the mind

46. E. Indian cereal grass

47. Couple

49. Sharpshoot

51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

54. ___ Blyton, children's author

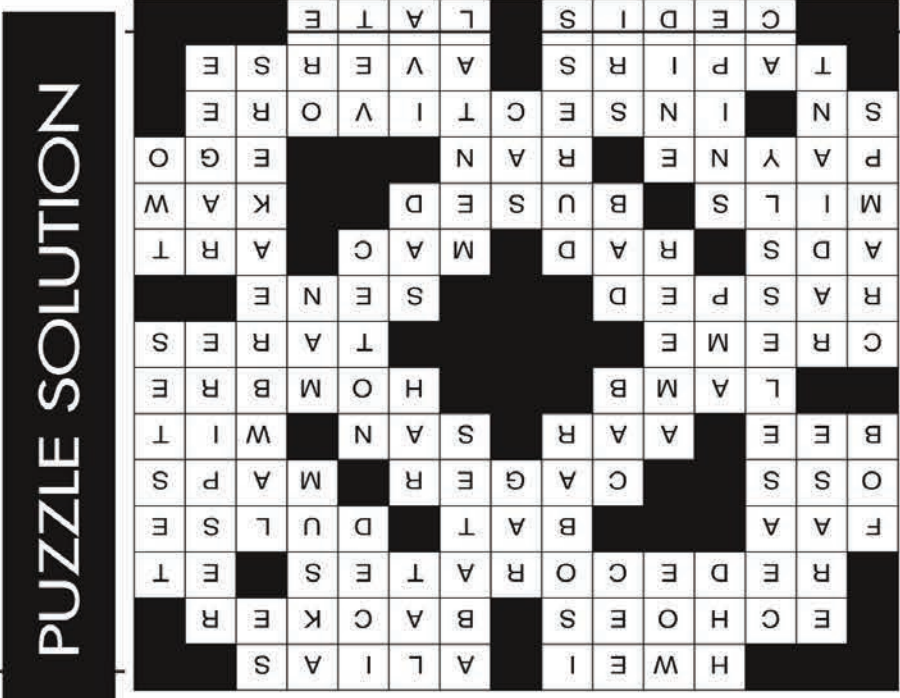
59. Human gene

60. Data mining methodology (abbr.)

61. Examines animals

62. Mineral

64. Cools your home



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I have no words to tell you the joys their voices bring,
For it's beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart,
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.

So be happy for me dear ones you know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift for my heavenly home above,
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.

After all love is a gift more precious than pure gold,
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other
as my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessing of love
he has for each of you.

So have a Merry Christmas
and wipe away that tear,
Remember I am spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.

Author unknown.

Merry Christmas



SPORTS

Spartans, ‘the better team tonight, all the way around,’ take care of Quaboag



Uxbridge's Drew Gniadek flings a pass down the court.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

WARREN — A consistent and methodical scoring approach, coupled with a ball-hawking defense, helped lead the Uxbridge High boys' varsity basketball team past Quaboag Regional on Tuesday night, Dec. 14, by a 61-40 final.

The Spartans' quarter scoring totals were 16, 15, 15 and 15 points. On the other end of the court, they held the Cougars to 9, 8, 11 and 12 points over the

four frames.

"It was far from perfect, but we have some depth. We have a lot of depth, actually," said Uxbridge head coach Ryan Hippert before singling out Brodie Fernandes for his timely 3-point shooting, Luke Schollard for his second half production and Drew Gniadek for carrying the team in the first half of play.

Fernandes hit two 3-pointers and finished with 9 points, Schollard scored 13 of his game-high 20 points in the second half, and Gniadek netted all 14 of his

points over the first two quarters.

After the lead changed hands on six different occasions in the first quarter, Gniadek canned a pair of late 3's to give the Spartans a 16-9 advantage after the initial eight-minute frame.

"I think we have the type of team it takes them a little bit to get into the flow of the game. It kind of happened against BMR, too," said Hippert of his team's games against Blackstone-Millville Regional and Quaboag.

Uxbridge got hot to open the second quarter, as they embarked on an 11-1 run to start the period, surging to a 27-10 lead. The Spartans led at the break, 31-17.

Quaboag cut the deficit down to eight points in the third quarter, but Uxbridge responded and led by 18 (46-28) once the period came to a close. The Spartans then won fourth quarter scoring by a 15-12 margin as they improved to 2-0.

"What I'm most proud of is our first two games were on the road. BMR and then tonight at Quaboag, I'm excited and I'm happy for our team," said Hippert. "This is a great group. They work hard and they have a little swagger to them. What benefited us was playing last year. In the SWCL, there were only four teams that played. We had a very young team last year, so they got to play. This year we're at an advantage against some of these teams...[Quaboag has] had two years off because of COVID."

This was the Cougars' season opener and first game in nearly two years, and head coach Chris Reilly had nothing but praise for the way the opposition



Brodie Fernandes of Uxbridge releases a free throw attempt.

played.

"They outsized us and we couldn't answer or stop them inside. You're fighting them inside and then they stick the outside shot. Their defense overwhelmed us. They were just the better team tonight, all the way around," said Reilly.

Chase Potvin and Owen Stevens both led Quaboag with 9 points each.

Warriors find offensive form, dispatch Uxbridge



Uxbridge's Kathryn Cahill soars to the hoop.

Nick Ethier photos

STURBRIDGE —

Points were at a premium for the Tantasqua Regional girls' varsity basketball team in their season-opener at Northbridge High back on Monday, Dec. 13, when the Warriors scored just enough in a 35-30 victory. A little home cooking then did the trick in Tantasqua's next contest.

Hosting Uxbridge High on Thursday, Dec. 16, the Warriors were sharpshooters as they won a 69-22 decision.

Tantasqua jumped out to a 10-0 lead and never looked back. Seven Warriors scored in the first quarter and by half-time they had accumulated more points (38) than they did in the entire Northbridge game.

Tantasqua led 38-10 at the half and 52-19 through three quarters.

The now 2-0 Warriors — who knocked down 11 3-pointers — were led by Kelsie Wotten (16 points, 8 rebounds), Maya Gidopoulos (15 points), Gabby Scanlon (13 points) and Maggie Johnson (11 rebounds).

Uxbridge, who dropped to 2-1, saw contributions from Morgan Ouellette (10 points), Natalie Orr



Natalie Orr of Uxbridge releases a midrange jump shot.

(8 points) and Kathryn Cahill (10 rebounds).

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FUNDING

continued from page A1

while also planning for future opportunities for economic development.”

The Douglas MassWorks award will fund the first phase of a more than \$12-million public improvement program aimed at expanding utility infrastructure along the Route 146 corridor, with specific improvements including installing or upsizing approximately 9,300 linear feet of water mains, 6,000 linear feet of sewer force mains, and a sewer pump station.

According to the town, the Douglas project taps into nearly \$4 million in local and private funds and will expand water and sewer capacity in support of new commercial development in all three communities. In the short term, the expanded capacity will unlock two warehouse developments, while also unlocking future development opportunities on at least two additional sites in Douglas. Collectively, the two warehouses will result in 1.74 million square feet of new industrial space, generate \$147 million in private investment, and create an estimated 800 permanent jobs, the town released.

And Douglas’ \$314,850 Site Readiness Program award will fund the completion of preliminary design and engineering of future water and sewer system upgrades along Davis and Monroe Streets. These upgrades would be a direct extension of the town’s MassWorks project and will serve approximately 300 acres of undeveloped industrially zoned land along both sides of Davis Street.

Town Administrator Matthew Wojcik said that Douglas and its private partners have invested more than three years of time and effort into research, negotiations, and local government implementation to move these projects from “dreamy concepts” to the point where engineers can draw plans and site development crews can start work. “Without the financing received from MassWorks via the OneStop, however, we would be hard pressed to build the necessary infrastructure on our own and make these new jobs and buildings a reality,” Wojcik said. “We are grateful to the Commonwealth for the resources provided to push this economic development initiative to fruition.”

Rep. Michael J. Soter described the award as a “tremendous influx of infrastructure funding” for this section of the Route 146 corridor. “The collaboration amongst the three towns, the state Legislature, and the Baker-Polito Administration is something to be proud of,” Soter said. “The opportunities in this area are boundless and I’m eager to see the development of commercial, residential, and mixed-use projects.”

BFIT

continued from page A1

All donations to the department for this challenge will go toward The 100 Club of Massachusetts, which is a charitable organization supporting the families of fallen heroes.

“The Hundred Club gives an

unequivocal and unconditional promise to police officers and firefighters in Massachusetts that in the event they are killed in the line of duty, the Hundred Club will never forget their service and the Hundred Club will compassionately care for their surviving families for the rest of their lives,” the organization shared in a statement.

Those who wish to make a donation

to the team may visit the link below and type in “Sutton PD” in the team fundraiser search:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Donate/MA/Boston/BFitChallenge2021>

“Please consider supporting us as we try and make a difference in someone’s world,” the department statement added.

TALKS

continued from page A1

and cyber bullying prevention. This program also helps kids understand the importance of protecting their digital footprint and imparts the knowledge that nothing on the internet is ever deleted.

There are two specific programs addressing drugs and alcohol, including “This Is (Not) About Drugs” and “If They Had Known.” The office also has a display called “Hidden In Plain Sight” that shows parents potential warning signs of substance use by their children.

“Early substance use can lead to a lifetime struggle with addiction for our youth,” Mr. Early said. “These evidence-based programs help kids understand the risks associated with all substance use, including prescription medications.”

Baker fast-tracks recovery funding

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Gov. Charlie Baker recently signed a \$4 billion funding plan aimed at fast-tracking recovery efforts across multiple sectors.

Priority areas for the latest round of COVID-19 recovery funding include housing; healthcare; workforce development; and infrastructure. The majority of the funding represents federal aid from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

“The pandemic has had a significant impact on Massachusetts workers, families, communities, and businesses for nearly two years, and today’s signing directs billions of dollars in relief,” Governor Baker said. “While this package falls far short of the investment I called for to address the housing shortage, the important investments included in this bill will help to accelerate Massachusetts’s economic recovery and provide long-lasting benefits to infrastructure, healthcare, education systems, and small businesses.”

Among other goals, the latest federal aid package is intended to support urgent COVID-19 response efforts, replace lost revenue, support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses, and address pub-

lic health and economic challenges in Massachusetts cities and towns.

“The funding allocated in this bill addresses critical areas of need across the Commonwealth, from addiction services to housing availability to environmental infrastructure,” said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. “This relief will play a crucial role in the ongoing recovery of our residents and communities, especially those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and we are eager to put it to work.”

Highlights of the latest funding package include \$150 million to finance the statewide production of housing for various populations, including seniors and veterans; \$115 million for rental housing production; \$400 million for addiction treatment and related behavioral health services; \$260 million for fiscally stressed hospitals; \$200 million for local and regional public health systems; \$50 million for workforce retention and capital improvements at nursing facilities; \$500 million to support the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund; \$500 million for premium pay for low-income essential workers; and \$107.5 million for workforce and career technical skills training.

The package also includes \$135 million to support cultural facilities and tour-

ism assets throughout Massachusetts.

For infrastructure improvements, \$100 million will fund grants for water and sewer system upgrades. Another \$100 million will be allocated for the improvement of culverts, dams, and other environmental infrastructure.

Additional relief funds include \$50 million to help close the digital divide and increase broadband internet access; \$44.8 million to combat food insecurity; and \$105 million for a variety of educational supports, including recovery grants for state universities and community colleges.

“The Commonwealth has worked diligently over the past two years to deploy billions worth of federal support to strengthen our economic recovery, support those in disproportionately impacted communities, and get people back to work,” said Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael Heffernan. “We appreciate the collaboration of our colleagues in the Legislature on this bill to invest in healthcare, housing, and the Massachusetts workforce, and we look forward to even more critical investments in 2022 with the remaining ARPA funds.”

To learn more about the latest funding package, visit www.mass.gov.

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Nathan is legally free for adoption and will require a family with lots of energy and some experience with children on the spectrum. A two parent family would be preferred due to the level of supervision Nathan requires. If there is a single parent with a large engaged support system and experience with children with special needs, they would be considered as well. As part of the Open Adoption Agreement, Nathan needs to maintain regular sibling visitation therefore a family in Massachusetts or the New England area will be considered.

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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.

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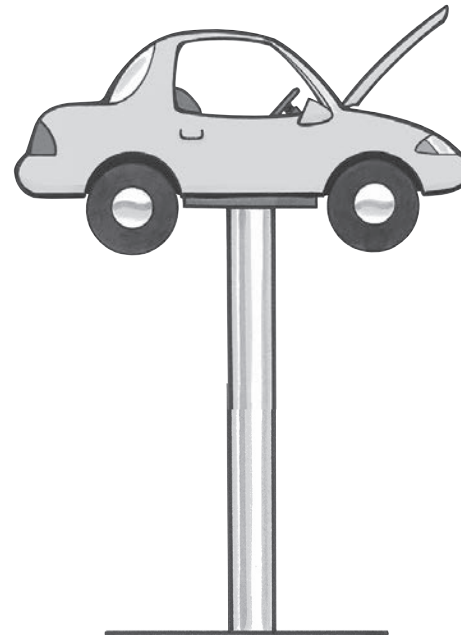
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EDITORIAL

Popular toys through the years

“Being there for a child is the most noble thing a toy can do.” — Woody

Santa is preparing for his big night, which is just three days away. His elves are always busy working in the toy shop, year after year, and have created memorable toys, that always leave children wide eyed every Christmas morning. Some toys that children found under the tree more than 100 years ago are still popular today.

In 1920, just a mere 101 years ago, the hot toy for Christmas was the Raggedy Ann doll, that sold for \$1. Raggedy Ann and her brother Andy were created by a political cartoonist named Johnny Gruelle. In 1921, Lincoln Logs were the hot ticket. Lincoln Logs originally cost 50 cents.

Tinker Toys were first created in 1922, a toy that was a big hit in the 1980’s as well. In 1924, the Erector Set was a favorite. In 1925, the classic Teddy bear was a popular, and cost 79 cents.

Crayola Crayons date all the way back to 1926. Crayola means ‘chalk and oily’ in French. Noted is that the original crayons were created in 1903, and the box contained just eight colors. The Radio Flyer wagon came out in 1927 and cost \$2.99.

Yo-yo’s were all the rave in 1928, and cost just five cents. This toy dates back to 500 BC. In 1929, pop-up books became popular. In 1930 the Mickey Mouse doll hit stores. Mickey was discovered in the cartoon ‘Steamboat Willie’ that first aired in 1928. During Christmas in 1930, demand was so high for Mickey dolls that crafty mothers ended up creating their own.

Finger pain and sock monkeys came out in 1931 and 1932, respectively. In 1933, tin Marx wind-up toys were the new thing.

In 1935, it was the Shirley Temple doll that had little girls everywhere smiling on Christmas day. Monopoly first hit stores in 1937, inspiring decades of family meltdowns...excuse us, family fun. Some people still get excited if they land on Baltic Avenue.

The original view master that became popular in the 80’s, first came out in 1939.

In 1940, the Red Ryder BB gun cost \$5.00. Everyone loves a good Golden Book and in 1942, they cost just .25. In 1943, green army men became popular. The slinky (who didn’t have one?) first appeared under trees in 1945. In 1946, Lionel Trains cost \$30. Tonka trucks came out in 1947. The original Clue board game first appeared in 1949.

In 1951, Colorforms cost 25 cents. Colorforms were the invention of art students who liked to be artistic, sans the high cost of paint. In 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head hit shelves for just 98 cents. Model cars became popular in 1953. In 1954, Scrabble hit stands and in 1955, Silly Putty could be found in stockings everywhere.

Play-Dough (can you ever forget that smell?) first came out in 1956. Barbie appeared in 1959. Anyone who could keep two Barbie shoes in one place for more than 24 hours was/is a special kind of person.

In 1960, the Etch A Sketch was created. A great toy if you had the patience for it. In 1961, even though it was winter, children everywhere wanted a Slip n Slide.

The Easy Bake Oven first appeared in 1963 for \$15. In 1964, G.I. Joe appeared for \$1.95. Twister appeared in 1966. The Lite-Brite and all its pieces first came out in 1967 for \$10. Hot Wheels came out in 1968 and LEGOs in 1969.

In 1970, Nerf balls were being thrown about in homes everywhere. Weebles were a hoot in 1971. In 1973, Shrinky Dinks were a blast. Stretch Armstrong was popular in 1976 and a year later, in 1977, the Atari hit stores. Skiing is by far the best Atari game invented, and Pitfall.

In 1982, He-Man was a hit, followed by My Little Pony in 1982. In 1983, the infamous Cabbage Patch Doll appeared, complete with all of their bizarre names. Even our Editor had one named ‘Merci Rhonda.’ The original Nintendo Entertainment System appeared in 1986.

In 1995, Beanie Babies took over toy stores everywhere. Some rare Beanie Babies sell for thousands of dollars today. Pokemon cards appeared in 1999. In the early 2000’s, it was Bratz dolls, Xbox 360’s and Playstations. In 2006, the Nintendo Wii almost seemed futuristic. In 2010, the first iPad appeared, and interestingly enough, in 2021, kids old and young have the new version on their Christmas lists.

We hope you all remember this holiday season, that we’re all just a bunch of big kids.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

Bring a bit of spring color indoors



Melinda Myers

A container with drainage holes, potting mix, and a few spring flowering bulbs planted pointed side up is all you need to create a colorful indoor garden.

Pot them up, give them a chill and enjoy spring flowering bulbs indoors or outside on a patio, deck or porch. This is a great way to enjoy any bulbs that didn’t make it into the ground this season or take advantage of late season discounts on bulbs.



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

well. Or if the ground hasn’t frozen, sink the pot into a vacant space in the garden. This works for those gardening in areas where winter temperatures are cold enough to provide the needed chill. Mulch the soil once the ground starts to freeze with evergreen boughs. This will make it easier to remove the pot in early spring.

Eliminate this step by purchasing pre-chilled bulbs. These have received the needed cold treatment and are ready to pot up and grow indoors or outdoors in warmer regions.

Check stored bulbs regularly for early sprouting and move to a colder location if needed. Water the bulbs in storage whenever the soil is thawed and dry.

Once the cold treatment is complete, you can move the forced bulbs to their final location where you can enjoy the spring flowers. Place the container in a cool location with bright indirect light indoors. Water thor-

oughly as needed and watch for flowers to appear in about four weeks. Remove one pot a week from cold storage to extend your enjoyment.

Monitor spring growing conditions before moving forced bulbs into outdoor planters. Once the weather is suitable for bulbs to sprout and grow outdoors, it is safe to move forced bulbs into the landscape.

When they are done flowering, you can compost the bulbs or for those suited to your growing conditions add them to the garden. Remove the faded flowers and water the plants like your houseplants or other container gardens. Fertilize with a dilute solution of flowering plant fertilizer or apply a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer. This helps replenish the nutrients used in flowering.

Move indoor forced bulbs outdoors as soon as the danger of frost has passed. Those in containers outdoors can remain in the pots until the foliage fades or the garden is ready for planting. Or store the bulbs in a cool dark place for summer and plant in fall with other hardy bulbs. Then be patient as it can take two years for these to flower.

Forcing spring flowering bulbs is a great way to add beauty to your indoor décor, patio, balcony, or deck. They also make a great gift for gardeners of all experience levels.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener’s Handbook and 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. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

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RALPH TRUE

More bad news for the fishermen that do a little cod fishing, or a lot of cod fishing.

The regulatory New England Fishery Management Council is recommending a reduction of the Georges Bank cod limits catch at their Dec. 10 meeting. The 2.4 million pounds allowed this year will be reduced to 540,000 pounds at the Georges Banks next year if it is approved. Georges Banks is one of the richest areas for cod & haddock to live and spawn. The Gulf of Maine is also being targeted, but will remain at their 590,000-quota next year, for now if passed. A statement from U.S.FISH & Wildlife that fishermen caught more than 100 million pounds of cod in the ‘80’s is now down to two million pounds this year.

There are fewer adult fish that are spawning every year, and concerns of the cod stocks crashing have been echoed for years. This writer was fishing aboard a charter vessel 10 or 12 years ago, and was fishing on the cod spawning grounds. We were among a fleet of charter boats that were hauling in huge 50- to 60-pound cod. They were loaded with eggs and never had the chance to spawn. A fish biologist was on board that day, and stated that we would not be fishing in the cods spawning grounds again for some time. He was right, as the area was off limits to any fishing the following years, and still is today. It was wrong for us to be there. Sportsmen have been restricted to one fish daily for the last few months ,but were also not allowed to catch and retain a single cod while fishing in the above two mentioned areas. Haddock stocks were in the same predicament not that long ago, but their stocks have rebounded. Over fishing by commercial draggers will soon deplete the haddock fish stocks again, if action is not taken.

The problem with draggers is that most fish that are brought aboard a large vessel are often thrown back, but rarely survive. It is a disgrace that the same thing continues every year, not only in the gulf of Maine but, also along the Massachusetts & Rhode Island coastline. They should be keeping their bycatch which is often allowed, but many discard them and drag for a more lucrative fish. Every year, I watch draggers on the Rhode Island coast discarding fish on their way to port. One year, they were throwing half dead stripers over the side of their boat , obviously because they had to many pounds of fish. We motored over to the area that they were discarding the fish and was outraged at the waste of such a valuable resource.

This year, we observed draggers in Rhode Island discarding seabass, and we were soon surrounded by a floating mass of sea bass and stripers. Recreational anglers are annually suffering more cuts in their daily bag limit or size. The new law regarding a slot limit for stripers is outrageous, and when you see the waste by the commercial draggers it seems like a losing battle to help the species rebound. Most reports by fish biologist admit that many fish that are caught by recreational anglers and released will not survive. If they were allowed to retain one striper, they would stop fishing and head out to fish for other species. On & On it goes, but it is all about the money and politics!

The Primitive arms season seems to have started out slow this year at least in the valley area. Many hunters are waiting for a little bit of snow to do some tracking, as they have been hunted for weeks now and are a bit skittish.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year and a Merry Christmas.

Be sure to get your vaccine to keep you safe from Covid.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.



Courtesy

This week’s picture shows some of the cod that never were able to spawn again after being caught by rod and reel anglers. It did not seem wrong at the time!

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you’re important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Blackstone Valley Tribune, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stone bridgepress.news.

You’ll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don’t have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you’re going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



Classic Holiday Traditions

The Yuletide brings with it a host of traditions, many of which have been carried on for generations. From simple holiday symbols to familiar family rituals, ushering in the annual festivities is a joy of the season. This week’s column highlights a few classic holiday traditions that continue to promote glad tidings each year.

The Wassail Bowl
Modern holiday parties that include a Wassail bowl toast are practicing a centuries old English tradition to celebrate the promise of health, wealth and good fortune.

Like many old rituals, the Wassail bowl boasts several origins, but the tradition traces its roots to old England, where the toast “Wes Hal,” meaning “good health,” was a common holiday toast.

The practice expanded to include a Christmas Eve door to door caroling or “a wassailing” to visit friends and neighbors. Today, the tradition of Wassail continues at holiday get-togethers, where a punch bowl or wassail bowl of refreshment typically precedes a round of neighborhood caroling.

Wassail Punch
This modern recipe is easy and delicious, yet retains the essence of the traditional Wassail bowl.

Ingredients: 3 cups pineapple juice; 3 cups apple juice; 1 1/2 cups water; 3/4 cup brown sugar; 1 cinnamon stick; 1 tablespoon whole cloves; 1 tablespoon whole



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

allspice

Directions: Mix pineapple and apple juice, water and brown sugar into the bottom of a perculator. Place all the spices into the top. Percolate according to the directions of your pot.

Stovetop or Crockpot method: Simmer juices and spices over low heat. Strain and serve hot.

**

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

In these modern times, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer plays a novel role in our Christmas culture. But it was in post war 1949, when cowboy crooner Gene Autry’s title hit topped the music charts, and soon after merchandising of the endearing deer was in full swing with books, toys, clothing, holiday décor and more.

Perhaps it’s fitting Rudolph’s catapult to commercial success began as the brainstorm of an ambitious Montgomery Ward ad man. In 1939, Advertising copywriter Robert May wrote the holiday story as a promotional campaign for Montgomery Ward stores. The marketing strategy

was a huge success as booklets of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer were distributed to happy little shoppers throughout several holiday seasons.

The popular story was transformed to song after World War II, when May’s songwriter brother-in-law Johnny Marks penned the catchy tune and set it to music. First sung by Gene Autry, the classic song has enjoyed over six decades of popularity, recorded by such musical masters as Burl Ives, Perry Como, Ray Charles, Guy Lombardo, The Supremes and many more.

**

Holiday Plants: Traditional Greenery Sets Stage for the Season

Greenery has long been used to “deck the halls” for the yuletide season, and plants associated with the holidays such as Christmas Cactus, Mistletoe, and Poinsettias traditionally adorn homes at holiday time. Some plants become festive favorites because they bloom during the Christmas season; others have histories steeped in religious roots.

Christmas Cactus: The hardy plant is a favorite potted houseplant for its endurance and annual winter blooms. The delicate flowers on the upright weeping cacti typically make their appearance in December, just in time for the holiday season.

Legend has it long ago a boy from the Amazon jungle had asked God for a sign of his faith. He awoke on Christmas morning

to find the cacti that surrounded him had come to bloom, transforming the green jungle into a floral flourish.

Poinsettia: The striking rich, red leaves of the plant serve as mock “flowers”, filling pots and centerpieces with a lush holiday hue of bright red and green leaves, making Poinsettias the hallmark plant of the holidays.

The plant, a native of Mexico was named after Joel R. Poinsett, U.S. ambassador to Mexico who brought the plant to America in 1828. But legend dates its history back to Christ’s time. According to folklore, a Mexican child on his way to visit the Christ child, lamented he had no gift for the newborn king. Picking branches along the road, he presented a bouquet of green leaves at the holy manger. The leaves turned into beautiful red flowers, adorning each branch with the star shaped blooms.

Mistletoe: It’s ironic the waxy white berries and dark evergreen leaves of Mistletoe, considered toxic in quantities, has become a holiday symbol of affection.

Kissing under the mistletoe likely originated from the belief the plant bestows fertility. In some parts of the world mistletoe was considered a “peace plant,” under which truces were made by enemies or fighting friends. In the 1700s, the English adapted the mistletoe to adorn a kissing ball. During the Christmas season a single lady who stood under the embellished ball of

greens could be kissed without hesitance. Today, the ritual continues as Mistletoe is suspended in doorways and entrances and “kissing under the Mistletoe” remains a popular holiday tradition.

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House – Contest has resumed!

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

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

BVT ANNOUNCES FIRST-TRIMESTER COMMENDATION LIST

UPTON – Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick has released the first-trimester Commendation List of the 2021-2022 academic school year.

To be named to the Commendation List at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, students must meet rigorous standards that include maintaining a grade point average of 88 percent or above in each technical, related, and academic course for the trimester.

The students are listed below by grade level, hometown, and alphabetically by their last name. The complete list is on the school Website at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/1tcommendationlist.

SENIORS (Class of 2022)

Bellingham
Audrey Cousins, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Benjamin Powell, Construction Technology; and Aiden Thombs, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

Blackstone
Madison Abrants, Painting & Design Technology; Allana Atstupenas, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Kendra Atstupenas, Automotive Technology; Grace Buehler, Engineering & Robotics; Jane Buteau, Health Services; Anna Claro, Information Technology; Leah Cook, Engineering & Robotics; Kaitlyn Goyer, Cosmetology; Katelyn Hanson, Health Services; Makala McQueston, Culinary Arts; Kyle Penta, Business & Entrepreneurship; and Mandolin Simpson, Engineering & Robotics.

Douglas
Sophia Aquilino, Health Services; Zoey Beahn, Construction Technology; Mark Bellenoit, Business & Entrepreneurship; Joshua Chrul, Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing; Alexis Levesque, Dental Assisting; Joshua McCullen, Electrical; Sophia Payson, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Alyssa Schilling, Cosmetology; and Bryan Wheeler, Engineering & Robotics.

Grafton
Andrew Corbett, Engineering & Robotics; Noelle McDonald, Construction Technology; Samaha Roban, Business & Entrepreneurship; Celine Vaz, Information Technology; and Sofia Yitts, Culinary Arts.

Hopedale
Anna Dykhoff, Drafting & Design Technology; Ashley King, Business & Entrepreneurship; and Logan King, Painting & Design Technology.

Mendon
Lillian Balocca, Health Services; Steven Cote, Construction Technology; Cole Felton, Business & Entrepreneurship; Dean Morelli, HVAC&R; Edward Ribeiro, Information Technology; Nicholas Ruggiero, Electrical; Anastasia Siryk, Engineering & Robotics; and Amber Strapponi, Information Technology.

Milford
Joel Awuku-Asante, HVAC&R; Jacob Brock, Drafting & Design Technology; Sadie Desmond,

Cosmetology; William Donahue, Drafting & Design Technology; Connor McNamara, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Benjamin Miano, Construction Technology; Megan Plante, Culinary Arts; and Abigail Sullivan, Multimedia Communications.

Millbury
Julia Allain, Health Services; Logan Beaudoin, Business & Entrepreneurship; Morgan Cashman, Multimedia Communications; Madison Forget, Multimedia Communications; and Thomas O’Leary, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

Millville
Myra Dehestani, Engineering & Robotics; Logan Humphries, Plumbing; and Camden Laforest, Information Technology.

Northbridge
Katelyn Barrows, Culinary Arts; Madison Colonna, Multimedia Communications; Kaia Dziekiewicz, Dental Assisting; Kyle Froment, Electrical; Carmen Gray, Engineering & Robotics; Jonathan Hollenbeck, HVAC&R; Cullen Jacene, Engineering & Robotics; Olivia Lange, Dental Assisting; Marissa Lind, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Bianca Silveira, Painting & Design Technology.

Sutton
Gwyneth Dube, Health Services; Kyleigh Leonard, Automotive Technology; and Matthew Machado, Information Technology.

Upton
Emma Ballard, Health Services; Matthew Bombara, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Evan Charron, HVAC&R; Kelli Konieczny, Multimedia Communications; Rachel May, Engineering and Robotics Technology; and Jeffrey Powers, Construction Technology.

Uxbridge
Zachary Goddard, Information Technology; Nolan Holt, Culinary Arts; Riley Holt, Engineering & Robotics; Abigail Lane, Engineering & Robotics; Robert Mellen, Engineering & Robotics; Abril Sanchez, Multimedia Communications; Ines Taipina, Business & Entrepreneurship; Benjamin Uthoff, Information Technology; and Emily Warner, Culinary Arts.

JUNIORS (Class of 2023)

Bellingham
Hailey Davis, Construction Technology; and Rudolph Patete, Engineering & Robotics.

Blackstone
Evan Bouvier, Multimedia Communications; Daniel Cardone, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Sophia Mazzuchelli, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication.

Douglas
Brett Staples, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

Grafton
Juliana Errara, Health Services; Noah Mariano, Engineering & Robotics; and Owen Mathieu, HVAC&R.

Hopedale

Hayle Ortila, Health Services; Julia Pellegrini, Painting & Design Technology; and Sutton Webb, Automotive Technology.

Mendon

Meredith Doyle, Construction Technology; Kellen Masters, Automotive Technology; and Natalia Vazquez, Engineering & Robotics.

Milford

Jack Abbiuso, Information Technology; Jaclyn Bader, Engineering & Robotics; Zachary Barnes, Information Technology; Jason Cardente, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Colin Chambless, Engineering & Robotics; Thays De Assis, Drafting & Design Technology; Jhohann Edmonds, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Marcella Ferreira, Construction Technology; Allison Kee, Health Services; Rillary Madruga Ferreira, Engineering & Robotics; Lyanna Pimentel, Multimedia Communications; and Joshua Schorn, Culinary Arts.

Millbury

Kasey Reeves, Health Services.

Millville

Matthew Alves, Engineering & Robotics; and Benjamin Craven, Plumbing.

Northbridge

Vanessa Calles, Drafting & Design Technology; Riley Driver, Electrical; Sam Grilli, Drafting & Design Technology; and Emily Wildfeuer, Drafting & Design Technology.

Sutton

Katelyn Devine, Construction Technology; Riley Donovan, Electrical; Samuel Judson, Drafting & Design Technology; Kyle Katz, Automotive Technology; Brenna Kehowski, Health Services; Haley Kirouac, Engineering & Robotics; Ryann Lombardi, Health Services; Colin Medeiros, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Evan Thebearge, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

Upton

Julia Bern, Construction Technology; Nicholas Cummings, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Artem Plotkin, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Jessica Powers, Culinary Arts; Katelyn Steele, Engineering & Robotics; and Caitlin Walsh, HVAC&R.

Uxbridge

Mackenzie Barnicle, Culinary Arts; Isabel Cahill, Multimedia Communications; Eden Ebbeling, Culinary Arts; Isabella Gannon, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Maxwell Guyton, Engineering & Robotics; Jack Moscatelli, Cosmetology; and Joshua Pelletier, Automotive Technology.

SOPHOMORES (Class of 2024)

Bellingham
Pyper Bourre, Health Services; Marissa Chamberlain, Health Services; Abbey Derouin, HVAC&R; Dimana Hristova, Engineering & Robotics; Sophie Jacobson, Painting & Design Technology; Danika Kirby, Engineering & Robotics; Sara Lewis, Engineering & Robotics; Vanessa Lizotte, Information

Technology; Jonathan Powell, Construction Technology; Aiden Simpson, Information Technology; and Lucien Stenehjem, Engineering & Robotics.

Blackstone

Parker Guilbert, Cosmetology; Brandon Labonte, HVAC&R; Manuel Nunes, Information Technology;

Olivia Picanso, Multimedia Communications; and Luke Tellier, HVAC&R.

Douglas

Laney Beahn, Engineering & Robotics; Mary Chrul, Health Services; Jack Dooner, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Matthew Phelps, Plumbing; Kendra Rowe, Culinary Arts; Baron Sherry, Engineering & Robotics; Sorcha Twohig-Mann, Health Services; and Chloe Vescio, Engineering & Robotics.

Grafton

Tyler Bell, Electronics & Engineering Technology; James Benoit, Electrical; Caitlin Brown, Dental Assisting; Madison Collins, Painting & Design Technology; Alison Graves, Construction Technology; Skyla Jack, Construction Technology; Carlie Jensen, Painting & Design Technology; Soumith Madadi, Information Technology; Ava Mills, Engineering & Robotics; Joshua Mumford, Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing; James Nelson, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Grant Purcell, Engineering & Robotics; Haleigh Reynolds, Dental Assisting; Ryan St. Angelo, Culinary Arts; Lily Turcotte, Construction Technology; Nicholas Valoras, Engineering & Robotics; and Casey Wong, Engineering & Robotics.

Hopedale

Payton Alves, Culinary Arts; Ashlyn Leonard, Health Services; John McShane, Construction Technology; Eleanor Poitras, Health Services; Avery Sanosi, Culinary Arts; and Mikayla Sanosi, Multimedia Communications.

Mendon

Tyler Clare, Information Technology; William Duffy, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication;

Avery Garrison, Culinary Arts; Noah LeFave, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Gianni Mistretta, Culinary Arts; and Jacob Urquhart, HVAC&R.

Milford

Lucas Brault, Engineering & Robotics; Julia Caliman, Health Services; Amelia Denietolis, Construction Technology; Giana Duquette, Painting & Design Technology; Igor Freeman, Engineering & Robotics; Benjamin Kinsella, Engineering & Robotics; William Naff, Automotive Technology; Leah Neves, Construction Technology; Nelle Norris, Painting & Design Technology; Victoria Russo, HVAC&R; Emma Sanborn, Painting & Design Technology; and Lizmary Vidal-Sanchez, Dental Assisting.

Millbury

Michael Borowski, Multimedia Communications; Amelie Botelho, Painting & Design Technology; Nicole Boucher,

Health Services; Ava Lawton, Engineering & Robotics; Holden Marnell, Information Technology; Madison Moore, Painting & Design Technology; McKenna Morin, Engineering & Robotics; James Richert, Electronics and Engineering Technology; and Emma Shum, Dental Assisting.

Millville

Trey Kovolyan, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Rene Marcotte, Plumbing; Colby Milanoski, Engineering & Robotics; and Emily Saraidarian, Multimedia Communications.

Northbridge

Riley Austin, Painting & Design Technology; Giovanni Biagioni, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Hailey Feehan, Painting & Design Technology; Logan Feehan, Painting & Design Technology; Yaliz Jimenez, Health Services; Izamar Laboy Villegas, Information Technology; Emily Legge, Health Services; Lily Marshall, Dental Assisting; Willigis Mfonow, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Ella Rogozenski, Engineering & Robotics; Mikaela Sadik, Multimedia Communications; Sophia Schuster, Health Services; Jonathon Spiller, Painting & Design Technology; Adriana Tillison, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Madighan Tracy, Culinary Arts; and Emma Vaughan, Culinary Arts.

Sutton

Michaela Gledhill, Construction Technology; Christopher Gubbins, Construction Technology; Julianna Hawley, Multimedia Communications; Peyton Nolan, Multimedia Communications; and Macyn White, Construction Technology.

Upton

Adam Fransen, Engineering & Robotics; Jacob Giancola, Engineering & Robotics; Benjamin Joseph, Information Technology; Nathan Meleedy, Information Technology; Brian O’Connell, Automotive Technology; Robert Poirier, HVAC&R; and Laith Shloul, Electrical.

Uxbridge

Yara Alomar, Health Services; Savannah Brodeur, Cosmetology; Noah Cahill, Engineering & Robotics;

Avery Herrick, Multimedia Communications; Trevor Horgan, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Grace Mathieu, Engineering & Robotics; Marissa Osimo, Health Services; Cole Pinchuk, HVAC&R; and Samuel Waugh, Electrical.

FRESHMEN (Class of 2025)

Bellingham
Isabella Brancato, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Aris Pavel, Engineering & Robotics; and Luci Walden, Construction Technology.

Blackstone

Paige Connolly, Health Services; and Nathaniel Cook, Biotechnology.

Douglas

Hailey Chamberlain, Cosmetology; Kaylie Ciccone,



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Merry Christmas

to all from all of us at the

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Cornerstone Bank makes donation to Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has donated \$2,500 to Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester to support their mission to provide adults with the English language skills they need to thrive. For 48 years, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester has been providing one-to-one and small group English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) tutoring as well as literacy tutoring, and in recent years, adding online tutoring and independent learning.

"In the greater Worcester area, 34 percent of households speak a language other than English at home," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester are doing amazing things by providing free ESOL education to adults within our community. The leadership, vision, and dedication of the Board of Directors is key to the organization's success in serving constituents in the Worcester area. We are proud that members of our team volunteer their time for this organization and we support their goals any way we can."

In just the past year, more than 100 volunteers and 12 part-time specialized

ESOL teachers dedicated their time to help 382 literacy students and more than 100 tutoring students learn to read, write, and speak the English language. These students are immigrants and refugees representing 52 different countries and speaking 38 different languages.

"The free, flexible, and individualized support students get leads them in the right direction to achieve goals beyond English language proficiency including citizenship, employment, and further education," continued Tallman. "We look forward to seeing Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester continue to create opportunities for people looking to suc-

ceed on our community."

To learn more about Cornerstone Bank and their charitable work, please visit cornerstonebank.com.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and

providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level

of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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Library hours:
Monday-Thursday: 10 AM-8 PM
Friday 10 AM-5 PM
Saturday 10 AM-2 PM
Holiday hours: Closed 12/24 Christmas Eve, 12/25 Christmas Day and 1/1 New Years Day. Closing at 2 PM on 12/31 New Years Eve.

Food for Fines
Now through December 2021
Have any overdue fines on your library account? Get rid of them while also helping your community! Get \$1 off your Whitinsville Social Library late fine for every qualifying item you bring to the library in December. Does not apply to lost/damaged books or fines accrued from items at other libraries. All items will be donated to the Northbridge High School Food Pantry. WSL items for children and young adults are always late fine free.

Winter Reading: Read for a Better World
January 1 – 31
Whitinsville Social Library is participating in Beanstack's Fifth Annual Winter Reading Challenge, sponsored by Lerner Publishing Group. "Read for a Better World" encourages readers of all ages to explore diversity, empathy, and action through literature. We challenge our patrons to read at least 600 minutes during the month and keep track of their reading on our Beanstack website at whitinsville.beanstack.org

org or by downloading the Beanstack app. Every type of reading counts including audiobooks and e-books in every genre! Visit www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL for more information.
WSL's access to Beanstack is made possible by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and with the assistance of the Massachusetts Library System.

Virtual Music and Movement with Deb Hudgins
Wednesdays from 10:30-11

Register to receive a link for a weekly Music and Movement Video with Deb Hudgins! There will be plenty of singing, dancing, games, stories and fun for everyone! This program is for ages 1-5. Registration is required. Register at: www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL

Tween and Teen Make and Take Craft Kit
Wednesdays from 10-8
Each week a different craft kit will be available to take home and do in your own time! To see the list of crafts and to register, go to www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL

Facebook Storytime and Children's Take and Make Crafts
Thursday from 10:30 - 11
Join Miss Heather virtually on Thursday mornings via Facebook! Read books, sing rhymes and dance to some fun music in your living room. Each week a different craft will be available to pick up at the library and put together in your own time to go along with each week's book! This program is for children ages 1-6. Registration is required. Register at: www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL

Cookbook Club
Thursday 12/30 at 12
Read "Sally's Cookie Addiction" by Sally McKenney. Pick up a copy of this cookbook at the library, make and enjoy a cookie recipe at home, and then join us at the library to share your thoughts on the cookbook. Please register.

Friends of the Library Meeting
Tuesday 1/11 at 6:30
Help plan fundraisers for the library. January's meeting will take place in person at the United

Presbyterian Church at 51 Cottage Street. Please wear a mask.

Memoir Book Club
Wednesday 1/12 at 6
Join us at the library for a discussion of Deborah Feldman's memoir "Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots." Copies of the book are available at the library or via Overdrive. Please register.

Adult Craft Kit Pick Up
Thursday 1/13 10 - 8
Sign up to reserve a kit

containing materials to create a seasonal coffee sleeve. Pick up your kit on the Holds Shelf during business hours on 1/13.

Fiction Book Club
Tuesday 2/1 at 6
Read "When No One is Watching" by Alyssa Cole. Copies of the book are available at the library. Ebooks may be available through Overdrive. Future book titles for this book club will be selected at this meeting. This meeting takes place at the library. Please register.

Virtual Embroidery Class
2/3, 2/10, 2/17, & 2/24
from 6 – 7 PM via Google

Meet
In this class you will learn how to hand embroider with a variety of basic, intermediate, and more advanced techniques using needle and thread. Each weekly session will cover different techniques and by the end of the four one hour a week sessions you will have all the skills you need to create your own piece of embroidery art! Register to receive a class kit that will contain everything you need to start embroidering. This class is for anyone ages 14 and up with any skill level, no experience required. Registration required.

MILLBURY SENIOR CENTER

COVID-19 BOOSTER APPOINTMENT ASSISTANCE
We will assist Millbury Senior residents
If you do not have access to a computer and need help scheduling an appointment for the Booster
Please call the center at 508-865-9154

FRAUD PREVENTION CLASS
Thursday, Jan. 6th at 1 P.M.
Officer Piscitelli will be presenting
Learn about different Scams that target seniors!
Please call the center if interested in attending
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SENIOR WORK-OFF PROGRAM
For Eligible seniors, 60 or older that are residents of Millbury
Receive up to \$1,500 per year that can be used to pay real estate property tax
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SENIOR CENTER EXERCISE CLASSES!
LIGHT EXERCISE CLASSES
Mondays and Fridays 9:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. (Free!)
TAI CHI
Tuesdays 9:30 - 10:30 A.M. (class is \$3)
YOGA (All new starting Dec. 16th)
Thursdays 9 – 10 A.M. (Class is \$3)

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES!
WII BOWLING
Mondays at 12:30 P.M.
MAHJONG
Mondays at 12:45 P.M.
BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC
Every Tuesday from 9 A.M. - 10 A.M.
CRIBBAGE
Tuesdays at 1P.M.
SOCIAL BINGO
Wednesdays at 1 P.M.
Bring your pennies!
DULL MENS CLUB
Thursdays at 10 – 11 A.M.
No reservations required for any of our activities or exercise classes!

Lunches are served Monday through Friday 12 P.M. at the Senior Center
The menu is available on the town website, www.townofmillbury.org
Or our Millbury Senior Center Facebook page.
A 48 hour reservation is required.

Millbury Senior Center Transportation
Transportation is provided for Millbury Senior Residents
Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.
We travel one town out in each direction including Sutton, Grafton, Auburn and Worcester
A 48 hour notice is required for scheduling rides (business days)
Rides are free until January 1st
For more information or to schedule transportation call the center at 508-865-9154

"MEMORY CAFÉ"

Please join us on Tuesday, January 25th at 2-3:30 P.M.
A Memory Café is a monthly gathering for people with memory loss/challenges and their care partners. It is a time to socialize, make new friends, and have a good time.
refreshments will be served!
We are also looking for volunteers to assist with this program!
Our Outreach worker, Julie Fitzgerald, is happy to answer any questions, call to RSVP 508-865-9154!

Millbury Friendly Visitor Program
Our Friendly Visitor Program is now being provided by telephone
Volunteers call clients to check in with them, chat and hear a friendly voice
For more information on coordinating a Friendly visitor
Call the center at 508-865-9154

SNAP APPLICATIONS (Food Stamps)
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(Never known to fail) O most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me where you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity, (make request). There are none that can withstand your power, O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and you must publish it and your request will be granted to you. N.F.L.


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continued from page A1

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