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Friday, December 7, 2018

Charlton Fire Department to hire new personnel

SELECTMEN SEEKING TO MAINTAIN GRANT FUNDED POSITIONS

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The fire department is looking at possibly hiring two new firefighters to the squad as the department continues to deal with an injured-on-duty situation with the fire prevention officer.

Charlton Fire Chief Ed Knopf discussed the status of his department with the Board of Selectmen just before the Thanksgiving holiday, and said the IOD situation is still being worked out, but it has caused responsibilities to be managed by himself and other officials to make sure of taking care of the fire prevention officer duties.

"That's been going on since September of 2017. We have I

would say struggled, but we have maintained our fire prevention and inspectional services to the best of our capabilities," the chief said. "With four major projects going on at once in town now, we all know about the marijuana industry situation, the LNG plant, we have a new Treehouse expansion getting ready to take place and we also have a diesel and propane storage facility ramping up and getting ready to go online, so the need is obvious for a fire prevention officer."

Chief Knopf said he wants to fill that position in-house, which in turn would leave an opening within the fire department ranks. The first round of interviews was conducted before the holiday, with fur-

ther interviews to follow. Coincidentally another firefighter also recently turned in their resignation to work for another town, leaving Charlton with the potential for two open firefighter positions when a new fire prevention officer is promoted. What makes this situation even more complicated is funding.

Five firefighters in Charlton are currently funded through grants until next June, but once that money dries up the town will need to find a way to maintain those employees through budget dollars.

During the discussion with Chief Knopf selectmen debated whether or not it would be responsible to hire two new firefighters with an unclear sit-

uation for five positions within the department until next year.

This is not the first time that the five grant funded firefighters have been discussed in recent months. During a recent town meeting voters approved funding the positions until June but come next budget cycle the town will need to reexamine from where the money to pay these individuals comes. Chief Knopf stressed the importance of keeping these firefighters on staff and filling the two pending open positions as soon as possible.

"As it stands now, we have 20 full time firefighters plus the fire inspector. Right now, I have technically 17 because I have another one that's out injured, and then I will have

these two open positions. To clarify, at the last town meeting the vote didn't fail. The vote was unanimous to fully fund them moving forward until June 30. The language was changed prior to that meeting. We believe, and I believe that the revenue stream that's been upgraded with these additional positions has been verified. Over the last three years we've produced well over a million dollars in ambulance receipts so they're paying for themselves essentially," Chief Knopf said.

All things considered, selectmen seemed to heavily support that these positions need to be a focus of the next budget cycle.

Please Read FIRE DEPARTMENT, page A3

Helping Hands Society holds annual Christmas Fair



Jason Bleau Photos

The Charlton Helping Hands Society's annual Christmas Fair was a hit as locals turned out to get the jump on the Christmas shopping season'

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Helping Hands Society continued a 30-year tradition on Saturday, Dec. 1 by helping the community kick off the holiday season with their annual Christmas Fair.

The Charlton Helping Hands Society has been around for a hundred years and every Christmas season they offer locals the chance to kickstart their holiday shopping with local crafts from vendors and organization members all nestled in the historic hall of the Dodge Chapel. Helping Hands President Judy Maskell called the event the organization's biggest annual fundraiser that they look forward to every year. The funding raised helps Helping Hands provide a variety of programs to those in need in Charlton.

"Our mission is to try to help individuals and families in need in the town.

Please Read HELPING HANDS, page A14



One of the most popular tables at the Charlton Helping Hands Society Christmas Fair was the "pound of cookies" table with a variety of homemade treats

Selectmen put Four Score host agreement on hold

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Board of Selectmen has put the application process for a marijuana cultivation company on hold for now pending the review of a new bylaw by the attorney general's office.

Representatives of Four Score Holding LLC, one of several companies seeking to cultivate marijuana in Charlton, appeared before Selectmen Nov. 20 to discuss the status of the host agreement between the company and the town. Four Score is seeking to build a 20,000-square-foot facility to cultivate marijuana for both medical and recreational use, but has faced roadblocks along the way as recent controversies concerning a project proposed by Valley Green

Grow led to numerous town meetings and the recent passing of a new town bylaw. That bylaw, approved in October, requires selectmen to obtain town meeting approval for host agreements before signing contracts with businesses. The Attorney General's office has 90 days from the date of submittal to approve or deny the bylaw which had yet to expire on Nov. 20.

Daniel Glissman, the attorney representing Four Score, argued selectmen didn't have to wait to approve a host agreement if they didn't want to and noted it was the hope of the company that selectmen would approve the agreement as soon as possible.

"We've been working on this project since March and

Please Read FOUR SCORE, page A13

Frost plans to send holiday care packages

State Representative Paul K. Frost (R-Auburn) is seeking the names of military servicemen and women from the towns in his district who will not be home for the holidays so he can send them a Christmas care package, an annual tradition since he took office in 1997. His district is composed of Auburn, Millbury, precincts 2 and 3 in Oxford, and precinct 4 of Charlton.

"The holiday season brings families and communities together," said Frost, "but there are many men and

women in service to our country who cannot come home this time of year. I wish to acknowledge and thank them and their families for their enormous commitment to protecting our nation and way of life, wherever they may be stationed. I have been sending care packages for the past 21 years now as a small gesture to express my appreciation for these brave men and women and let them know we are thinking about them back at home. Christmas and

Please Read FROST, page A7

Charlton sticks with single tax rate

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The town is staying with a single tax rate for another year after a unanimous vote by selectmen on Nov. 20 chose to continue to tax both personal properties and commercial properties equally for the next year.

Charlton is one of numerous local communities that have long embraced the single tax rate approach rather than choosing to tax businesses more to help fund town operations. Director of Assessing

Deborah Ceccarini appeared before selectmen last month to discuss whether or not the town should remain with the single tax rate approach and recommended the town stick to the status quo.

"Why would we shift the burden onto a particular class of property when we're still trying to invite and attract commercial and industrial growth?" Ceccarini stated, before delving into the specifics of Charlton's growth over the last year.

"Our new growth revenue for this year was \$485,359 in

new tax dollars. Of course, we had the override, which was hitting the tax rate this year. That brings our new average single family to about \$281,797. The average tax bill now for 2019 will be about \$4,162. That's an average increase of \$392 and the bulk of that was due for the override which we prepared the taxpayers for."

Part of the logic of staying the current course is the need for more growth in Charlton. While the town has been a popular location of interest for several businesses in

recent years both big and small, there is still plenty of room for improvement. Ceccarini told selectmen she feels putting more burden on Charlton would stifle any future business growth in the town.

"The rate is going to be roughly \$14.77 (per \$1,000 valuation) – We can only shift up to 50 percent above onto the commercial, but if we were to shift as high as we could the commercial rate would be \$22.16, the residential would be \$13.37. Incrementally it increases the commercial,

lowers your residential but I think the selectmen agree we're still trying to attract commercial and industrial growth," Ceccarini said.

Charlton currently has \$1.15 billion in taxable value, which is the highest in the region according to Ceccarini, even higher than neighboring business-heavy Sturbridge. However, with so few businesses in Charlton compared to private residents selectmen saw fit to stick with the single tax rate with a unanimous vote.

AREA HOLIDAY FAIRS

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
December 7, 8 & 9

MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS FEASTS: The dinners are scheduled Friday, Dec. 7, Saturday Dec. 8 and Sunday Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. each evening at the LaSalle Reception Center at Notre Dame Church, 444 Main St., Southbridge. Tickets are \$30 per person with a group discount for tables of eight available. For information or to order tickets call (508) 320-2583 or email Choir.jp2@gmail.com.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Bay Path Education Foundation Santa Claus Pancake Breakfast at Bay Path High School, 57 Old Muggett Hill Road, Charlton on Saturday, Dec. 8 7:30-10:30 am. Free 5" x 7" photograph with Santa by Casson-Foster Photographers.

Tickets are \$5, children under 5 are free. **SCOUT CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE:** Auburn's Scouting Troop 101 will have Christmas wreaths, baskets, and logs on sale at the Auburn Post Office on Saturdays Dec. 1 and 8, from 9AM-noon. Help fund Scouting activities! For inquiries or pre-sale, call George (774-239-2240)

Saturday December 15

SANTA VISITS THE FARM: December 15th from 1pm to 7pm. Holiday open house at the Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas with hot mulled cider and holiday cookies. Come get your holiday shopping done. Unique gifts at the country store. Santa wants to hear what you want for Christmas! Come tell Santa your wishes and get your photo taken with Jolly Ol' St. Nick. Photographer Kayla of Kayla Photographer & Art will be there to capture the moment. Santa will be in a private room.

HOLIDAY BASKET FESTIVAL:

Grace Episcopal Church, 270 Main St, Oxford will hold its annual Holiday Basket Festival on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9 AM to 1 PM in the parish hall. Chances on Baskets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5. A free ticket will be given for a donation of food, hats or gloves/mittens which will be given to the Oxford Food Shelf. In addition to Baskets, we will have Christmas hats and stockings which can be embroidered with a name for \$5. A hearty lunch will be available for \$5 as well as a bountiful bake table. Tours of our beautiful sanctuary on request. Contact Carol Uppgard for more info at 508-987-5680.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR: the sixth annual holiday craft fair, presented by the Auburn Recreation and Culture Committee is planned Saturday, Dec. 15 with a snow date of Dec. 16; at the Auburn High School, 99 Auburn St., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 80 craft vendors to get you into the spirit, Santa will make an appearance, and other activities for the kiddos as well. Food available, schedule of events at www.auburnguide.com.

CHARLTON CHRISTMAS

(To include your services email ruth@stonebridgepress.news)

SPECIAL SERVICE

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE Zion Lutheran Church, 70 Main St., Oxford is planning a Blue Christmas candle-light service to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11th, at 7:00PM. All are welcome to this quiet, contemplative service.

AREA CHURCHES

First Congregational Church of Brimfield: has announced its Christmas Eve schedule. Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Services: 7:00 p.m. Family Worship. All are invited to join us in this joyous service as we sing and pray to honor the birth of our Lord and Savior.

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service: A more 'traditional' Christmas Eve Service. Please join us in this quiet and reflective service which leads us into Christmas Day.

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CHARLTON CAPSULES

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Zion Lutheran Church, 70 Main St., Oxford is planning a Blue Christmas candle-light service to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11th, at 7:00PM. All are welcome to this quiet, contemplative service.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The Shepherd Hill Music Department presents the 9th annual Holiday Spectacular Dec. 7th and 8th at Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Join Rudolph, Frosty and all their friends in this Broadway type event highlights the talents of the Shepherd Hill Show Choirs, Concert Choir, Woman's Choir and amazing soloists. An event for the entire family and there maybe even a surprise visit

from Santa! Friday Evening December 7 the show begins at 7pm, Saturday December 8th there is a matinee at 2 pm and an evening show at 7pm. To reserve tickets go to <https://shepherdhillchoirs.ticketleap.com/holidayspectacular>.

POLICE DEPARTMENT DROP OFF

Running for more than two decades, Charlton Helping Its People In Need (Chip In) Food Pantry is a non-profit, multi-purpose human service organization that has been providing more than just food for local families in need. The Charlton Police Department, along with our Police Explorer program, will be graciously accepting Legos, family games, dolls (action fig-

ures for boys), toy trucks, bikes, sports equipment, video games, etc...for children from toddlers to teens who may not be as fortunate this holiday season.

Something as simple as a toy can stir a child's imagination and bring joy to youth in need. Please give generously to make the holidays brighter for our children.

New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the Charlton Police Department's lobby from now until December 21st. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Checks should be made out to "Chip In." Together we can help a child have a joyful holiday!

www.StonebridgePress.com

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Vision Board Workshop, December 16, 1:00-4:00
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Harrington names providers of the year

SOUTHBRIDGE — Harrington HealthCare System crowned its 2018 Providers of the Year at a recent cele-

bration at The Barn at Wight Farm in Sturbridge.

This year, gynecologist-urogynecol-



Courtesy photo

The 2018 Harrington Providers of the Year are, left: Christine Carey, MD, FACOG, gynecology and urogynecology (with husband, Ed) and, right: Kim Vetal, NP, family medicine (second from left, with medical staff President Dr. Frank Powers, Harrington President and CEO Ed Moore and chief medical officer Dr. Art Russo).



ogist Dr. Christine Carey and family medicine nurse practitioner Kim Vetal won the distinguished honor following open nominations in October.

The Provider of the Year award has been given annually since 2011. This is the first year the healthcare system has given two awards: one for a physician and one for an advanced practice practitioner.

Carey has been a women's health provider at Harrington Hospital for 22 years. She joined Harrington Physician Services in 2009. She currently practices gynecology and urogynecology in Suite G05 on the Southbridge campus alongside doctors Mark Simonelli, Kirti Patel and nurse practitioner Maryanne Vogel.

Carey was also the recipient of the Worcester Telegram Best of Central Mass Physician of the Year award, successfully earning more votes than four other local physicians. She was honored at a celebration at the DCU Center which occurred the night after Harrington's.

Vetal began working in Brimfield as a family medicine practitioner in 2003, later joining Harrington Physician Services. She currently works alongside doctors Ruth Benet, Shannon Short-Graley, James Goodwin, and nurse practitioner Kristine Roth.

Charlton Villager

ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4130 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

All members of Harrington's community — volunteers, board members, patients, employees or other medical staff — were eligible to nominate an MD, DO, NP or PA. The nomination form required a description of how the provider exemplified the values and characteristics of the award, which include being caring, collegial, safe, cooperative, flexible, available and reliable.

The winner is selected by a committee made up of the chief medical officer, the medical staff president, the chief executive officer, and previous years' winners: Dr. Paul Santolucito, Dr. Paul Harrington, Dr. John Tumolo, Dr. Tina Render, Dr. Talal Bou-Harb, Dr. Issam Oneyssi and Dr. Giza High.

In total, 32 physicians and 19 advanced practitioners from Harrington's medical staff were nominated for the award.

Homemade holiday gifts: high in creativity, short on cash



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

The holidays are here, and if you're scrambling to find the perfect present on a budget, you're not alone. Before you run out to search a token present from picked over department store leftovers, or recharge a chain store gift card, read on. This year's gift giving philosophy is all about back to basics and a homemade touch can make the difference between a dull or dazzling present. Read on for some new and old gift ideas that represent some of my favorites!

Festive Guest Soaps: These fragrant soaps are a nod to nostalgic soaps from days of yore. Fancy, yet practical, these impressive soaps make the perfect hostess present. Or add a few to a basket along with a pair of coordinating hand towels for a sensational gift set.

Ingredients: glycerin bar soap (available at dollar stores); dried flowers such as lavender, chamomile, etc.; dried herbs or herbal tea bags; essential oils.

Instructions: Cut glycerin soap bars into chunks and melt in a double boiler or (carefully) in the microwave. Stir until melted. Skim off any top residue that may form. Gently stir in dried flowers and herbs.

Pour melted glycerin into soap or candle molds. When thoroughly cool, remove soap from mold. Embellish for gift giving by wrapping a grosgrain ribbon once around the soap, securing with a floral sticker. Or wrap in tissue paper and tie off with ribbon.

Homemade glycerin soaps are fantastic bath gift items for family members too. Chop unscented glycerin soap bars and melt.

For men: toss in a little white sand for an effective abrasive hand soap that's ideal for the workshop.

For women: the addition of poppy seeds, oatmeal or coffee grounds makes an excellent exfoliant soap.

For kids: Poke a plastic bug or other small safe toy surprise in the soap before setting.

Gourmet Condiment Basket: Fancy imported mustards and gourmet vinegars can be costly. All you need are some inexpensive ingredients and a few embellishments to conjure up a gift basket worthy of the fussiest of cooks! Mix up a couple of small jars of flavored mustard and add a tall decanter of vinegar for a complete gift.

Base Mustard Recipe

This base recipe uses the addition of ingredients (posted below) to prepare various gourmet mustards. Makes one cup.

Ingredients: Three ounces of brown or yellow mustard seeds; one quarter cup brown sugar; one teaspoon salt; one teaspoon cracked pepper;

one teaspoon turmeric; seven eighths of a cup wine or white vinegar.

Instructions: In a blender, mix together mustard seeds, sugar, salt, pepper and turmeric. Add the vinegar one tablespoon at a time to form a coarse paste. Let mixture rest for about 15 minutes. Add the additional gourmet ingredient flavors below. Spoon into a tightly capped jar. Label jar with mustard name. Make up a gift tag with instructions to allow mustard to cure for two weeks before serving.

Gourmet Blend Additions (add to one cup base recipe)

Clove Spice Mustard: add one teaspoon of cloves;

Tarragon Mustard: add a pinch of cloves and one teaspoon tarragon;

Horseradish Mustard: add up to one tablespoon of grated horseradish;

Hot Garlic Mustard: add one dried chili pepper and one garlic clove.

Note: Small jelly canning jars are ideal for packaging gift mustards. You can fill two jars with this one cup recipe.

Use your computer to make up unique labels.

**

Scented Home Décor Medallions: These fragrant air fresheners make a fashion statement! They can be hung on a doorknob, in a closet or all around the house. These can be made with candy or candle molds as well as soap molds.

**

Materials: Plaster of Paris; pearly craft paint; essential oil; soap or candle molds; ribbon

Instructions: Mix plaster according to directions on package and pour into molds.

Each medallion requires two identical molds. When completely dry, remove from molds. Using a pearl or enamel, paint front and sides of each form as desired. Leave a small area at the top of each mold unpainted. Apply a finish coat over paint. When dry, apply several drops of essential oil to the top of medallion. The unpainted area is porous and fragrance will be absorbed by the medallion. Cut a loop of rib-

bon and glue to the back of one mold. Glue the molds together back to back, securing carefully with a vise if necessary to press seams together. When dry and secure, suspend whenever a fresh scent is desired.

**

Heirloom Tea Spoons:

Vintage silverplate spoons coated with candy provide a sentimental sweet treat for tea drinkers. Silver plated spoons are inexpensive and readily available at flea markets or antique shops. Wrap a few of these stirrers in cellophane and tie with a ribbon. To sweeten the deal, present a matching set of spoons along with a selection of loose tea.

Ingredients: Approximately 35 pieces hard candy, crushed (lemon and cinnamon are great with tea); two tablespoons corn syrup.

Directions: Line a cookie sheet with wax paper and spray with cooking spray.

In a heavy saucepan combine crushed candies and corn syrup.

Melt over low heat stirring frequently.

Spoon candy into bowl of each spoon.

Place spoons on cookie sheet with handles on rims to make spoons level.

Allow to harden.

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge!

Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing.

One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant,

located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge.

Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not

inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

continued from page 1

Selectman Joe Szafarowicz said he certainly believes one way or another the fire department needs to remain with its current personnel even if compromises have to be made with the budget.

"It's a very good case that we will most likely keep these officials," Szafarowicz told Chief Knopf. "I think it should be part of the budgeting cycle for FY 2020 and part of that town meeting. I think a lot of evidence points towards a strong case for bringing those firefighters back."

For now, selectmen voted unanimously to allow the chief to proceed with new hirings to fill the vacancies within the department.

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Most Common Home Inspection Issues?

After attending hundreds of Home Inspections I have found that many of the same issues will arise over and over again. It is always a good idea to resolve any potential inspection issues prior to the inspection. One way to do this would be to have a pre-inspection where the home inspector will come in at a lower cost and inspect the home before you put it up for sale. The one challenge with this is that your inspector most likely will not see everything and the next inspector will have less issues to find so they will find different ones. With this pre-inspection you could check the water quality and quantity if you have a well, radon in the air, and a pest inspection. This way if any issues came up you could resolve prior to listing for sale so the buyer feels better knowing that you did what was necessary to take care of your home and didn't defer maintenance. I would advise discussing this option with your

Realtor to decide if this would be your best approach or not.

If you do not do a pre-inspection it is good to go through the house and look for obvious issues that could come up on an inspection. Some of these may seem not to be a big deal but when adding them all together the buyer will get concerned. Some common issues I see are

Radon in the basement area and many times buyer will ask seller to repair

Water quality and quantity test which may result in a new well or mitigation systems for contaminants

Old stains on ceiling. Make sure to paint the and resolve source of stain. Also if there are stained ceiling tiles replace them as well. This is many times an old roof leak, an ice dam or



REALTOR'S REPORT

JAMES
BLACK

even a sweating piped which could be wrapped to prevent dripping

GFCI's either not installed in kitchens or bathrooms or not working properly. Ensure your kitchen and baths have GFCI's and they are

working properly

Water leaking into the electric panel. Have someone seal around the entry of the main electric line into house if that is the cause

Double tapped breakers. Have an electrician evaluate your electric panel and install additional breakers if there is space where there are double-tapped breaker

Decks missing joist hanger and lag bolts. Just proactively install joist hangers where needed and lag bolt the

deck to house.

Open Junction boxes. Cover them to prevent concerns

Boiler not cleaned or serviced. Make sure boiler or furnace has been cleaned in last 12 months and also ensure there is a tag on the boiler

Lack of caulking around baths and sinks. Proactively recaulk around sink and tub.

Garage door not reversing when eyes are walked past or tension is placed on door. Have the eyes and the stop reverse adjusted.

Water leaking into basement. Proactively seal any cracks in walls that you can.

I know there are many more but I think you get the point. Either hire an inspector or take a quick walk around your home with your realtor and have them make suggestions on things you should proactively do to ensure you don't have issue down the road.

Leadership requires emotional intelligence

BY GUS STEEVES
STONEBRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

To be effective, one thing leaders really need is a ruler.

Not the political kind, nor the measuring kind, but the idea kind.

As Craig Bailey told a dinner forum at Nichols last week, that word is an acronym for Recognize, Understand, Label, Express and Regulate, and it specifically refers to how to deal with something everyone has, but many don't deal with too well – emotions.

"The skills of one person can make a difference in an organization," he noted, adding that leaders "set the tone, so their skills matter."

He later observed members of groups need to know their leaders "have those feelings and what you do when you have those feelings. It's not just about having your emotions on your sleeves all the time."

Emotional intelligence can be learned, even when we're no longer in preschool. The key is to recognize what we feel and where it might be coming from (within or outside the situation). Emotions, he noted, can be responses to something that "doesn't have to be right in front of you," and are "characterized by a change" in thought, physical reaction, expression and/or behavior, often mediated by hormones and memories.

"We end up remembering things that have a lot of emotional significance to us," Bailey said. "If you're not doing things that are meaningful, you

won't remember them."

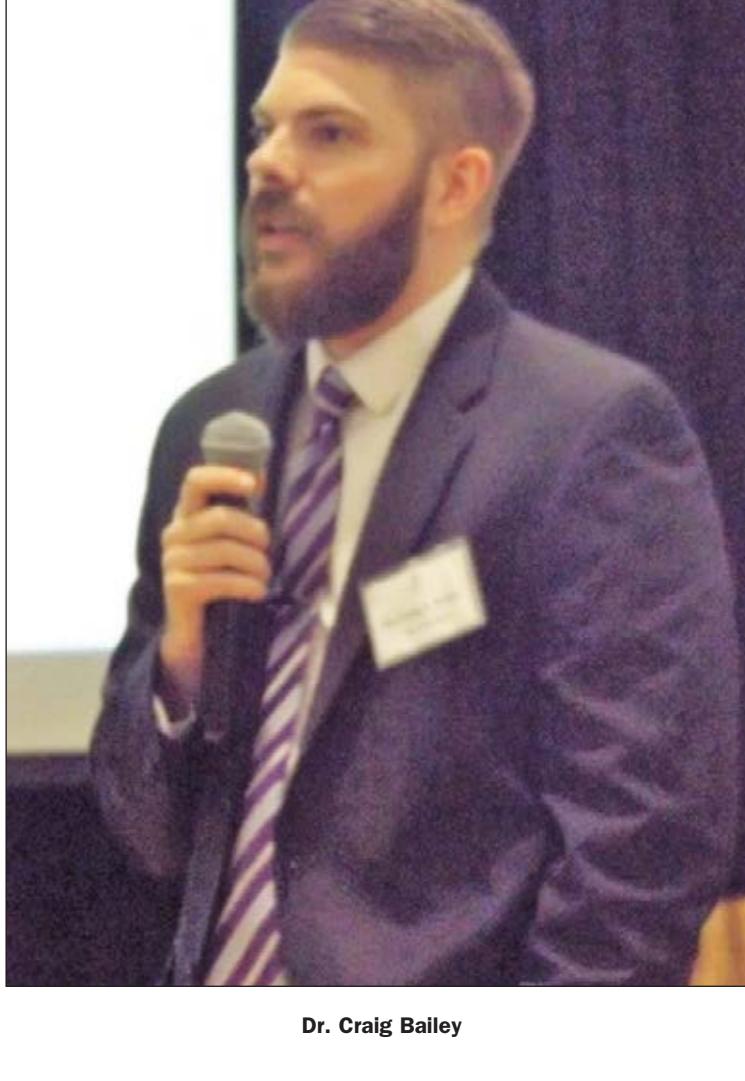
Bailey, director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, said good leaders are aware of their impact on others, astute judges of people without being judgmental, balance drive with sensitivity to needs of others, communicate well, and balance emotion and logic. People need to feel validated; when that doesn't happen, "it just shuts everything down."

"It can never be just about yourself. It's always a conversation with other people," he said.

To get an idea of how the roughly 25 participants thought about both leadership and what they wanted to feel in the workplace or similar organization, Bailey simply asked them. The responses were not surprising. Among the former, they said leaders need empathy, bring out the best in others, set things up so that "if you step out, others can carry on," and "have to have yourself squared away to help anybody else." Regarding the latter, they wanted a sense of pride and accomplishment, to be respected, connected, and productive, and feel, as one stated, the group is "a second family."

As we now do things, Bailey said, surveys in schools and workplaces tend not to have those things. Instead, students, teachers and workers are often feeling stressed, tired, bored and disrespected in various ways by a large margin.

"It's more a reflection of the society we live in," not just those settings, Bailey noted.



Dr. Craig Bailey

He points back to childhood, arguing, "children today don't talk about emotions because we as a society don't talk about emotions. The students are just a reflection of us."

He didn't note why specifically, but several theories exist.

Among them are ideas that our culture has become seriously divorced from Nature, with various studies showing that most people who have time walking or sitting among green trees, flowing water and the like experience demonstrable

reductions in stress hormones. Other ideas have fingered the fact our culture and economy emphasize individualism and technology to an extreme when humanity is inherently a social species. Several theorists have noted all of these and other issues feed into each other.

Emotions, Bailey said, are based in biology.

"Your reaction [to something] is your body's way of telling you to pay attention to something," and those events can be positive or negative. In the brain, emotions are rooted in the amygdala, which is right next to and linked to the hippocampus, the area of memory formation.

Because they're so closely linked to basic survival needs, strong emotions tend to overrule the evolutionarily much more recent executive cortex, which is responsible for problem solving and logical decision making. But when we recognize that process in action, we can choose to step back and give ourselves the time to think about it, rather than just react. One way to put ourselves in a better mental state, Bailey suggested, is to take a moment to actually look at a photo (real or cellphone) and remember whatever gives us joy. At the same time, we can help others by guiding them out of whatever the situation is that's stimulating them.

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

Media employees unionize in western Massachusetts

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Employees of two publications in western Massachusetts have asked the Newspapers of New England to recognize them as the Pioneer Valley NewsGuild.

The Daily Hampshire Gazette and the weekly alternative Valley Advocate share ownership and a building in Northampton and are moving to solidify their status as a union as other papers have done.

Efforts to unionize in Northampton began last year when Gazette executive

editor Jeff Good said he was fired for supporting equal pay for female employees though corporate officials say that wasn't the case. Publisher Michael Rifenburg has folded the Advocate into the features department of the Gazette and reduced staff, citing lower readership and tariffs on Canadian newsprint as factors for the moves.

"We're feeling the pinch," he said.

However, state Rep. Jim O'Day isn't buying it.

"Hopefully they'll let the process unfold in a democratic way," he said, adding, "I think whenever workers can

come together, whether it's for better working conditions, greater wages, better hours, you name it, I think it's beneficial to those workers and their families."

Organizing into a union isn't as easy as it used to be, not since the Supreme Court delivered a blow to such efforts during the summer. If Newspapers of New England doesn't agree voluntarily to recognize the union, organizers will have to ask the National Labor Relations Board to distribute ballots to the 72 members. However, prior to that ruling employees at the Los Angeles

Times, Chicago Tribune and the New Yorker magazine had voted to unionize.

Newspapers of New England owns numerous publications including the locally regional Athol Daily News as well as the Concord Monitor and Greenfield Recorder.

The Winchendon Courier is owned by Stonebridge Press in Southbridge, which operates more than 20 publications throughout New England.

A timetable for resolution of the Northampton effort is uncertain.



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

Christmas feasts ready for hilarity

Once again, Saint John Paul II Parish in Southbridge will be sponsoring its annual Medieval Christmas Feasts on the second weekend of December. The dinners, prepared by a professional caterer, feature entertainment from start to finish in the context of a late medieval castle banquet with singing, hanging of the greens, procession of the boar's head and flaming pudding. Of special interest is the court jester whose humor brings both laughter and joy to this holiday observance.

Similar to a Renaissance Fair but in a sacred context, these dinners are sure to put you in the Christmas spirit!

The dinners take place all weekend, Friday, Dec. 7, Saturday Dec. 8 and Sunday, Dec. 9 at 6:00 p.m. each night. The site is the LaSalle Reception Center at Notre Dame Church, 444 Main St., Southbridge. The cost is \$30 per person with a group discount for a table of eight available. To purchase tickets, contact (508) 320-2583 or email Choir.jp2@gmail.com



The ladies of Medieval Feast.



Photos courtesy Gary Peck

This year's Feast cast at dress rehearsal.

Six steps to stop porch pirates this holiday season

BY SHANNON BOYLE,
CONTENT MARKETING SPECIALIST FOR
BBB

The holiday season is in full swing and online shoppers need to be on alert for 'porch pirates'—people stealing packages from unsuspecting homeowners. In a recent study, nearly 26 million Americans reported holiday packages being stolen from their front porch or doorstep.

Last year, Amazon shipped more than five billion items to Prime members, sparking a

packaging business to analyze Google search trends to determine where package theft is more concentrated. Boston is fourth on the list of the most prone cities to so-called porch pirates.

Although certain crimes occur more often around the holidays, the USPS and Consumer Reports have a few ways you can keep your packages safe from thieves.

Don't leave delivered packages unattended. You wouldn't leave \$500 sitting outside your



Courtesy photo

This is just tempting the porch pirates

house overnight so don't leave your packages unattended for long periods of time. Pay attention to online tracking; if the company says it was delivered but it's not at your house report it.

For extra security, use motion detecting lights and camera systems to fend off would-be thieves.

Leaving town? Have your mail held at the post office. Once you return you can pick everything up or request it be delivered to your home.

Customize the delivery. If you know the package is going to be larger than the mailbox, authorize the carrier to leave it in a specified out-of-sight location. You can also request pickup at their facility.

Secure the shipment. Signature confirmations ensure that the package ends up in the right hands. Register your most valuable packages so special care and documentation is used every step of the way.

Ship your packages to where you are, not where you aren't. Spend all day at work? Talk to your boss about having packages delivered to your workplace instead of your home address.

Keep an eye out for suspicious activity in your neighbor-

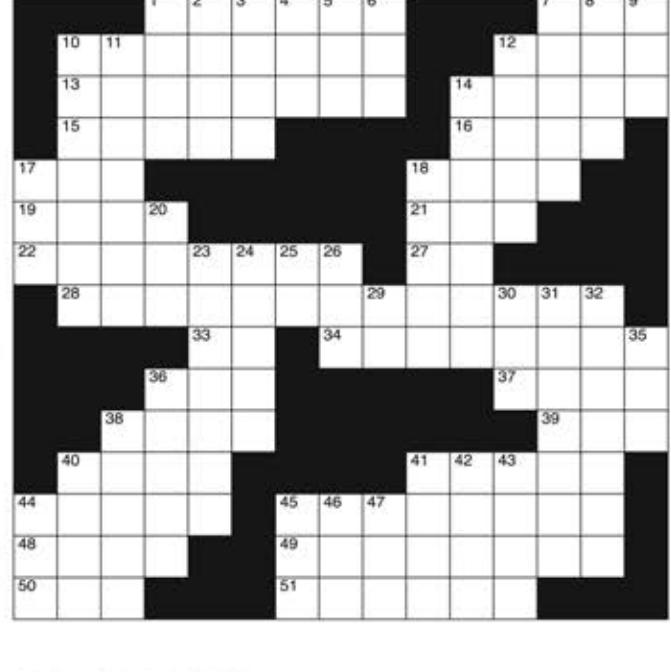
hood. Some thieves follow delivery trucks waiting for the opportune time to steal packages. If you notice something out of place in your neighborhood, report it to the proper authorities with specific details.

You can also plan with neighbors to move any packages inside their home for safekeeping until you arrive home at

night.

If you or someone you know has been affected by stolen packages, report it to BBB Scam Tracker to help warn others.

For more holiday tips you can trust, check out the BBB Holiday Guide at bbb.org or follow us on social media.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Doctor's clothes | 33. Blood type |
| 7. NYC ballplayer | 34. Oppressed |
| 10. Flying vessels | 36. "Much ___ about nothing" |
| 12. Created | 37. World's longest river |
| 13. Convert | 38. deGrom and Sale are two |
| 14. WWII battle | 39. Crafty |
| 15. A cravat with wide square ends | 40. At all times |
| 16. Month in the Jewish calendar | 41. Twins great Hunter |
| 17. Value | 44. Volcanic craters |
| 18. Brews | 45. Outpouring |
| 19. Child's eating accessory | 48. Where a baby sleeps |
| 21. Arrived extinct | 49. Dancing a Brazilian dance |
| 22. Of the sea | 50. Unhealthy |
| 27. Potato state | 51. Manufacturers |
| 40. Leading man | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Prevents harm to young | 25. Of I |
| 2. The Muse of history | 26. Electronic countermeasures |
| 3. Fascinated by | 29. Atomic #3 (abbr.) |
| 4. Unnilhexium | 30. A type of sister |
| 5. Honey maker | 31. Omission of a sound |
| 6. Soviet Socialist Republic | 32. Screaming |
| 7. They hang out with papas | 35. Ottoman title |
| 8. German river | 36. Sour |
| 9. Domain name | 38. Take advantage of |
| 10. Type of chair | 40. Nobleman |
| 11. Fill someone with an urge | 41. Cathode ray was one |
| 12. Sorceress | 42. Long, winding ridge |
| 14. Unpleasant smell | 43. Muckraking journalist |
| 17. Leg (slang) | 44. Defunct phone company |
| 18. Farewell | 45. Military telecommunications term (abbr.) |
| 20. A life summary | 46. Supervises flying |
| 23. Merchants | 47. Firearms manufacturer |
| 24. Southeastern Nigerians | |



instance, coins silver spoons marked Goddard may be from a Worcester silversmith.

Scraping broken pieces may be fine. Sometimes a mixture of simply designed pieces may not have a value much above the scrap value. However, most sterling and coin silver by earlier silversmiths command prices above scrap value and shouldn't be scrapped. If you have a spoon by Paul Revere Jr., it can bring thousands of dollars. Coin silver teapots by other American silversmiths can also sell for thousands.

An average sterling silver flatware set can bring

Turn To ANTIQUES page A7

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PUZZLE SOLUTION



Charlton Library holds annual craft fair

CHARLTON – The Charlton Public Library hosted its annual craft fair once again in 2018 bringing numerous crafters to town with over 25 vendors presenting their goods to prospective buyers. Everything from soaps and wood crafts to more unique one-of-a-kind projects as well as the works of local authors were available for purchase on Saturday, Dec. 1 as an annual holiday kickoff tradition continued.



Jason Bleau Photos

Lucas Beaudette Workshops of Charlton, specializing in custom woodworking products, showed off their creative items to prospective buyers



Local crafter Linda McManus shows her creations to a prospective customers.



Local authors Gail Olmsted and Tracey Ryan were features in the Author's Nook portion of the craft fair



Guests could try their luck at a raffle where vendors at the fair offered up some of their goods as prizes



Mama Bear Makes, led by Jennifer Wall, at the Charlton Library craft fair



Fernwood Handcrafted Gifts offered a variety of fun and unique items including hand made winter wear, wallets and decorations



Customers explore the options at Gayle's Sunshine Shop



The ladies of Eagle Lake Soap had a variety of hand-crafted products to show off



These creative hand-made stocking decorations were made to look like winter gloves

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Charlton artists Irena Russell brought her works for visitors to examine and, hopefully, purchase

LEARNING

HOLY NAME ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

The following students have earned a place on the honor roll at Holy Name for the first quarter.

GRADE 7

High Honors: Charlton: Chase Brush; Milford: Matthew Donahue; and Shrewsbury: Nathan Williams.

Honors: Auburn: Amanda Wilbur; Charlton: Colin Brush; Dudley: Don Sousa; Holden: Liaidan Van Dyke; Millbury: Patrick Sheehan; Northborough: Craig Mitchell; Paxton: Robert Reynolds; Whitinsville: Natalie Overstreet; and Worcester: Emily Charlton, Isabella Vigliotti, Emberlynn Cao, Aidan Coppinger, Jonathan Doucette, Grace Williams, Jack McGrath, Miriam Greenslit, Caroline Harris

GRADE 8

High Honors: Auburn: Ryan Mechery; Shrewsbury: Sabrina Williams; and Worcester: Kwame Asare, Keziah Danso

Honors: Auburn: Ashley Wilbur, Chloe Diguette, Adam Toscano; East Brookfield: Ronald Pataky; Mendon: Michael Younes; Millbury: Cadance Ryan; Northbridge: Michael Ronan, Emma Ronan; Princeton: Catherine King; Webster: Connor Paul; and Worcester: Joong Gun Lee, Joseph Bowden, Kayden Chevalier, Alexa Tighe, Logan Antkowiak, Stephanie Tran, Christopher Larson

GRADE 9

High Honors: Auburn: Claudia Symonick; Hudson: Benjamin Kushi; Millville: Isabelle DiCecco; Oxford: Benjamin Duval; Dominic Porcelli; Rochdale: Elizabeth Socha; Spencer: Makenna Barrows; Webster: Anna Richardson; Worcester: Kylie Barbour, Serena Kim, Sanaa May, Terrence O'Connor, Jaiden Shekoni, Marcy Suarez

Honors: Douglas: Seth Boudreau, Hayley Houston; Dudley: Alyson Gering, Madeline Grenier, Kaitlyn Nguyen; Grafton: Yihan Zhang; Holden: Xiaoyu Hei; Hudson: Sarah Walsh; Marlborough: Adam Short; Millbury: Sophie Ikeda, Quinn Romaine; Spencer: Elizabeth Manfield; Sturbridge: Nathan Kowal; Thompson, CT: Brayden Akana; Webster: Emilia Kreidler, Isabella Maglich; Worcester: Emma Bolduc, Brianna Borrero, Nicole Brown, Matthew Campfield, Lily Carelli, Liam Grow, Natalee Horton, Boston Kielbowicz, Harmon La, Ryan Lam, Kayla Marks, Martyna Myslinski, Ethan Paixao, Mario Paldino, Katie Paulino, Christina Pham, Marjorie Ramon, Bella Romeo, Corey Rondeau, Cormac Trainor, Nhu Tran.

GRADE 10

High Honors: North Oxford: Danielle Frasco; Oxford: Julianna Warman; Shrewsbury: Frances Fernandez; Spencer: Adam Scannell; West Boylston: Cadence Dimen; Worcester: Carissa England, Elizabeth Galeriu, Raigan Gregoire, Alexandra Selvitelli, Olivia Spokis

Honors: Auburn: Matt Card, Kevin Ly An Nguyen; Charlton: Mary Graff, Yuqi Han; Clinton: Issaih Agnew; Holden: David Prosser; Leicester: Jared Dahlgren, Christian Rivera; Medway: Anita Cuff; Milford: Ashby Norris; North Grosvenordale: Lillian Krysinski; North Grafton: Anmarie Huggett; Oxford: Cienna Barszcz, Daniel Depatite, Christopher Mahlert; Paxton: Jillian Reynolds; Putnam, CT: William Aldredge; Rochdale: James Flanagan; Shrewsbury: Conor McGaugh, Natalia Moura-Westdijk, Henry Seo, Seth Williams, Jongmin Lee; Southbridge: Amy Loin; Spencer: Kalli McCutcheon, Amanda Scannell; Sturbridge: Arianna Lester; Uxbridge: Kira Sullivan; Whitinsville: Mateo Morrisette, Robert Pingeton; Worcester: Isabel Ayers, Jacob Bowden, Anthony Cao, Emeline Class, Gianni DeProspo, Kaylee DeSiata, Paige DeSiata, Emily DiLiddo, Cristiana Giovanangeli-Nicotera,

Caitlin Graham, Randy Guarango, Willaim Huo, Lauren Jeong, Ry Kariuki, Max LeFrancois, Lianne Lipka, John Lopes, Molly Lynch, Amelia Nadeau-DaCruz, Richael Silverio, Olivia Spokis, Nolan Sweetser, Jack Xia, Jerry Xu.

GRADE 11

High Honors: Boylston: Elise Probst; Hudson: Emily Regis; Milford: Juliana Cafarella; Rutland: Erin Duncan; Shrewsbury: Elyse Duff; Uxbridge: Krista Sullivan; Webster: Jason Lin; West Boylston: Tony Hu; Worcester: Lucia Garcia, Benjamin Lanava, David Luo, Nhan Nguyen, Nguyen Truong.

Honors: Auburn: Anna Pyche, Nathalie Soto; Charlton: Janelle Schulman; Dudley: Colby Fenton; East Brookfield: Alexander Demarski; Grafton: Jack Chen; Jefferson: Madison Ayik; Leicester: Katelyn Lepard; Marlborough: Abigail Spitzer; Mendon: Priscilla Younces; Milford: Rachael Allegakoon; Millbury: Ariel Ji, Faith Sheehan; North Grafton: Picheng Li; Oxford: Abigail Duval; Putnam, CT: Thomas Aldredge; Shrewsbury: Emily Baril, Renee Baril, Sean Hammitt, Yunyi Jiang, Rylie Murphy, Yejun Qiu, Ian Wu; South Grafton: Isabella Diorio; Southborough: Isabelle Lindhurst; Spencer: Abigail Manfield, Ryleigh Modig; Sturbridge: Rebecca Kowal; Sutton: Karina Leblanc; Webster: Jessica Gardner, Ashley Wentworth; Westborough: Rachel Liazos, Declan Roche; Whitinsville: Lindsey Sanderson; Worcester: Anna Camfield, Linda Collesesi, Ferras Coulibaly, Crystal Di, Ava Diggs, Jaini Edmonds, Abigail Erickson, Kamille Hylton, Celine Jia, Rahmya, Kelley, Esther Kim, Kayla Leong, McKenzie Logan, Yudong Luo, Olivia Lupisella, Brendan McGee, Amina Mohammed, Rosbara Morgan, Astrid Otchere, Brett Pullman, Passapong Ruksee, Edward Shon, Emily Vo, Calvin Wang, Sky Weng, Mars Xu, Bruce Yu.

GRADE 12

High Honors: Cherry Valley: Panda Lin; Milford: Kaycee Conover; North Grafton: Abigail Carroll; Rutland: Catherine Dinsdale; Shrewsbury: Elizabeth Fernandez, Jax Kou, Varun Nathan, Sam Zhao; Whitinsville: Michael Wickstrom; Worcester: Dyson Barbour, Cyndi Le, Leila Liu, Charlotte Liu, Amy Shon, Peter Wang, Alexandra Ward, Francis Xu.

Honors: Auburn: Jasmine Tao; Charlton: Emma Bailen, Kenneth Graff; Grafton: Gabriela Vescio; Hudson: Katherine Regis; Marlborough: Stephanie Monteiro; Millbury: Jillian Carew; Millville: Michelle Riley; Oxford: Kathryn Horan; Rochdale: Erin Socha; Shrewsbury: Olivia Ankrah, Nancy Guo, Wendy Zhang; Spencer: Morgan Woolard; Sutton: Reanna Mankaryous, Sabrina Woolf; Uxbridge: Ethan Hickey, Matthew Worthington; Webster: Morgan Richardson; Whitinsville: Marcos Morrisette; Worcester: Ginneta Abaidoo, Colivea Acquaye, Olivia Amorati, Freddy Bai, Zuzanna Basta, Devon Benoit, Gabriel Caminhos, Shirley Chen, Taylor Cordova, Yulianny De Los Sants, Adam DiLiddo, Helena Greenslit, Chiara Hill, Emma Kennedy, Hannah Lynch, Zenobia Mojica-Turner, Clariese Natal, Malaika Ngigi, Anna Nguyen, Julie Obeng-Nyarkoh, James Oleas, Nikolas Padilla, Neena Pires, Samantha Selvitelli, Charlize Xu.

ANTIQUES

continued from page A5

anywhere from \$500 into the low thousands. Prices vary depending on the maker and pattern. We sold a rare sterling flatware set, with scarce serving pieces, for over \$15,000. Mid-century modern sterling pieces are among the mid-century pieces that are currently bringing strong prices. We sold a set of Georg Jensen sterling flatware for over \$4,000.

A rare George Jensen fish platter sold for \$120,000 at another auction house in 2011. You'd need something of similar quality to serve fish from a platter

like that. A Martele sterling silver fish serving piece sold for \$2,700 in a 2013 auction.

I'll be at the Shrewsbury Historical Society on Dec. 12th at 7:00 PM for an antiques presentation. We are still making estate pickup and accepting quality consignments for our Jan. 31st live auction. See www.centralmassauctions.com for details on these and other upcoming 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

local newspapers and holiday greeting messages. If anyone in the district has a loved one from the district and in the military who will not be home for the holidays, call Rep. Frost's office at 617-722-2489 or email paul.frost@mahouse.gov by Monday, December 10 to have a care package sent to them. Please include any food allergies when providing details.

FROST

continued from page 1

the holiday season is a time for family and community, and all those serving in our military should be a part of our thoughts, prayers and well wishes during this joyous season."

Packages contain candies, cookies,

Macharia awarded training grant



ready LPNs right here in Massachusetts."

The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Commonwealth Corporation encourage businesses to address workforce training needs. Interested parties are encouraged to visit www.commcorp.org/wtfp to learn more.

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EDITORIAL

Loss of a statesman

Whether you are a registered voter affiliated with a party; or whether you try really, really hard not to be involved with politics at all, you have to know the world has lost a true gentleman this week.

George Herbert Walker Bush was, for the most part, a soft spoken man... with a spine of steel. He chose not to put himself in the blinding spotlight and take credit for much of what was indeed his own work. He believed in those who worked with him; and gave equal credit to those around him.

His modest adage was that no single person was ever wholly responsible either for triumph or failure.

And he didn't just talk his talk, he lived it.

He nearly lost his election bid because people didn't "get" his demeanor. Time magazine called him a "wimp."

He proved them wrong.

His style was different, there wasn't bluster in his speech and mannerisms. There was honesty, and sincerity.

And while he didn't agree with everyone around him, even among those on his side, in his own party and his advisors; he handled any controversy calmly and quietly. Presenting himself and any rancor with a level headedness we could surely use now.

He was a diplomat.

He was a number cruncher.

He understood tactics and strategy.

He was a veteran.

He was a devoted husband and father.

He was a successful business man.

He was a friend, a good friend to many, staying friends with old Navy buddies, with college friends, with fellow politicians his entire life.

He may be the last of dying breed; an honest politician who understood compromise; understood human nature; and understood nothing gets done without both sides willing to talk and to sacrifice a bit.

And he understood we are all in this together. There is no "us" and "them"; we are one country.

If for no other reason than to honor his memory, we should attempt to act like it for a month or two.

He would understand that; and probably laugh at us all from Barbara's side; where he most assuredly is now; at peace.

Goodbye Mr. President.

LETTERS

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OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM CHARLTON, CHARLTON CITY, CHARLTON DEPOT AND BEYOND

Do we truly listen to each other?

YOUR
TURN
.....
IAN
BUSSIÈRE

Do we truly listen to each other? Or are we so afraid that our opinion could change that we decide to ignore what the other person is saying and focus on how we are right and how they are wrong. I say we, because I include myself in this. For those who don't know me I am a guy who loves to talk more than truly listen. I recognized that I needed to work on becoming an active listener myself before I could say something to others.

While on this journey of recognizing that I wasn't a truly active listener, especially to those who didn't agree with my opinion, I came to the realization, thanks to social media, that most people were only focusing on their own opinions instead of hearing from the opposition and I believe that this needs to stop. I again ask the question "Do we truly listen to each other?"

We like to do everything in our power to not truly listen to any opposition. We focus on things such as how redundant the person is in their words. We go so far to even start name calling when we run out of things to say to protect our opinion(s). We forget that the other person we are talking to is a human being that has feelings. Again I say, this needs to stop. For some strange reason we think that it is unacceptable for us to have a healthy conversation where we end it with us leaving with the opposing person's opinion in our thought process. Instead we focus on leaving the conversation with the satisfactory of not having anything changed in our own thoughts.

I know that some who are reading this are thinking "wow is he ignorant on what a debate is." No, I am not being ignorant about the fact that when we have healthy debates on certain topics, such as Brett Kavanaugh, or the debate on abortion, etc., that we are trying to change the other person's mind on a topic, all I am saying is that we focus on winning more than the fact that we are talking to another human who has thoughts and feelings. We have become a nation of "narrow minded people" and it is tearing our society apart. Look

around for yourself and you will see it. I believe that it is time for us to realize that we need to start being active listeners.

An example of this is the #MeToo movement. You as a person may disagree with what either the accuser or the accused person is saying, but shouldn't we give them a chance to be heard? What if you were the person who was the accuser or the accused? Wouldn't you like the chance to be heard before everyone made a decision against you before you had the chance to speak? The sexual assault victims need to be heard but the accused assaulter also needs to be heard as well before a decision can be made. I know I would want to be heard and I believe that most of you who are reading this would agree and would want to be heard as well.

How do we truly listen to each other? It's more than just being quiet and repeating what the person you are listening to just said. Instead we should start off by putting away distractions, such as our phones, and we should actually make eye contact with the person that we are talking to. We should be asking questions when we don't understand something that was said. When we do oppose a thought instead of attacking the person verbally, we can state our opinion in a way that doesn't turn the conversation into a yelling match. So yes, that means that before we speak we need to actually think about what we are going to say. Here are a couple of questions that I ask myself that may help you. The first is "Does this edify or encourage the person to keep sharing their opinion with me?" and the second thought is "Does this need to be said right now?" These questions help me, and I hope they help you discern what to say and when to say your thought or opinion.

We need to start listening to each other, not only to better ourselves, but also to better our towns, cities, states, and our country as a whole. So I end with this question, "Do you truly listen?"

In case you missed it



"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." — George Bernard Shaw

Last Friday, in the hope that no one would notice in the mayhem of Black Friday sales, the Trump administration dropped a 1,600-page report on climate change which was drafted by 13 federal agencies and more than 300 leading scientists. So, in my very small way, I'm hoping my little essay will thwart the hopes of the administration and draw your attention to the National Climate Assessment released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration after 2½ years of study.

Naturally, President Trump declared before jumping into Marine One on his way to address a gathering of his cult followers in Mississippi: "I don't believe it."

The following day, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who does an impressive job portraying a presidential hand-puppet, declared the report is "not based on fact."

Nothing less, I guess, should be expected from an administration led by someone who has declared climate change to be a hoax perpetrated on a naive world by those inscrutable Chinese.

Well, since President Trump wouldn't recognize the truth if it weighed eight tons and plummeted out of the sky and onto the 18th green at Mir a Lago, here are some of the reports more disturbing findings:

First, for us New Englanders, warming ocean temperatures will continue to rise by at least one degree every 16 years, or so. So, as temperatures in the waters of our coast continue to warm, lobsters will continue to move north into the cooler waters where they thrive. While lobster boats active in the seas just south of Cape Cod and around Rhode Island brought in some 2,000 metric tons of the spiny crustacean in the 1990s, lobster populations in that area have since collapsed. After increasing catches in the Gulf of Maine (where most of those more southern-dwelling lobsters moved to) in the decades that followed, the catch suffered a precipitous decline last year. One of New England's most important economic sectors stands to be devastated.

...AND
ONE MORE
THING...
.....
GREG
VINE

Also of concern for the northeast, rising temperatures and wetter winters will likely will lead to increasing populations of ticks carrying Lyme disease and mosquitoes carrying

Triple-E and West Nile Virus.

As for the rest of the country, the report notes that the amount of acreage charred by California wildfires each year has doubled since 1985. If mankind fails to significantly stem the release of greenhouse gases, the amount of acreage burned in the Sierra Nevada mountains could triple during the last three decades of this century.

The beautiful and temperate Pacific Northwest, says the report compiled by experts who know the subject, will see wilder bouts of severe weather, including extended drought, large wildfires, heatwaves, massive algae blooms, and periods of torrential rains.

Increasing temperature extremes in the Midwest will lead to significant crop failures, leading to shortages that will result in increased prices here in the U.S. and an increased likelihood of famine – due to decreasing U.S. agricultural exports – in other parts of the world.

Unchecked climate change could, by the end of the century, result in a 10 percent depletion in the U.S. economy, according to the report.

The change in climate, the report stresses, is due in large part to the activities of humankind. We broke it; we need to do what we can to fix it. It's pretty simple – for most thinking people, that is. But President Trump, if he's known for anything, is certainly known for a lack of thoughtfulness.

Hopefully, whoever follows him into the White House will act quickly to reverse his disastrous environmental policies. If not, well...we're screwed. Or should I say our children and grandchildren are screwed. They are the reason we need to act now, but the president and his cult followers just don't give a damn. If it's not going to affect them personally it's not worth worrying about.

Aggressively addressing the problem may have its cost but, as President John F. Kennedy – a real president – said: "There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less than the long-range risks of comfortable inaction."

Take advantage of tax diversification



FINANCIAL
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As an investor, you will have access to accounts that are taxed differently from one another. And it's possible you could benefit from tax diversification by owning accounts in these three categories:

Tax-deferred – Tax-deferred accounts include the traditional IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. When you invest in tax-deferred vehicles, your money can grow faster than if it were placed in an account on which you paid taxes every year. You also may get a tax deduction for contributions you make today. When you start taking withdrawals from these tax-deferred accounts, typically during retirement, the money is usually taxed at your ordinary income tax rate.

Taxable – Taxable investments are those held in a standard brokerage account, outside your IRA or 401(k). While you can put virtually all types of investments into a taxable account, you may want to focus on those considered to be most tax-efficient. So, you could include individual stocks that you plan to hold, rather than actively trade, because you will not get taxed on the capital gains until you sell. You also might consider mutual funds that do little trading and generate fewer capital gain distributions. This is important not only in terms of controlling taxes, but also because the taxes on these distributions can reduce your investments' real rate of return.

Tax-free – When you invest in a Roth IRA/Roth 401(k), you don't get an immediate tax deduction, but your earnings, as well as your withdrawals, are tax-free, provided you do not start taking withdrawals until you're 59 ½ and you have had your account at least five years. (However, income restrictions do apply to Roth IRAs.)

So, given the difference in how taxes are treated in these accounts, how can you choose where to put your money? For example, when would you contribute to a Roth IRA or Roth 401(k), rather than a traditional, tax-deferred IRA or 401(k)? If you are in a high tax rate now and expect it to be lower in retirement, a traditional IRA may make more sense, as you potentially get a sizable benefit from the tax deduction. But if you are in a lower tax rate now, you have most of your retirement investments in tax-deferred accounts, and/or you can afford to forego the immediate tax deduction, you might find that the Roth IRA/Roth 401(k), with its tax-free withdrawals and earnings, ultimately will make more sense for you. But since no one can predict where tax rates will go in the future, having money in different types of accounts – i.e., tax diversification – can be beneficial.

If you only focus on traditional, tax-deferred accounts, you could end up with larger tax bills than you anticipated when you retire and start tapping into these accounts, particularly when you must start taking withdrawals – called "required minimum distributions" – when you reach 70 ½. By having money in accounts with different tax treatments, you may have more flexibility in structuring your withdrawals during retirement, based on your year-to-year tax situation.

There's no formula for achieving an ideal tax diversification. You'll want to consider your own needs and circumstances in choosing the right mix of taxable, tax-deferred and tax-free accounts. Ultimately, taxes should not drive all your investment decisions – but they should not be ignored, either.

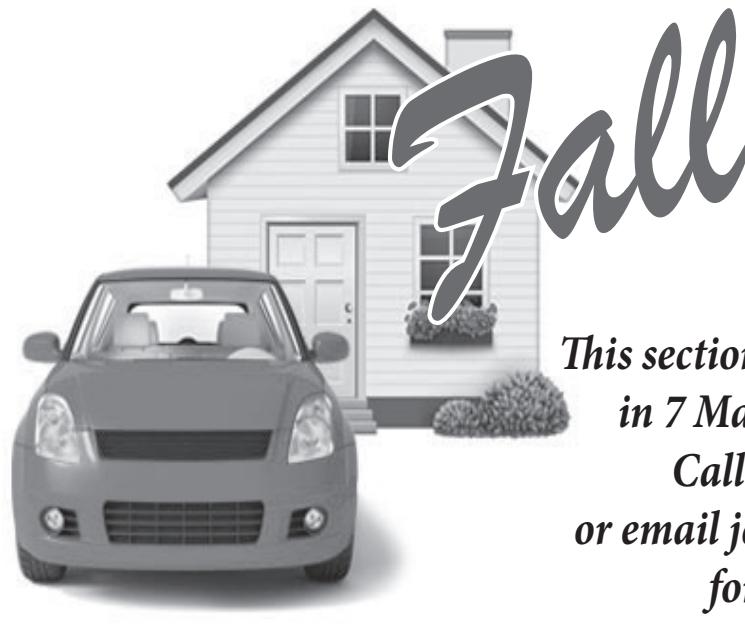
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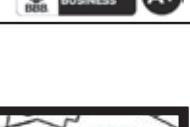
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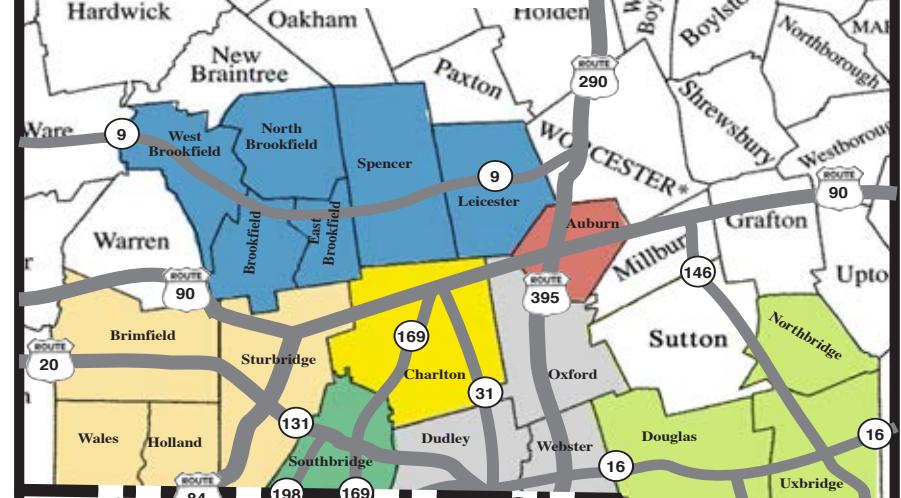
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Why are we still asking if Black Lives Matter or All Lives Matter?

Recently, I shared an image on Facebook of a white man wearing a Black Lives Matter shirt and holding a handmade sign that read, "Privilege is when you think something is not a problem because it's not a problem to you personally."



MIND OF A
CURIOUS
GIRL
•••••
ANNIE
SANDOLI

access to doctors and medicine, but that does not change the fact that people all over the world are suffering from fatal illnesses or a lack of medical assistance. I don't have the need to worry about how I will be treated because of the color of my skin, but that does not change the fact that minorities across the country are still being discriminated against, criminalized, and even killed just because they were not born white.

Black Lives Matter is a movement that exists because too many people are not able to recognize very real and important problems that do not personally affect them. White people are not omitted from the campaign because their lives don't matter, which is a shallow and unresearched claim, but because white people have always been so included throughout history that we are known for excluding others. Black Lives Matter is a response to the corruption, inequality, and legal racism that has been going on in this country for centuries, a problem that is, in fact, every citizen's problem whether you are the one fearing for your life or not because the United States is advertised as a free and equal nation. Years of injustice isn't something that disappears within a few decades, and the least we can do is take responsibility for the past and recognize

It is because I recognize that I am a privileged young woman who has to actively remind myself that I am a privileged young woman in order to see problems that exist for other humans even though those problems may not directly apply to me. In all truthfulness, I don't always think about the people who are starving because I never need to worry about where my next meal will come from, but that does not change the fact that others are hungry. I often don't recognize the pain people suffer from sickness because I am healthy and have

that human beings have been hurt and are still hurting.

No one is arguing against the idea that all human lives matter because that goes without saying, and being insulted by a movement that is fighting to make sure that all people are treated equally by focusing on including a historically excluded group of people is unjustifiable. The movement is a powerful, nationwide response to a form of oppression that has not yet gone away, and the proof lies on with memories of the nearly 800 black individuals who were killed by law enforcement officers between 2015 and 2017. Although black people only make up 13 percent of the total population according to the U.S. Census Bureau, they accounted for 23% of all those killed by police in 2017. Out of that percentage, 19 were unarmed compared to the 25 white people that were unarmed, a number that is way too close considering that white people make up 61 percent of the total population.

The United States of America has never been a colorblind nation, and white people do not get to decide that we suddenly no longer see race by asserting that All Lives Matter because we were the ones who made the decision to see it in the first place. This phrase eradicates a lengthy and intense history of systemic inequality and racism that included years of slavery, lynching, and abuse followed by decades of marching, rioting, and sit-ins.



Courtesy photo

The shared photo

I just hope that a continuation of this conversation will help more people see Black Lives Matter as the form of inclusion that it was intended to be rather than the exclusion it as judged as next time they see it written on a shirt or mentioned on the news, because one person's inclusion does not automatically have to mean another's exclusion and past actions based on the belief that it does are exactly the reason why this issue was created in the first place.

What does it really mean to be patriotic?



BEYOND
CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT
•••••
LEE H.
HAMILTON

respect for the traditional expressions of America—the flag, the military, the Pledge of Allegiance.” Democrats, by contrast, saw it as protecting the norms and institutions of our democracy.

I don't entirely buy this distinction, at least when it comes to partisan labels. I've known plenty of Democrats who consider it patriotic to honor the flag, the military, and the Pledge. And I've known a lot of Republicans who value our democratic traditions.

The vast majority of Americans consider themselves patriots — even if, as Gallup found in June, less than half of poll respondents considered themselves “extremely proud” to be American. This was the first time this has happened in almost two decades of polling on the question.

The two broad strands outlined by The Times inarguably exist. We all remember the naval hero Stephen Decatur's famous toast in 1816, “Our country, right or wrong.” And

Senator Carl Schurz's amendment a half-century later: “My country, right or wrong — if right, to be kept right; if wrong, to be set right.” We may criticize our country, in other words, but this is not motivated by malice. It's motivated by special affection and a belief that a great country can be made greater.

“There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America,” President Clinton argued, laying out a vision of patriotism that is not about symbols, but about building on a nation's intangible strengths.

I buy that. I believe that patriotism means getting on with the serious business of improving our country. It means that we strive to ensure that we live up to our pledge of liberty and justice for all. In this formulation, patriotism is best expressed not in parades or speeches or exhortations or conspicuous displays, but in what we do.

Perhaps the most persuasive description I've heard on this score was Adlai Stevenson's.

“True patriotism is not manifested in short, frenzied bursts of emotion,” he said. “It is the tranquil, steady dedication of a lifetime.”

Stevenson hit the nail square on the head. So much of our national discussion of patriotism is about military heroes. This is important, but it's an incomplete view of love of country. I'd argue that we encounter patriotism at all levels of American life. The teacher in the classroom, the parents who raise their children to be good citizens, the clerk who keeps town records and helps people vote, the ordinary working person who goes about her tasks with dedication and proficiency — patriotism can be found everywhere in our communities, among all kinds of people who pursue their lives with the good of the country at heart.

We have inherited a magnificent political legacy, a set of customs and traditions and, yes, moral values that give ordinary people the tools and power to improve life for themselves

and succeeding generations.

Patriotism lies in our efforts to enlarge that legacy so that it applies to all citizens. It means we defend civil liberties, the right to dissent, and the equality before the law of all Americans. And it means that upholding our core values — tolerance, mutual respect, the right of everyone to be heard, the belief that in pursuing our own lives and interests we all are capable of contributing to the vibrancy of our democracy — is every bit as patriotic as placing our hand over our heart while reciting the Pledge.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a distinguished scholar of the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a professor of practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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SPORTS

Punishing defense fuels Blackstone Valley Tech to State Championship



Mathew S. Plamondon photos

Blackstone Valley Tech head coach Jim Archibald and the team captains celebrate with the State Championship trophy after defeating St. Mary's of Lynn, 18-0, for the Division 7 crown.

BY NICK ETHEIR
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Editor's Note: Blackstone Valley Tech defeated the local team from Bay Path Regional, 42-0, back on Oct. 12.

FOXBOROUGH — The old adage "defense wins championships" proved to be true for the Blackstone Valley Tech varsity football team, as the Beavers won regular season, sectional and state games by way of

the 'D' en route to a second straight appearance at Gillette Stadium for the Division 7 State Championship Super Bowl.

The Beavers lost to Mashpee High last season, 22-16, but avenged that setback by pitching a shutout this time versus St. Mary's High of Lynn, 18-0, on Saturday, Dec. 1.

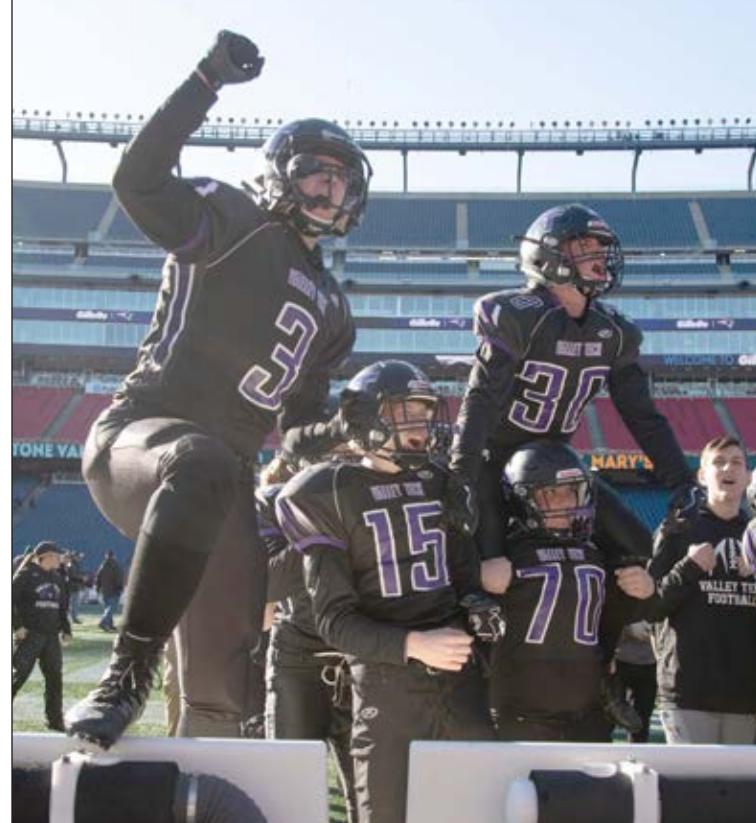
Valley Tech finished its season 11-1 while the Beavers' defense allowed an average of just 6.25 points against per



JD Antaya of Blackstone Valley Tech rushes the ball past St. Mary's defender Eni Falayi and down the field for a big gain.



Blackstone Valley Tech quarterback Scott Mackay tosses a pass over the linemen and down the field.



Led by Chandler Robertson of Blackstone Valley Tech (3), he and his teammates celebrate a State Championship on the Gillette Stadium field.

game.

"Anthony Landini, our defensive coordinator, prepares these kids better than anybody," said Valley Tech head coach Jim Archibald. "He knows what the other team's doing before they do it."

That appeared to be the case versus the Spartans, as St. Mary's could only muster a single first down and 27 yards of offense in the first half while the Beavers took a 12-0 lead. The Spartans finished with only 75 yards and six first downs. In comparison, BVT accumulated 285 yards and 15 first downs.

"Our defense, we came to play today," said cornerback JD Antaya. "We knew that St. Mary's was a smash-mouth football team and that's what we wanted. We wanted to be a smash-mouth football team playing another smash-mouth football team."

Antaya came away with a second quarter interception of quarterback Derek O'Leary.

"They ran the same play one time in the first quarter, so they lined up in the same formation. I decided I was going to stay there because they threw it to the same person," Antaya said of his pick.

Antaya — who doubles as a tailback — also scored the Beavers' first touchdown when he scampered into the end zone from two yards out with 4:04 remaining in the first quarter. That gave BVT a 6-0 lead when the point after kick was blocked.

"It's another field, but now I can say I have a touchdown at Gillette," said Antaya, who finished with 69 yards rushing on seven carries.

Quarterback Scott Mackay got into the scoring action in the second quarter — following a 47-yard run by Antaya — when he bootlegged out to his left and raced into the end zone untouched with 59 seconds to play before the half. The snap came on a fourth-and-goal from the 1 and Mackay made a nice fake to Aidan Fitzgerald, who was lined up behind decoy fullback Ethan Blake, a 270-pounder.

Mackay said that Archibald called the play at the perfect time.



JD Antaya of Blackstone Valley Tech comes away with an interception on a ball intended for St. Mary's Eni Falayi.



Blackstone Valley Tech's Scott Mackay extends the ball into the end zone for a touchdown versus St. Mary's.

"He saw that the defense kept collapsing in and just trusted me to boot out with it and it'd be open," said Mackay.

Blackstone Valley Tech took a 12-0 lead into the locker rooms and added to it with 4:07 to go in the third quarter. There, Mackay called his own number — again from a yard out — and ran up the gut for the touchdown.

"He makes good decisions with the football," Archibald said of Mackay, who rushed 16 times for 96 yards and the two scores. "He was a little disappointed last year when [senior quarterback] Reece [Hendriks] came back from injury and he got benched. I told him to stay the course and he'll get his chance. I'm so proud of him and everything he stands for. He made huge play after huge play today."

"It was definitely motivating," added Mackay of not being able to take the field at Gillette as a starter last year. "I just took it one step at a time. [Archibald] knew I wasn't exactly ready and Reece was more ready, but this year I was ready for the challenge and we came through."

Mackay's second touchdown made it 18-0 and the Beavers' defense held serve from there. They preserved the shutout with a fourth down stop near their own goal line as time was winding down on the fourth quarter clock.

Once the final whistle sounded a Super Bowl worthy celebration ensued, which was followed by Blackstone Valley Tech receiving its State Championship trophy.

"We knew we had a team that could win a State Championship and just credit to these kids," said Archibald.

"I can't even put that into words," added Antaya. "Winning a Super Bowl, I think it

meant a lot to everyone on this team."

The Beavers were celebrating the win not only for themselves, but also for former assistant coach Derek Yancik, who passed away in May from cancer.

"I wish we could have a beer with him and celebrate, but we keep him in our memory," said Archibald. "I know he's not here, but he's with us. He meant so much to our program and he meant so much to our kids. We miss him every day and we dedicated this season to him so it couldn't have ended on a better note."

"All for Yancik," Antaya concluded.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Many Shepherd Hill athletes named Mid-Wach League All-Stars

The following are the Shepherd Hill Regional student-athletes to be named Widland Wachusett League All-Stars from their respective fall season sports:

Football
Alec Ambrosia (Offensive)
Ben Carpenter (Offensive)
Drew Montigny (Defensive)

Girls' Soccer
Allie Marrier
Madi Marsh
Alyssa Truemann

Field Hockey
Katie Lavoie

Volleyball
Ingrid Lindstrom
Kiley Wong-Li

Golf
Dan Brooks (B Division MVP)

Boys' Cross-Country
Brian Belmonte
Henry Weiland

Girls' Cross-Country
Christina Gunsalus
Rebekah James
Emma Sullivan
Emma Whitehead
Sam Zannotti

Ski or snowboard at Wachusett Mountain

Are you interested in having a lot of fun while also helping to make the winter fly by? Any student (8 years and older), parent or teacher from any of the surrounding towns and states can ski or snowboard eight consecutive Saturday nights at Wachusett Mountain for just \$150 through the Southbridge Ski Club. You drive to Wachusett Mountain on your own. The eight-week program begins on Saturday, Jan. 5 and ends Saturday, March 2. Ski or snowboard rentals as well as lessons are also available at a very reasonable cost. You may also be able to ski or snowboard for free through you health insurance coverage. For more information on how to order, please contact Dick Lisi at (508) 410-1332 or at lisirichard15@yahoo.com.

Worcester State University to hold baseball clinics

Worcester State Baseball Indoor Clinics are now held in the \$52 million gymnasium and wellness center. The second floor multipurpose gym allows for live practices with plenty of storage for the six indoor mounds, bats and balls, etc. Hitters will use the double-barrel cages on the first floor. Here kids will bunt/bat off the Hack Attack pitching machines (uses real balls; speed adjusted for ages), hit close-range BP, use soft toss nets, tees, and utilize slow-motion video analysis.

There are multiple upcoming clinics to choose from. For questions, please call (508) 929-8852 or (774) 230-3872, or email dbaker1@worcester.edu. Also, please visit wsulancers.com/camps-clinics for more information.

CALENDAR

Friday December 7 & Saturday December 8

HOLIDAY CONCERTS: The Shepherd Hill Music Department presents the 9th annual Holiday Spectacular Dec. 7th and 8th at Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Join Rudolph, Frosty and all their friends in this Broadway type event highlights the talents of the Shepherd Hill Show Choirs, Concert Choir, Woman's Choir and amazing soloists. An event for the entire family and there maybe even a surprise visit from Santa! Friday Evening December 7 the show begins at 7pm, Saturday December 8th there is a matinee at 2 pm and an evening show at 7pm. To reserve tickets go to <https://shepherdhillchoirs.ticketleap.com/holidayspectacular>.

Saturday December 8

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Bay Path Education Foundation Santa Claus Pancake Breakfast at Bay Path High School, 57 Old Muggett Hill Road, Charlton on Saturday, Dec. 8 7:30-10:30 am. Free 5" x 7" photograph with Santa by Casson-Foster Photographers. Tickets are \$5, children under 5 are free.

CRAFT FAIR: Holland Community Center is having their first annual Vendor and Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. They are located at 40 Brimfield Road, Holland. In addition to homemade items and crafts, we will have vendors representing Thirty One bags, LuLaRoe clothing, and Paparazzi Jewelry. There will also be a ticket raffle. If you are interested in having a booth (\$25), please call Deb at the Center at 413-245-3163 or email hccevenings@gmail.com.

Monday December 24

PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS: First Congregational Church of Brimfield has announced its Christmas Eve schedule. Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Services: 7:00PM - Family Worship. All are invited to join us in this joyous service as we sing and pray to honor the birth of our Lord and Savior.

11:00PM - Candlelight Service: A more 'traditional' Christmas Eve Service. Please join us in this quiet and reflective service which leads us into Christmas Day.

ONGOING

BUSINESS NETWORKING: Join us for a FREE Business Networking Meeting! Thursdays - 7am at Old Sturbridge Village Oliver Wight Tavern - Grecian Room, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd, Sturbridge, For more info call Tia @ 774-200-6740

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 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.

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: third Wednesday each month, 6-7 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 community 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.

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

please contact Dick Lisi at (508) 410-1332 or lisirichard15@yahoo.com.

Free Playgroup at the Hitchcock Academy; sponsored by Union 61 Family Foundation Five Grant. It includes: Music & Movement on Wednesday 9-9:45 a.m. and Playgroup on Monday & Thursday 9-11 a.m. For more information about these and a variety of other classes visit us at www.hitchcockacademy.org or call 413-245-9977

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.

THRIFTY: Saint Paul II Parish's Flea Market, at 40 Charlton St., Southbridge, is open each Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and each Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Items for sale include household, linens and furniture. We also have a holiday room. Donations are appreciated. All proceeds go to the support of the church.

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.

Plants for every room of your home



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meals. This is sure to turn family and friend gatherings into unique and memorable experiences.

Include plants in your home or work office. Greenery helps reduce stress even when working at your desk or tackling homework at the end of a long day. Set a few plants on or near your desk or other workspace. And don't let a lack of light stop you from growing a bit of green stress relief. Stylish energy efficient full spectrum plant lights, like the Felt Pendant Grow Light (modsprout.com), fit any décor, direct light where it is needed and promote healthy plant growth.

Take advantage of your bathroom's high humidity. Grow ferns, orchids, bromeliads and other humidity-loving plants in this space. Consider these and other low light plants like cast iron, pothos and philodendron if natural light is limited. Imagine stepping out of the shower into a mini tropical zone. What a nice way to ease into your day.

Now's a great time to consider rethinking your home décor to include greenery in every space. You and your family will enjoy improved air quality, elevated moods, a reduction in stress and the many other benefits plants provide.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books and host of The Great Courses' How to Grow Anything DVD series. Her website, www.MelindaMyers.com, offers gardening tips and videos.



Photo courtesy of Modern Sprout
Grow herbs or other leafy greens indoors under a Growbar LED light fixture or near a sunny window.

Gardeners know the benefits of digging in the soil. It elevates a person's mood, improves mental and physical well-being and the outcome is always good – added beauty or tasty nutritional food. But many of us are stuck indoors for the winter, have a lack of space to garden outdoors or just can't get enough of this healthful activity. Adding greenery indoors expands our gardening opportunities and provides the many benefits of living with and tending plants.

Let's start with the kitchen. Boost the flavor and nutrition of winter meals by growing leafy greens and herbs in a sunny window or under a cabinet with the help of a Growbar LED light fixture. Start plants from seeds or purchase transplants to grow indoors. Place your indoor kitchen garden in a brightly lit location, free of cold drafts and with easy access to harvest and use. Then enlist the whole family and even your guests into harvesting greens for their salad and herbs to season their

board's position given the outcome of the most recent town meeting, however we believe it's important to note that the Massachusetts law is very clear that general bylaws, unlike zoning bylaws, are not effective until deemed approved by the attorney general's office. We certainly believe it's within the authority of this board to act on the host community agreement should they deem it appropriate."

Unfortunately, selectmen did not deem it appropriate, however that doesn't mean that selectmen are against the Four Score project. In fact, several selectmen thanked Four Score for their continued patience and simply felt it would be appropriate for the town to await the attorney general's take on the bylaw before taking any further action.

"For me personally before I take any action, I need to see the results from the attorney general's office regarding our last town meeting. There was significant legislation passed and we need to make sure we understand fully the outcome of that," Selectman Joe Szafarowicz said.

Selectman Debra Noble echoed those sentiments. "In good faith, I would not feel comfortable entering into a host community agreement until I get a decision rendered on that particular bylaw that was passed," Noble said. "I hate to put (Four Score) off like this. I understand they have a business to run and they've done everything according to the letter of the law. That's all we want to do as well."

The rest of the board also agreed presenting their own takes on the matter. Selectman David Singer said he commends Four Score for their professionalism during the process even calling them the "poster child" for the kind of business Charlton would want to partner up with but also felt that they needed to wait and see the fate of the new bylaw before taking further action.

"I do agree with my fellow selectmen. Certainly, there may be varying opinions of what we can or can't do, but I also live by a rule that just because you can doesn't mean you should. I do believe the town meeting took an action and we're bound by that until we hear

differently from the attorney general," Singer said.

Selectman Karen Spiewak had a much bigger concern than simply the new bylaw on her mind. She took things a step further and questioned how the impending ballot vote in May concerning marijuana cultivation and ales in Charlton could impact any further decision in the case of Four Score and other businesses.

"Being in the situation that we're in it wouldn't be wise to move forward," Spiewak said. "The other thing unfortunately because the majority of the board voted to postpone putting a ballot question on about marijuana until May I don't think we can do anything until we know what happens then."

The Four Score project is said to be a near \$6 million investment on the part of the company that could employ as many as 20 to 25 people if approved. The company continues to proceed with state-required application processes in the meantime and has shown no sign of abandoning its plans to set up shop in Charlton.

FOUR SCORE

continued from page 1

we've done what we think is our best efforts to position this project for success. We've brought together a fantastic team. We've attended numerous town meetings. We held a community outreach meeting where we've garnered support from a number of community members. We've also filed an application with the planning board that was subsequently reviewed by the town engineer and we've prepared responses to the comments made by the town engineer. We've negotiated in good faith a host community agreement with the town administrator and town council. We've put money into escrow for both the peer review of the planning board application as well as the negotiation and review of the host community agreement and we've also began to the best of our ability the state application process, so we are very much ready and able to move forward on this process," Glissman said. "We certainly fully respect and understand the

OBITUARIES

Viola M. (Barnes) Cicetti, 99



CHARLTON-Viola M. (Barnes) Cicetti, 99 years and 8 months, passed away peacefully in her home at Overlook Health Center in Charlton, with the support of her family, on November 27, 2018. Her husband,

Armand J. Cicetti predeceased her on January 2, 1985. Viola leaves her 4 loving children, Armand L. Cicetti and his wife, Camille, of Crossville, Tennessee, Viola B. Whiteman of Warrington, Pennsylvania, Richard A. Cicetti of Santa Monica, CA, and Deborah C. Campbell of Sturbridge, MA. She also leaves her 4 loving grandchildren, Susan W. Nordlof and her husband, John Nordlof of Phila., PA, John E. A. Whiteman of Hellertown, PA, Christy C. Simpson and her husband, Andrew Simpson of Ware, MA, and Scott E. Campbell and his wife, Jill C. Campbell of Grafton, MA. She also leaves 4 great-grandchildren. Viola was predeceased by her son-in-law, Hugh M. Whiteman and several beloved pets.

Viola was born in Vailsburg section of Newark, NJ on St. Patrick's Day, 1919 the daughter of Amelia L. (Hollister) Barnes and LeRoy A. Barnes. She studied music and was coached in opera at Arts High School until 1937. Soon after she married the love of her life and then devoted her life to supporting her

husband's dream of owning his own floral shop and caring for her family in Livingston, NJ. In retirement, she and Armand resided in West Palm Beach, FL and Yarmouthport, MA. Viola volunteered her time as a Cub Scout Den mother, Girl Scout leader, was a deacon at Trinity Covenant Church, Livingston, NJ and Federated Church of Hyannis, MA. She was also a member of the Livingston Women's Club, their choral group and the NJ chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In later years Viola worked at the Turtle Back Zoo, South Orange, NJ, Buttner's in Hyannis, MA and Cape Cod Hospital Thrift Shop. Viola's favorite pastimes included researching her extensive genealogy, reading historic biographies, traveling, most fondly to Hawaii, and basking in the sun. Her family will most miss her charm, sense of humor and the twinkle in her eye.

The family asks that donations be made to the Overlook Communities and Overlook Hospice of Charlton, MA. There will be no calling hours. A memorial service will be held on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 1:00pm in the Overlook Chapel, Charlton, MA. A private burial will take place at Ancient Cemetery in Yarmouthport, MA at a later date. Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield. For an online tribute and guestbook please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com

Pauline R. Ludwig



CHARLTON-Pauline R. (Payant) Ludwig, passed peacefully at home in Charlton on Wednesday, November 14. Her husband of 41 years, Doctor James L. Ludwig, died in 2010.

She leaves a son Christopher of San Francisco, CA, his daughters, Vivian Y. and Eleanor H. and their mother Liesl; and a daughter, Miriam and her husband Charles Ormsby of Oviedo, FL and their daughters, Josette L. and Lila E.

Pauline also leaves a brother, Walter R. Payant, Jr. and his wife Lena L. Payant of Charlton, MA and several beloved nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her sister Cecile (Payant) Riel and her husband Arthur Riel.

Pauline was born in Worcester on January 30, 1940, daughter of Walter Sr., and Irene (Mandeville) Payant. She graduated from Notre Dame High School in Southbridge and joined the Order of Medical Missionaries of Mary in Boston. She later studied at Quinsigamond College and graduated as a Registered Nurse, and earned her

Master's Degree in Social Work from Boston College.

She worked for several years at Hubbard Hospital in Webster, and later worked as a social worker at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Worcester.

Pauline was a devoted member of the Sacred Heart Church in Webster and served as a Pastoral Associate, attending to the homebound and elderly. She was a leader in the local chapter of Tau Maria, a lay Franciscan group, and accompanied members on trips to San Marco, Nicaragua to assist the poor. She was a committed adorer in the Chapel of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in the Emmaus Center in Webster. Pauline was also a member of St. Rita Society, a charitable organization at St. John Paul II Parish in Webster. Pauline was also a member of St. Rita Society, a charitable organization at St. John Paul II Parish in Webster. Pauline was also a member of St. Rita Society, a charitable organization at St. John Paul II Parish in Webster.

Pauline's funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday, November 27th at 10AM at Sacred Heart Church, 18 E. Main Street, Webster. Calling hours were held on Monday, November 26th from 5-7PM at Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550. Memorial gifts may be made to Sacred Heart Parish, 18 E. Main Street, Webster, MA 01570. www.sansoucyfuneral.com

Michael "Mickey" Sullivan, 77



DUDLEY- Michael "Mickey" Sullivan, 77, of Joshua Place formerly of Southbridge, died Sunday, November 25, at his daughter's home after an illness.

He leaves his wife Carol (Trahan) Sullivan of 46 years, 3 daughters Jennifer Grant and her husband Jake of Dudley, Karen Nolin and her husband David of Charlton, Kelly Sullivan of Charlton, 2 sons Rodney Ward and wife Sue of Sturbridge, Keith Ward of Worcester, 10 grandchildren, Katie, Alison, Travis, Michael, Lucas, Molly, Cindy, Joey, Jessica, Jason and sev-

eral great grandchildren. He is predeceased by his daughter Debbie and granddaughter Tiffany, as well as many brothers and sisters.

Mickey was born in Greenville, NH., the son of the late John and Maude (Howe) Sullivan and lived in the area many years.

He enjoyed his family very much, especially his grandchildren. He also liked to look for a deal at local flea markets and enjoyed country music.

Calling hours were 2 to 4 on Sunday, December 2, in the Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge.

A graveside service will be private.

An online guestbook is available at www.BelangerFuneralHome.com

Nancy E. Surprise, 66



OXFORD-Nancy E. (Stevens) Surprise, 66, of Pine Ridge Drive, died peacefully on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at West Side House Long Term Care in Worcester after a long illness.

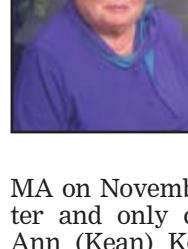
She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Donald H. Surprise of Oxford; three children, David E. Surprise and his wife Tammy of Blackstone, Pamela M. Surprise and her fiancé Jon Malone of Oxford, and Michael J. Surprise and his wife Amber of Palmer; her sister, Judy Minich and her husband Steven of Charlton; seven grandchildren, William Hanks, Abigail Hanks, Ashley Hanks, Skyler Surprise, Jared Surprise, Janessa Surprise, and Christopher Surprise; a great-granddaughter, Molly Hanks; and several

nephews and nieces. She was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Arthur G. and Shirley Ada (Kimball) Stevens, and lived in Oxford for 42 years.

Mrs. Surprise was a nurse's aide at Sandalwood Nursing Home in Oxford for many years. She enjoyed trips to the casino, playing bingo, making ceramics, and loved baking.

A funeral was held on Saturday, December 1, 2018, from Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford, followed by a Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Roch's Church, 332 Main St., Oxford. Entombment followed at Notre Dame Cemetery in Worcester. Calling hours were Friday, November 30, 2018, from 6-9 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, 1355 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 600, Atlanta, GA 30309. paradisfuneralhome.com

Catherine E. Kennedy, 89



SCARBOROUGH, ME-Catherine E. Kennedy peacefully passed away on her 89th birthday, November 29th 2018.

Cathy (a.k.a. "Catherine Eileen the Lovely") was born in Worcester MA on November 29th 1929 the daughter and only child of Daniel F. and Ann (Kean) Kennedy. She attended Worcester schools graduating from North High School and the State College at Framingham in 1951.

She taught home economics in New Britain CT and also for 35 years at Tantasqua Regional Junior and Senior High Schools in Sturbridge. She was active in the Southbridge chapter of Literacy Volunteers for 15 years.

When she retired in 1989, she moved from Southbridge MA to her cherished beach cottage at Higgins Beach in Scarborough Maine. Her many friends will remember laughter and happy hours on her porch, sunny days on the beach, and lobsters steamed in her tiny kitchen. Cathy served as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Maximilian

Kolbe church. She loved to travel and took several trips to explore the U.S. and Europe in her retirement. Always interested in learning she continued her education through a wide array of subjects offered by Maine Senior College. She was a great story-teller, very proud of her Irish heritage and told her best stories speaking with a very convincing Irish brogue. Most of all Cathy loved music and theatre and enjoyed supporting both throughout her life.

Cathy received attentive and loving care from the Pine Point Nursing Home staff and Compassus hospice.

At her request, there will not be calling hours. Following cremation by Direct Cremation of Maine, a private burial will take place. Interment will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery in West Brookfield Massachusetts.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be made in her name to Tantasqua Education Association Scholarship Attention: Deb Blom Guidance Department Tantasqua Regional High School 319 Brookfield Road Fiskdale, MA 01518 or Literacy Volunteers of Southbridge MA or Portland ME.

Michael Ross Pintacura, 70

CHARLTON-Michael Ross Pintacura, 70, an avid collector of many interests and history buff, died on Thanksgiving Day at Life Care Center of Auburn. Mike will be sorely missed by his sister, Janice Kay Kerber, and her husband, Ken, of Auburn. Before his failing health, Mike was a resident of the Charlton Housing Authority on Meadowview Drive, where he enjoyed many hours with friends sitting outside his back door. Originally from Chicago, Mike relocated to Massachusetts in 1985 to be close to his sister. Before retiring, Mike operated vacuum chambers in the optics industry. He graduated in 1975 from the University of Illinois at

Chicago Circle with a double major in physics and classical civilization. Mike faced his many health challenges with heroic courage and grace, choosing to move forward rather than complain. He was an inspiration to all who knew him. A memorial service will be held at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 260 Cochituate Road #200, Framingham, MA 01701. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with his arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle

HELPING HANDS

continued from page 1

We also give scholarships to a Bay Path and Shepherd Hill student. We do have this small building, the Dodge Chapel, and we fill it with all kinds of crafts and decorations for people to enjoy. We do this annual Christmas fair, yard sales and all kinds of programs here," Maskell said.

Helping Hands corresponding secretary Sue Crockett called the funding raised very significant to helping the organization accomplish its mission. All the money raised helps those less fortunate in Charlton while also helping maintain the Dodge Chapel, the organization's home base.

"We actually just voted to provide a ton of pellets to a working mother who lives in town. We've provided Christmas gift cards to people to help them out during the holidays and in January

we will be visiting the Charlton Manor rest home and bringing things over there. So those are the kinds of things the funding from today helps support," Crockett said.

The fair did include a few vendors but for the most part the event was stocked with crafts and goods from Helping Hand members who also gave their time as volunteers to run the fair. Maskell gave credit to the powerfully dedicated team that makes the event a success each season and bring in thousands of dollars to help the cause through the fair alone.

"For this year I'm hoping we'll raise \$2,500 to \$3,000. Our members have done a good job setting up. We have a lot of stuff for people to drop by and look at and hopefully buy. It may not seem like a lot for other organizations or fundraisers but for us that's a good amount to help us do what we do," Maskell said.

Send all obituary notices to

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Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail

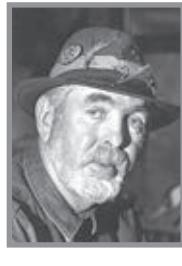
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Deer hunting yielded prolific harvest in state



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The first week of the Massachusetts shotgun deer season had a lot of deer being checked in at the Webster checking station located at Bob's Archery & Pro Shop. My brother Ken and I stopped in at the checking station around 1:00 p.m Saturday, and was told that more than 100 deer were checked in during the week, and they were still coming in when we left. We spoke with Central District wildlife biologist Michael Morley from Mass Fish & Wildlife and asked him about some of the deer checked in during the week.

He stated that the largest buck was 186 pounds and many of the deer were in great shape. One bystander asked about the tick problem, and if the deer were carrying a lot of them this year. They did not seem to be as bad as last year, and in fact some of the deer had very few or none that could be detected during the quick survey.

Mike and his associate were also asked about the possible changes coming in 2020, in reference to the change in bag limits for wild turkey. Hunters could have a two bird limit in the spring, which could be taken on the same day, and still have a tag for the fall season, if the proposals are passed. We all know how tough it is to get

hunting regulations changed in Massachusetts so we will just need to wait for the Fish & Wildlife board to act on their new proposals.

Local anglers are getting their ice fishing gear in order for the first ice. First ice is always dangerous and always has some one falling through thin ice on local ponds and lakes. Only seasoned anglers should be navigating first ice using an ice chisel after each step, to insure their safety. Two inches of good black ice can hold a single angler but three inches or more is necessary for more than two people. Snow ice needs to be a couple of inches thicker, and snowmobiles and other ice machines need at least five inches to insure their safety. Snowmobile operators need to use extreme caution when navigating over frozen ice. Every year lives are lost to snowmobilers failing to use good judgment, prior to crossing over frozen bodies of water. Don't be one of them!!

The Massachusetts pheasant season is now closed, but local bird hunters got a few extra birds stocked in local covers prior to Thanksgiving week. Due to substantial rainfall, some regularly stocked areas were flooded, and it was necessary to avoid the areas. Those birds were transported to local areas like West Hill and Voss Farm in Uxbridge. More than 40 birds were released in both areas prior to the holiday week.

Black bear numbers continue to increase locally, and made their presence known this year. Numerous sightings in back yards by area residents had many resident feeling



Courtesy photo

Ardent rabbit hunters from a field trial in Sutton a few years ago.

uneasy knowing that they had this large animal roaming in their back yard. Fortunately, no serious encounters were reported.

Local residents can also expect to see numerous deer in their back yard this year, due to the short supply of acorns. They will have their eye on

some of the expensive ornamental bushes, and any other thing that can satisfy their appetite.

Shopping for the sportsmen in your family can be very easy if you buy them a gift certificate to their favorite sporting goods store. Trying to shop for sportsmen is very hard. A

hunting and fishing license is another great gift. It is best to set aside purchasing a pet for a Christmas present. It is best to wait till spring. The Holidays are too hectic, and it is not fair to the pet.

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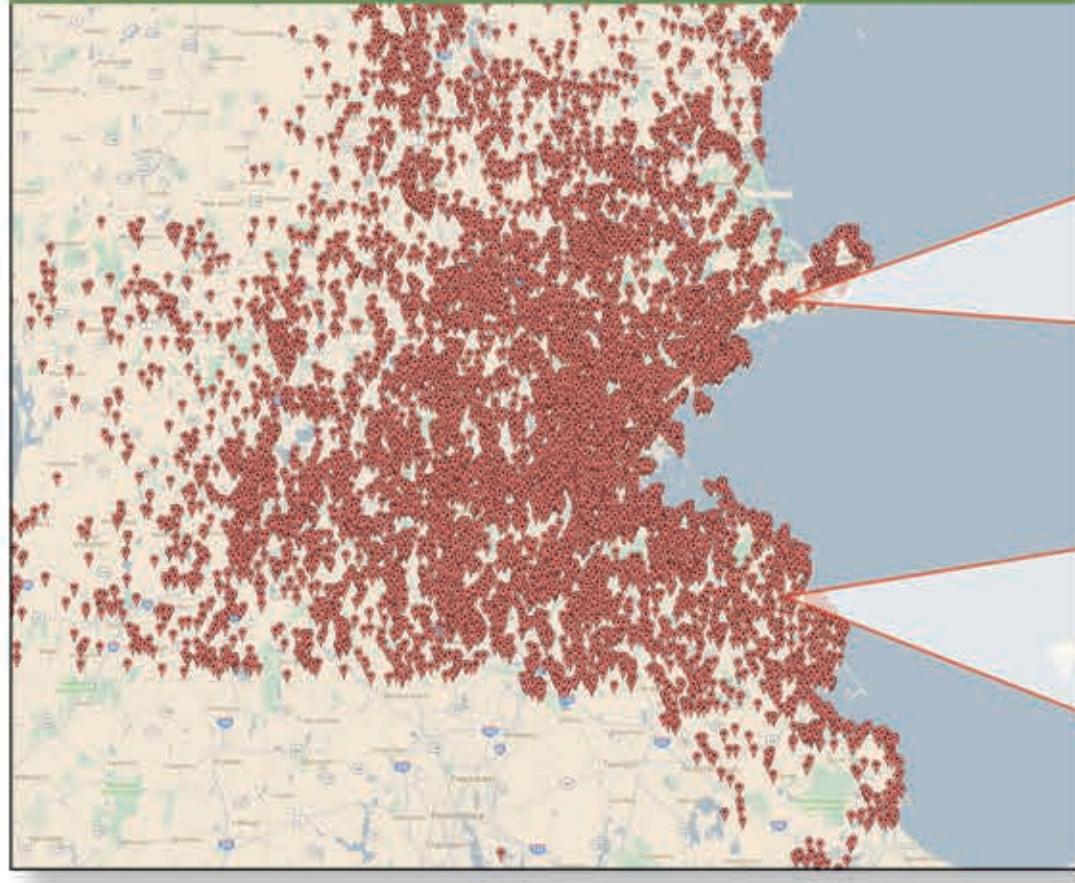
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LEGALS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Wales Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., in Wales Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA to consider an application for site plan review and special permit for a large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic project at 40 Sizer Drive submitted by Sunpin Holdings, LLC. A complete copy of the application and site plan may be seen in the Wales Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA, 9:00am – 2:00pm, M-Th. APPLICANT: Sunpin Holdings, LLC WALES PLANNING BOARD: James Whalen, Chairman November 30, 2018

December 7, 2018

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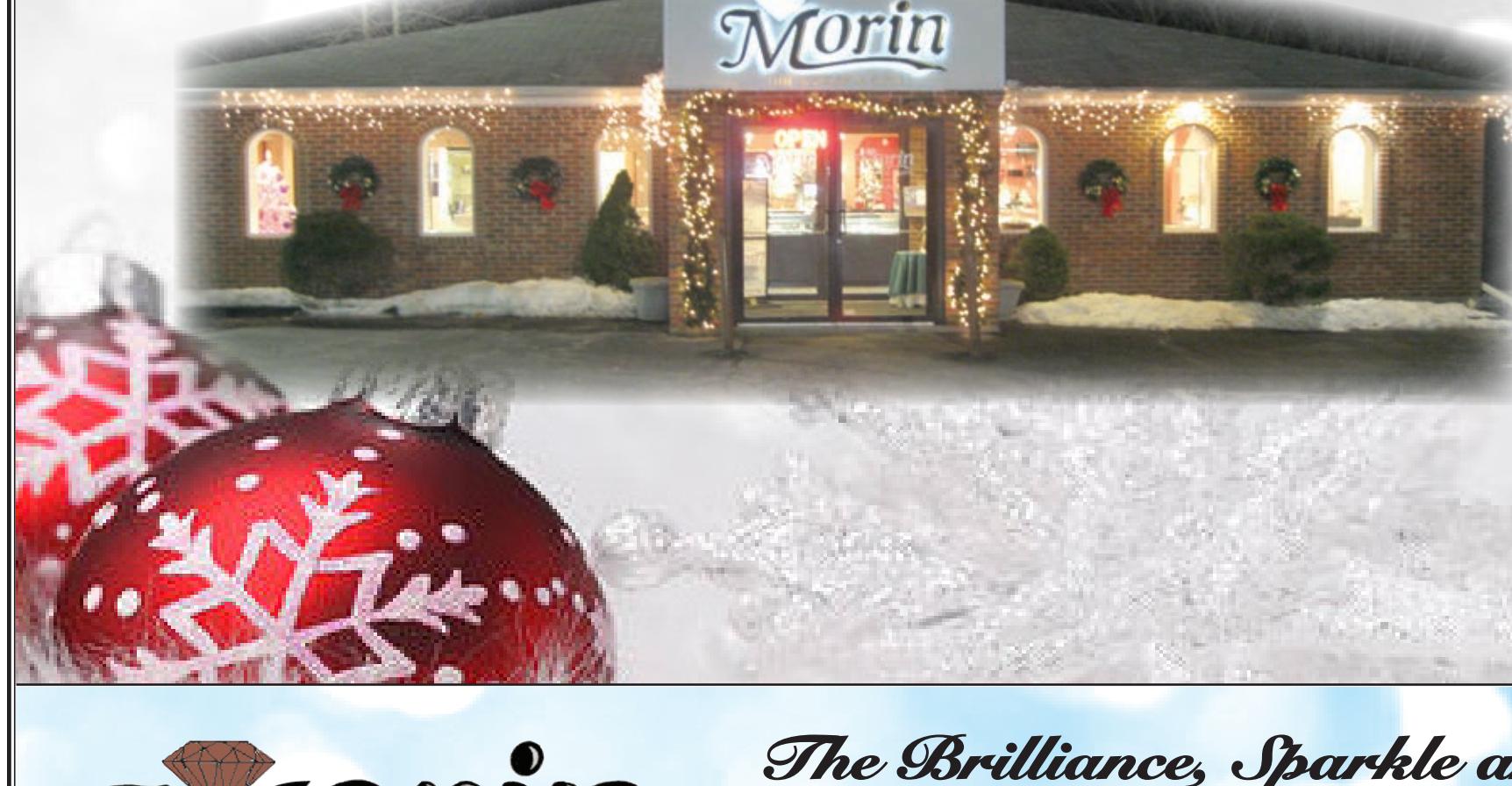
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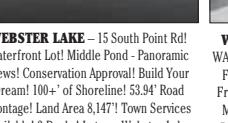
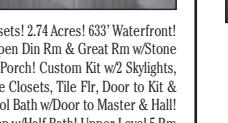
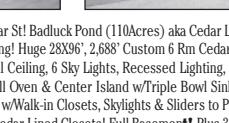
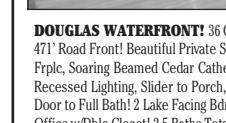
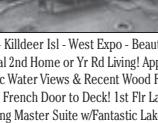
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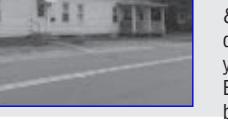
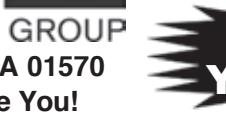
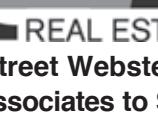
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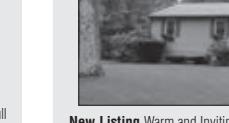
WEBSTER LAKE — 202 Kildeer Island Rd! Panoramic View of North Pond! Natural Sandy Shoreline! Complete Rebuild Since 2002! Custom Center Island Applained Granite Kitchen w/Walk-in Pantry, Recessed Lighting, Hardwoods, 8' 12' Open Floor Plan! Dining Rm w/Wooden Seat, 2 Closets & Hardwoods! 10x10 Lake Facing Living Rm w/Hardwoods & 2 Sliders to Deck w/Recent Awning! Upstairs to 4 Bedrooms or 3 Plus Office! Lake Facing Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Walk-in Closet & Master Bath w/Tiles Floor, Huge Corner Shower w/Seat, Double Linen Closet! Full Hall Bath! Hallway Laundry Closet! Lake Facing Walk-out Lower Level! Room, 2 Sliders to Patio! Full Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! 4 Zone Heat & 2 Zone C/Air only 2 Years Old! Start Packing! \$629,900.00



DOUGLAS WATERFRONT — 36 Cedar St! Badluck Pond (10Acres) aka Cedar Lake or Laurel Lake! Western Expo - Beautiful Sunsets! 2.74 Acres! 63' Waterfront! Spectacular! Open Din Rm & Great Rm w/Ston Fplc, Soaring Beamed Cedar Cathedral Ceiling, 6 Sky Lights, Recessed Lighting, 1/2 Bath & Sliders to 6' Lake Facing Screened Porch! Custom Kit w/2 Skylights!



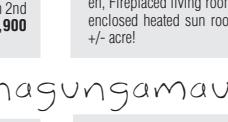
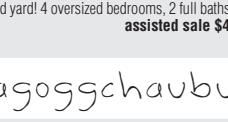
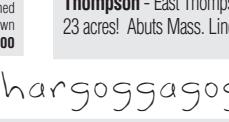
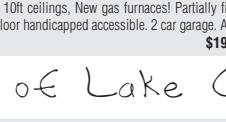
WEBSTER LAKE — 130 Kildeer Island - North Pond! West Expo - Beautiful Sunsets! 6 Rm 3 Season Home! Adm Heat & Use Yr Round! Great Potential! 4 Bdrrs w/Hrdwds, 2 Lake Facing! Fplc! Liv Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling, Spacious Bedrms! Master Bath! 2.5 Bath! 2 Spacious Bdrrs! Lake Facing Master Suite w/Fantastic Lake Views, Fplc, French Dr to its Deck, Dressing/Office Area & Full Walk-in Whirlpool Tub! A 2nd Full Bath off of Hall! Huge Lake Facing Walk-out Lower Level w/Gas Stove & Slider to Stone Patio is Ready for "Finishing"! Additional Lakeside Deck! Dock! \$559,900.00



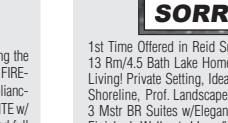
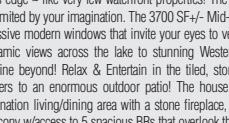
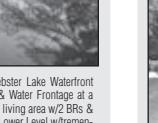
WEBSTER LAKE — 13 Pineview Rd! 7 Rm Colonial! Tiledoyer! Kit w/Din Area & Slider to Composite Deck! 1st Flr 3 Bedrms w/Hrdwds! 2nd Flr 3 Bedrms w/Carpeted Bdrrs & Full Hall Bath! Master Walk-in Closet & Bath! Finished Lower Level w/Gas Fplc! Patio! Fire Pit! Roof! 2017 Attached 2 Car Garage! Town Services! \$359,000.00



SHREWSBURY — 747 Grafton St! 8 Rm Capel! Move In Ready! Applained Eat-in Kit w/Mahogany Cabinets & Fplc! Liv Rm w/Carpet over Hrdwds! 3 Bedrms w/Hrdwds! 2nd Flr 3 Bedrms w/Carpeted Bdrrs & Full Hall Bath! Master Walk-in Closet & Bath! Finished Lower Level w/Gas Fplc! Patio! Fire Pit! Roof! 2017 Attached 2 Car Garage! Town Services! \$359,000.00



WEBSTER LAKE — 9 Progress Ave! 6 Rm Capel! Recently Applained Galley Kit! Open Liv & Din Rm w/Carpet & Vinyl! 2nd Flr 3 Bedrms w/2 Dble Closets & Ceiling Fan! 3 Season Porch! 2nd Flr 2 Bedrms w/Carpeted Bdrrs & Full Bath! 2nd Flr 2 Bedrms w/Closets! 2nd Flr 2 Bedrms w/Carpeted Bdrrs & Full Bath! Roof! 2017 Attached 2 Car Garage! Town Services! \$239,900.00



WEBSTER LAKE — 12 Kenneth Ave! South Pond! New Open! Fr Plan! Composite Deck! Lake Facing! Recently Applained Galley Kit! Open Liv & Din Rm w/Carpet & Vinyl! 2nd Flr 3 Bedrms w/Carpeted Bdrrs & Full Bath! 2nd Flr 2 Bedrms w/Carpeted Bdrrs & Full Bath! Roof! 2017 Attached 2 Car Garage! Town Services! \$339,000.00



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South Worcester County
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ReMax Advantage 1
179 Shrewsbury St., Worcester MA 01604

PARK N' SHOP
Dec. 8th • 10-2
Join us with
Can Goods &
Donations for
Webster-Dudley
Food Share

**MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
AT PUBLIC AUCTION**

Monday, December 10, 2018

3:00 PM-STURBRIDGE
82 Breakneck Road
sgl fam, 1,144 sf liv area, 4.17 ac lot, 6 rm,
3 bdrm, 2 bth,
Worcester(Worc): Bk 36435, Pg 123

4:00 PM-SOUTHBRIDGE
10 Crescent Street
2 fam, 1,900 sf liv area, 0.14 ac lot, 8 rm,
5 bdrm, 2.5 bth,
Worcester(Worc): Bk 40215, Pg 353

Thursday, December 13, 2018

11:00 AM-BRIMFIELD
51 Brookfield Road
sgl fam, 2,140 sf liv area, 2.05 ac lot, 6 rm,
3 bdrm, 3.5 bth, Hampden: Bk 15035, Pg 238
TERMS: \$5,000 cash or certified check at the time and place of
the sale. The balance to be paid within thirty (30) days
at the law offices of Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851,
Attorney for the Mortgagee.

Auctioneer makes no representation as to the accuracy
of the information contained herein.

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MAAU# 2624, 2959, 3039, 2573, 2828, 1428, 2526, 2484

FOR LEASE
RETAIL or OFFICE SPACE

**Beautiful water views with over 2400 SF of
space available in a standalone brick building
with a full kitchen & 3 bathrooms
located on busy Rt. 16 in Uxbridge, MA**

PLEASE CONTACT
Capron Corp. at 508-278-9191

FOR RENT
Cooperative Commercial Space
Off Rt. 16 in Douglas, Massachusetts

Includes a shared
waiting room, kitchenette,
and bathroom
Heat, electric,
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\$250 to \$450/Month

- No Deposits Required -

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 Debbie Thomo
 Joan Lacoste
 Chad Siplaine
 Michelle Roy
 Stan Misiaszek
 Michelle Siplaine
 Paula Aversa

**NO MONEY DOWN PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE!
CALL US FOR INFORMATION!**

**OPEN HOUSE 11-1PM
SUNDAY
SOUTHBRIDGE
156 DENNISON LN.**
Lovely Lovely Home with 7
rms 3 bedrooms 2 full baths! Fully finished lower level.
Possible in-law. Deck. 1.4 acres of land. Brand New Septic
being installed. Great commuter location on Sturbridge side
of Town. **\$239,900.**

SOUTHBRIDGE: Great 2 family
with many renovations! 5 rooms 2
bedroom units. Beautiful hardwood
floors, natural woodwork, large
kitchen w/pantry. Dining room
has closet, could be 3rd bedroom.
Updated electrical service with
landlord meter. Newer HW heaters.
Roof in 2012. Windows & Doors
2008. Long term clean tenants. **\$189,900.**

STURBRIDGE: Land for Sale with
frontage for 4 lots! BUILD YOUR
DREAM HOME! Country Location
on dead end Street. Almost 11
acres. If subdivided, each lot would
have over 2 acres. Literally minutes
to RT 84 to Hartford & Mass Pike to Boston or Springfield.
\$189,900!!

Looking for houses to sell
in Southbridge, Sturbridge,
Charlton, Holland,
Dudley, Webster AREA!



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ReMax Advantage 1
179 Shrewsbury St., Worcester MA 01604

MOTIVATED SELLER
Southbridge: 2.5+ acres, town services, private setting, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room
153 Highland St ~ \$274,900

OPEN HOUSE • SUN. 11-1
Webster: Fireplace, open floor plan, 1st floor family room, 2.5 baths, 4 bedrooms.
11 Blueberry Ln ~ \$329,900

Southbridge: Grand Colonial, ideal for exterior rehab, interior several updates, HW floors, fireplace, windows updated.
192 Chapin St ~ \$169,900

SZYM CZAK SELLS! **MAUREEN IS
MAKING IT HAPPEN**

ON DEPOSIT
Webster: Sided, 3 bedroom, New Septic.
87 Worcester Rd ~ \$179,900

Webster: 3 units, 4 car garage, new roof, 2 bedrooms each unit.
28 Joyce St ~ \$279,000

9 Tower St ~ \$299,900

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Coffee Hour
Sunday 12-1
21 Schofield Ave
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Open House Directory

ADDRESS	STYLE	TIME	PRICE	REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8				
SOUTHBRIDGE 48 Hillcrest Ave	S	12-2	\$179,900	Re/Max Professional Associates / Patrick Sweeny 774-452-3578
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9				
WEBSTER 25F Third St	C	11-1	\$238,500	ReMax Advantage 1 / Maureen O'Connor 508-981-4902
15 Blueberry Ln	S	11-1	\$329,900	ReMax Advantage 1 / Joanne Szymczak 508-230-6762 Vicki Bennett 774-663-6762
SOUTHBRIDGE 156 Dennison Ln	S	11-1	\$239,900	Aucoin Ryan Realty 508-765-9155

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We need properties to sell,
any type!

OPEN HOUSE • SATURDAY 12-2
 NO MONEY DOWN!
48 Hillcrest Ave, Southbridge, MA
\$179,900
Estimated Payment \$1371 per month

SALE PENDING
Two Family!!! Central Air, Commercially Zoned
43 - 45 Thompson Road, Webster, MA
\$234,900
RENT TO OWN!!!!

FOR LEASE
Large Industrial Rental!!!
2 Hawksley Drive, Oxford, MA
\$6 per SQFT
First Month Free!!!

SALE PENDING
Brand New Remodel!!!
28 Mechanic Street, Webster, MA
\$275,000 RENT TO OWN!!!!

REAL ESTATE

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices

New England Properties

OPEN HOUSE SAT 12/8 10-11:30



**93 Barber Road
Woodstock \$425,000**
Stunning home on 18.24 acres of beautiful land. 1st floor master, hardwood floors throughout. Location is private, quiet & peaceful.

John Downs

860-377-0754

OPEN HOUSE SAT 12/8 12:00-1:30



**369 Allen Hill Rd
Brooklyn \$194,900 NEW LISTING**
This charming 3 BR, 1 BA Ranch has something for everyone. Detached 2 car garage, over-sized deck for entertaining, & ample closet space.

Amy St. Laurent

860-617-6492

OPEN HOUSE SAT 12/8 12:00-1:30



**130 Orchard Hill Rd
Pomfret \$460,000 NEW PRICE**
Enjoy comfortable & spacious living in this bright, modern, 5 BR, 3.5 BA home. 3 beautiful floors of living space located on 5 acres.

John Downs

860-377-0754

Brooklyn \$520,000 NEW LISTING



Custom home on 10 acres. Built in 1989 w/3,739 SF, 4 BR & 4 full BA. Details include open floor plan & a 16' ceiling family room.

The Gosselin Team:

Stephanie

860-428-5960

Thompson \$129,000 NEW PRICE



Lovely Ranch, perfect for downsizing or starter home. Clean and move in ready. Location is close to 395.

Call for a showing!

Kiona Carpenter

860-933-3305

Killingly \$199,900 NEW PRICE



Pristine 2005 updated Townhouse. Granite & hardwoods, 2 full BA, finished basement. Close to 395.

Mary Collins

860-336-6677

Hampton \$595,000

Reproduction Cape on 15 hilltop acres with long-distance views, barn and a pond! 3356SF with 3BR, 2BA and loads of custom details throughout!

The Gosselin Team:
Stephanie 860-428-5960**Pomfret \$550,000**

Exceptional 21.28 acre property in desirable Pomfret, CT. Beautiful large pasture & barn. Comfortable and private living.

John Downs
860-377-0754

Congratulations! November Top Agents

Top Listing Agent



Rachel Sposito
860-234-1343

Top Selling Agents



The White/Cook Team
860-377-4016

Top Buyers Agent



Belinda Culp
860-576-4704

Woodstock \$507,000

Step back in time to this homestead! The remnants of a mill house & grist mill that used the Sawmill Brook to power the mill can still be seen.

The White/Cook Team:
Diane 860-377-4016**Plainfield \$325,000**

View, views, views! This well-kept and loved secluded ranch sits by itself overlooking peaceful Moosup Pond.

The White/Cook Team:
Diane 860-377-4016**Ashford \$189,900**

Great owner/occupy opportunity. Side by side units. Updated in 2003. Sits on 2.44 lovely acres.

Vivian Kozey

860-455-5363

Tolland \$299,900

Pride of ownership shines in this 4 BR, 3 BA over-sized Raised Ranch in a private country setting. This is a must see!

Vivian Kozey

860-455-5363

Killingly \$244,900

Great neighborhood, walk to water, new boiler, manicured yard, granite counters, HW floors. Must see!

Elizabeth Zimmer

860-617-2191

Woodstock \$1,490,000

Wonderful Antique Colonial with 182 acres, pastoral views w/ 4+ miles of wooded trails. Unique open concept, 3 story barn.

White/Cook Team:
Amy

860-377-2830

Willington \$349,900

Spacious Raised Ranch home w/4 BR & 4 car garage on 2.59 private acres. Lower level w/ possible in-law BR, full kitchen, & BA.

Vivian Kozey

860-455-5363

Putnam \$4,000/mo. Commercial Lease

Location! 2,696 SF commercial space for lease with ample parking. Convenient to I-395.

Vivian Kozey

860-455-5363

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



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:00 p.m.
TEQUILA BONFIRE
308 LAKESIDE
308 East Main St.
East Brookfield, MA
774-449-8333

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
SANTA & MRS. CLAUS
308 LAKESIDE
308 East Main St.
East Brookfield, MA
774-449-8333

ONGOING

MARIACHI BAND
First Thursday of the month
5-8 p.m.
MEXICALI MEXICAN GRILL
Webster location
41 Worcester Rd.,
Webster, MA
508-461-5070

ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM
Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
CADDY'S TAVERN
2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI
401-568-4102



Trivia Night

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

WISE GUYS TEAM TRIVIA

Every Tuesday, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

CADDY'S TAVERN

2168 Putnam Pike (Rt. 44)

Chepachet, RI

401-568- 4102

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY NIGHT

HEXMARK TAVERN

AT SALEM CROSS INN

260 West Main St., West Brookfield, MA

508-867-2345

www.salemcrossinn.com

ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM

Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

CADDY'S TAVERN

2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI

401-568-4102

ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM

Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

CADDY'S TAVERN

2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI

401-568-4102

ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM

Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

CADDY'S TAVERN

2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI

401-568-4102

ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM

Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

CADDY'S TAVERN

2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI

401-568-4102

ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM

Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

CADDY'S TAVERN

2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI

401-568-4102

ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM

Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

CADDY'S TAVERN

2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI

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ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM

Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM

Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

CADDY'S TAVERN

2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI

401-568-4102

ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM

Every Sunday, 3:00



MANY PEOPLE CONSIDER THIS SNOWY DOWNHILL ACTIVITY THEIR FAVORITE WINTER SPORT.

ANSWER: SNOWBOARDING

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Cold

SPANISH: Frío

ITALIAN: Freddo

FRENCH: Froid

GERMAN: Kalt

Winter Sports Word Find

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

CURLING
FREESTYLE
HIKING
HOCKEY

ICE DANCING
LUGE
SKATING
SKIING

SLEDDING
SNOWBOARDING
SNOWSHOEING
TOBOGGAN

G	I	T	E	Y	U	P	S	X	G	F	G
J	N	G	O	M	E	K	Q	E	N	A	N
B	U	I	I	B	A	K	L	Q	I	X	I
L	Z	E	E	T	O	Y	C	P	K	C	C
Q	K	K	I	O	T	G	Q	O	I	U	N
N	X	N	Q	S	H	Z	G	T	H	R	A
N	G	D	E	T	X	S	C	A	P	L	D
Y	R	E	C	Z	W	W	W	N	N	I	E
O	R	G	N	I	I	K	S	O	T	N	C
F	V	E	S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G	I
J	L	T	Y	X	O	M	R	Y	V	S	S
G	N	I	D	R	A	O	B	W	O	N	S

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

W N S O H U C M N F U

Answer: Snow much fun

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1818: ILLINOIS BECOMES THE 21ST U.S. STATE.
- 1967: DR. CHRISTIAAN BARNARD PERFORMS THE WORLD'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL HUMAN HEART TRANSPLANT.
- 1999: NASA LOSES RADIO CONTACT WITH THE MARS POLAR LANDER MOMENTS BEFORE IT ENTERS THE MARTIAN ATMOSPHERE.

New word

FRIGID

very cold in temperature

Did you know?

IF YOU BUILD A SNOWMAN IN A SPOT THAT IS SHADED, IT WILL LIKELY LAST LONGER THAN IF YOU BUILD IT IN A SPOT WHERE IT IS EXPOSED TO THE SUN.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHILD RIDING SLED

○** ◊◊◊ ~ ◉◊◊ * X * + ≈≈▲ C * °* * & ≈≈◊◊◊
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to textiles.

Each number corresponds to a letter.

(Hint: 23 = a)

A. 26 1 8 15 25

Clue: Thread or filament

B. 16 14 17 4 18 1 3 13

Clue: Covers the body

C. 10 23 25 3

Clue: Thick thread

D. 21 23 3 9 26 23 16 4 9 25 15

Clue: Make something

Answers: A. fiber B. clothing C. yarn D. manufacture

SUDOKU

8								3
6	8				3	1	4	
	4				9	2		
7					8	4		
	5							
5								
9	1							5

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

3	4	5	7	1	2	8	6	9
8	1	9	4	6	3	5	7	2
6	7	2	9	5	8	1	3	4
9	8	3	1	2	7	6	4	5
4	2	1	5	9	6	7	8	3
7	5	6	3	8	4	9	2	1
1	3	4	6	7	9	2	5	8
5	6	8	2	3	1	4	9	7
2	9	7	8	4	5	3	1	6

ANSWER:

Town-to-Town

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HOLIDAY FOOD

Revisit lesser-known Christmas traditions

Christmas celebrants participate in many different traditions year after year, but some may not fully understand the meaning behind such activities. A Christian holiday, Christmas did not originate with all activities centralized to the church. In fact, many of the traditions people hold dear have pagan roots, which were adapted as Christmas celebrations evolved.

People who hang mistletoe in doorways may be surprised to learn that this tradition dates back to the ancient Druids. The Druids believed mistletoe possessed mystical powers that brought good luck to the household and warded off evil spirits.

Evergreen trees are now associated with Christmas trees, but evergreen boughs were once used to decorate homes during the winter solstice to help people envision the spring to come. Christians often look at evergreen trees as a sign of everlasting life and their relationship with God.

However, while many Christmas traditions continue to be an integral part of annual celebrations, there are some customs that have fallen out of favor. Although these traditions may no longer be widely practiced, anyone can revive them and make them part of their holiday celebrations.

Wassailing is a custom that has ancient origins and is not as popular today as it once was. "Wassail" comes from the Anglo-Saxon phrase "waes hael," which means, "good health." Wassail is a drink made



Wassail is an ancient spirited beverage that was brought house-to-house with the goal of spreading Christmas cheer.

of mulled ale, spices and other ingredients. To go wassailing meant to travel door-to-door singing and offering a drink from a wassail bowl in exchange for gifts. Wassailing has been mentioned in certain Christmas carols, including "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Largely an English tradition, wassailing was brought to America by

British settlers. January 17th, the old Twelfth Night, is the traditional date for wassailing. Although wassailing has largely fallen by the wayside, increased interest in ales and craft brewing may help revitalize this Christmas tradition, which can inspire community spirit.

Gifting with fruit cake is another tradition that has been much maligned

and does not enjoy the same popularity that it once did. Fruit cake is a cake made with chopped candied fruit, nuts and spices and is occasionally soaked in spirits. Fruit cakes have been enjoyed all over the world, but Americans may never have embraced the Christmas fruit cake tradition as much as those from other countries. However, with the right

recipe and an open mind, it may be possible to resurrect the fruit cake tradition once again.

Mummers plays are another British tradition that arrived in North America with settlers but has largely fallen by the wayside. Mummers plays involved miming folk dramas, and the plays were commonplace around the holiday season. Celebrants may

want to research such dramas and include them in this year's festivities to liven up celebrations even more.

Traditions passed on through the years help make Christmas a favorite time of celebration. People may want to explore the less popular traditions today and once again make them interesting parts of this year's festivities.

Easy Christmas morning breakfast



Make-ahead muffins can be a quick breakfast that's perfect for Christmas mornings at home.

Christmas morning is an exciting and joyous time for families. Children are anxious to rush downstairs and see what Santa has left under the tree, and parents are eager to see the looks on youngsters' happy faces.

Having a fast and easy breakfast at the ready on Christmas morning allows families to jump right into the festivities rather than spending too much time in the kitchen.

This recipe for "Spiced Yogurt Muffins," courtesy of the National Dairy Council, Dannon and McCormick, can be made in advance and then enjoyed while peeking into Christmas stockings or watching holiday parades on television. This big-batch recipe is ideal for feeding a houseful of overnight holiday guests. Or it can be prepared in advance and doled out as needed throughout the week. The muffins also can be made as a treat for holiday office luncheons. Cut the recipe in half for smaller yields.

SPICED YOGURT MUFFINS

(Yield: 50 servings)

6 1/2 cups Dannon plain fat-free Greek yogurt
4 cups water, room temperature
1 box (5 lbs) Gold Medal® Muffin Mix, Whole Grain Variety
3 tablespoons McCormick pumpkin pie spice
2 tablespoons McCormick Chipotle cinnamon

Combine yogurt and water in mixing bowl. Whisk until blended. Set aside.

Add spices to dry muffin mix in a large bowl. Add yogurt and water mixture to the muffin mixture. Mix until just blended. Don't overmix.

Using a scoop, portion into greased or lined muffin pans. Bake at 350 F for 24 minutes, or 17 to 20 minutes in a convection oven, until the tops are golden brown.

Gingerbread goodness



Gingerbread is a broad term that can describe anything from a firm and crispy cookie to a moist, soft cake. Traditionally, gingerbread is seasoned with ginger, cloves, nutmeg, and other aromatic spices. Molasses and brown sugar counteract the spice with sweetness. North Americans have been baking gingerbread in various shapes or forms for more than 200 years, and the recipes even pre-date the American revolution. However, gingerbread dates back even further to the Shakespearean era, with The Bard having mentioned it in one of his plays. Gingerbread's name can be traced to medieval England and once referred to any kind of preserved ginger. The term went on to reference ginger-flavored cakes in the 15th century, and gingerbread eventually became popular throughout the world. Even though gingerbread cakes and cookies have been made for centuries, Germans are often cred-

ited with creating gingerbread houses, according to Smithsonian. They were probably modeled after the witch's candy cottage in the German fairy tale, "Hansel and Gretel." Even though gingerbread can be made any time of year, it is particularly associated with the Christmas season, with gingerbread men and other fanciful shapes turning up on cookie platters.

HOLIDAY FOOD

Comfortable winter entertaining ideas



Coffee enjoyed with a group of friends can warm hearts on cold winter days.

Winter entertaining need not end once Christmas and New Year's Day have come and gone. Getting together with friends and family is still possible even if the weather outside is frightful. When Mother Nature takes a chilly turn, those who don't want the party can consider the following entertaining ideas.

- Indulge in sweet treats. Comfort foods can make even the most blustery winds easier to tolerate. Invite people over for a dessert party. At a dessert pot luck party, everyone brings along a favorite decadent dessert, from molten lava chocolate cake to warm bread pudding. Serve alongside tea, coffee and hot chocolate. Adults can enjoy the added punch of spiked beverages, which can warm everyone up instantly.

- Host a "snowed in" party. Spending a day cooped up inside when the roads are covered in snow might not be your idea of fun, but invite a mix of friends and neighbors who live nearby over, and this impromptu party can make the cabin fever disappear. Ask guests to bring one food item or beverage. Light a fire in the fireplace and set out some cozy throw blankets. If possible, invite everyone outdoors to build a snowman.

- Get physical. Get physically active

with friends or family members by staging mock Olympic events in the yard. These can be fun "sports" created by participants or variations on fun winter activities. Sledding races, snowball dodging contests, ice skating obstacle courses, and much more can make for an entertaining afternoon.

- Get cooking. Cooking can certainly pass the time, and it can be even more enjoyable when done in the company of others. Send out an invitation for friends to stop by for a meal or plan a meal prep party.

- Host a movie marathon. Handpick some favorite films and invite everyone over for a movie marathon. Fill the family room, home theater room or living room to capacity and host a group for a film fest. If space permits, set up one room with a children's movie for youngsters, while the adults retire to another room for movies that are more their speed. A buffet table set up with assorted snacks will help keep bellies full while guests watch some favorite flicks.

Winter days and nights are ripe for entertaining possibilities. These events help squash the cabin fever that can sometimes develop during the colder times of year.

How to make the holiday season more eco-friendly

With so much to do, it can be easy for people celebrating the holiday season to forget about the environment. But no matter how hectic the holiday season can be, there are always some simple opportunities to make it more eco-friendly.

- Create an eco-friendly party theme. Many holiday parties have themes. For example, "ugly sweater parties" have become so popular that many clothing manufacturers now intentionally produce colorful sweaters that might otherwise draw the ire of fashionistas. Hosts planning to throw an ugly sweater party can easily transform such festivities into something more eco-friendly by encouraging guests to purchase their sweaters from thrift stores. A Christmas tree planting party is another eco-friendly party theme that can benefit the planet and revitalize local forests at a time of year when they might be depleted due to the demand for natural Christmas trees.

- Serve locally sourced foods. Food is often front and center during the holiday season. Whether hosting family and friends at home, dining out or catering an office party, patronize businesses that sell only locally sourced foods. Locally sourced foods are much more eco-friendly than foods that must be shipped from afar before they land on your dinner table, and such foods tend to taste fresh as well. If serving at home, use reusable dishware and cutlery instead of paper plates and plastic utensils.

- Reuse decorations year after year. Decorations need not be discarded once the hol-



Serving only locally sourced foods at your holiday party is one way to keep the festivities eco-friendly.

iday season ends. Come the new year, inspect holiday decorations and store those that made it through the season unscathed. Doing so benefits the planet and will save you the trouble of shopping for new decorations next holiday season.

- Get rid of your old holiday lights. Still using the same Christmas lights you used in 1995? Such lights are likely incandescent bulbs that are considerably less efficient than today's

LED Christmas lights. The Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy notes that LED lights consume 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting. In addition, the OEEER says that LED holiday lights are easier to install and that as many as 25 strings of lights can be connected end-to-end without overloading a wall socket.

An eco-friendly holiday season is easier to realize than many holiday celebrants may know.

4 tips to simplify cooking for a crowd this holiday season

Families big and small typically celebrate the holiday season together. For some, celebrating the holidays with family requires traveling, while others stay put and welcome family and friends into their homes.

At some point during the holiday season, celebrants who host family and friends will no doubt prepare a homecooked meal for their loved ones. Cooking for a crowd can seem like a daunting task, especially for first-time hosts. However, there are various ways for hosts to simplify cooking for a crowd this holiday season.

1. PREPARE A FAMILIAR DISH.

Hosts may agonize over their holiday menus, and some may feel compelled to prepare a family specialty or the same dishes their parents or grandparents prepared for holiday dinners when they were children. But holiday hosts can make things easy on themselves by choosing dishes they've made in the past, regardless of their place in family history. Chances are the ingredients for hosts' own specialties are already in the pantry, saving a potentially time-consuming trip to the grocery store.

And thanks to the familiarity factor, hosts' own specialties likely won't require as much time to prepare.



2. SHARE SOME COOKING DUTIES.

Another way to simplify cooking for a crowd is to invite guests to bring along a side dish or dessert. Guests who live nearby can make something in advance of the big meal, while hosts can hand over their kitchens to overnight guests who

express a willingness to contribute their own homecooked dish to the party. Sharing the cooking duties gives hosts more time to connect with friends and family and serves as a great way to plan the menu in advance.

3. ONLY MAKE

WHAT GUESTS ARE LIKELY TO EAT.

Hosts also should not feel pressured to cook more food than is necessary. Holiday meals have a tendency to be lavish, but hosts don't have to spend all day in the kitchen preparing food that will likely end up as leftovers or trash. Get a final

headcount in the days before everyone comes over and adjust your recipes accordingly.

4. START EARLY.

If the big is on Christmas Day, that does not mean hosts have to start cooking while everyone unwraps their presents. Hosts who are

uncertain about what to cook can look for meals that can be prepared in advance so come the big day all they need to do is turn on the oven and let meals cook while the family spends time together.

Hosts can employ various strategies to simplify the process of cooking for a crowd this holiday season.

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LIKE NEW 2015 CHEVY TAHOE LTZ SUV #39145 Moonroof, Navigation, DVD, 4x4, Heated Leather, MyLink, 20" Alloys. NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$63,400 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$46,344 SAVE \$17,100 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!	LIKE NEW 2015 GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4x4 #D9216L Navigation, Moonroof, 18" Alloys, Heated Leather, Power Liftgate. NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$43,880 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$26,377 SAVE \$17,500 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!	LIKE NEW 2015 FORD F-150 4x4 SUPERCAB #P11746L 2.7L V6 EcoBoost, Alloy Wheels, Bluetooth, SYNC, Back-Up Cam. NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$38,965 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$29,855 SAVE \$9,100 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

SALE ENDS 12/12/18. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT OR PROMOTION AND MUST USE DEALER SOURCE FINANCING. SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE US FOR DETAILS. NEW RETAIL PRICE BASED ON MSRP OF NEW MODELS. NOT VALID WITH PRIOR SALES. SELLING PRICE INCLUDING OUR \$1,000 IMPERIAL TRADE ASSISTANCE BONUS FOR A QUALIFYING 2007 OR NEWER TRADES. SEE US FOR DETAILS. ADVERTISED PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE TAX, TITLE, REGISTRATION OR DOCUMENTATION FEE. VEHICLE MUST BE PAID IN FULL AND TAKE SAME DAY DELIVERY. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS. CALL 1-800-526-AUTO TO SEE WHICH INCENTIVES YOU QUALIFY FOR.

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