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Friday, December 22, 2017

Sage seeks parity in longevity payment

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — With the town embracing a new focus on longevity pay, one citizen has stepped forward to seek full equality in this new approach for town employees he feels are unfairly left out.

Stefan Sage, a Charlton Public Library trustee and often outspoken member of the town of Charlton, recently appeared before the Board of Selectmen in early December

to discuss what he sees as a lack of equality among town employees who have provided years of service to the community. During the annual town meeting in May, voters approved an article granting longevity payment for employees who have completed a certain number of years of continuous service to the Charlton community. While this action was seen as a popular and positive one, Sage believes the act leaves out several employees

that he would like selectmen and the town to include in the list of those receiving longevity payment going forward.

“At the fall town meeting the non-union members received support for having longevity pay. (In November) selectmen discussed when that longevity pay should be beginning and they decided it was going to be this current fiscal year,” Sage said during the citizen’s comments portion of the Dec. 5 meeting of the Board of

Selectmen.

“Then it was stated that there is finally parity for the employees of the town all having longevity pay. ‘Parity’ from the definition in Webster’s Dictionary talks about it being equality and I’d like to bring up the fact that there isn’t really complete parity at this moment.”

Sage specifically spoke in defense of secretaries within the town of Charlton, a group he feels has been overlooked.

He said that the new longevity payment rules are good rules, but they should apply to even the smallest of positions in the town to reach complete parity.

“The fire department, the police department, the highway department and now the non-union members all have their longevity pay starting at 10 years. What used to be called the secretarial union, a small handful of employees in town,

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Gus Steeves photos

Polly Traina with her photos.

Overlook helps people reunite with their past

BY GUS STEEVES
STAFF WRITER

CHARLTON — For many people, a reunion is a way of reconnecting with people you knew 25 or 50 years ago in college or high school. But the Reunion Project now gracing the walls of Overlook is a little different — it’s a way for the participants and those visiting it to reunite with themselves as they once were.

“You don’t often have the opportunity to re-see yourself in your youth and see yourself now,” said resident and participant Polly Traina.

Like the other 39 participants, Traina provided an old photo — in her case, in her wedding dress — and sat for a new one, plus spending some time with photographer/interviewer Lora Brody, talking about her life. The two photos are displayed together, while the comments are interspersed on long scrolls, in both cases anonymously.

“You think you remember, but somehow seeing one of those wedding photos again brings back really sharply how young you were and your expectations and hopes,” Traina said.

When asked what her hopes then were, she added they weren’t very specific “because Dick [her husband] was going to grad school to get a Ph.D.”

She, in turn, got her bachelor’s, with a lot of credits in English and history that prompted her to ask an advisor, “What’s the shortest route between this pile of credits and graduation?”

She was told “theater,” and that’s where she went, becoming a costume shop manager, although not an actress herself, for several years while having four kids.

Eventually, the Trainas moved to Massachusetts, where her husband became president of Clark University. When

Turn To **REUNITE** page **A3**

Two arrested on drug charges in Charlton

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Two arrests have been made in connection to a long running drug enforcement investigation thanks to the combined efforts of Charlton police and other law enforcement units in the region.

Charlton law enforcement officials released details into the arrests on Dec. 14 with the actual arrests being recorded on Friday, Dec. 8. Two men face charges after an extensive investigation into drug distribution throughout the Charlton community.

On Dec. 8 officers from both Charlton and Task Force Officers from the South Worcester County Counter Crime and Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at

22 Harrington Road apartment 26 in search of possible narcotics.

According to police reports officers arrived and knocked on the door of the apartment, announcing their presence but receiving no response from anyone in the apartment. Police then made entry into the apartment using a ram and found 32-year-old Edwin Barreto, the apartment’s resident and main subject of the search warrant, inside. A second individual, identified as 20-year-old Worcester resident Emanuel Rodriguez, was also located in the apartment. Police observed as white powdery substance that was suspected to be cocaine within the apartment.

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Gus Steeves photo

Lori Arduini of Jeremiah’s Inn, center, receives dozens of “survival kits” created by Charlton Leos last week.

‘Any way we can give back, we will try to’

CHARLTON LEOS TEAMS WITH JEREMIAH’S INN

BY GUS STEEVES
STAFF WRITER

CHARLTON — When you’ve lost almost everything, a little bit matters.

Last week, the fairly new Charlton Leos took that principle to heart by creating dozens of “survival kits” for homeless residents of Jeremiah’s Inn. In each blue water bottle they stuffed socks, gloves, floss, toothbrushes and other small necessities.

“We get new people all the time,” said Lori Arduini, assistant to Jeremiah’s director. “A lot of the guys come in literally with only the clothes they wear.”

Arduini said the Inn — a

long-standing sober homeless shelter at Cambridge and Main in Worcester — has a “two-fold” program. One is the shelter itself, 29 beds for men 18+ with a history of some kind of substance abuse but currently not using. Those clients get counseling, social activities, legal help and other services with the goal of “giving these guys as many tools as we can” to get back on their feet when they leave.

The second is their soup kitchen, which feeds those clients and others who are in need but not necessarily clients. She said that feeds 11,000 people a year four days a week,

Turn To **LEOS** page **A5**

Local tree farms an engaging option

BY GUS STEEVES
STAFF WRITER

AUBURN — If they haven’t already, most households in the area will probably be hunting for a Christmas tree in the near future. There are numerous possible sources along area roadsides, but those tend to get their trees from out of state.

The ones actually rooted in the local economy are often a little out of the way.

Take Luks Farm, for example. It’s on a dead end (Laurel Street), where Richard and Linda Luks have been growing

trees for more than half a century. They have 15 acres, seven of them in Christmas trees.

“Some of those at tree stands have been cut for weeks,” he noted. “A lot of people like freshly cut trees or cut their own in our field. There’s demand growing for fresh trees.”

Across town, Don Post at The Farmer’s Daughter has seen the same thing.

“I’m delighted to see people taking an interest in the holiday season because tradition brings the family together,”

Post said, noting one of those togetherness activities is often families selecting their tree.

But which trees they pick are changing. The traditional one was pine, but that shifted to spruce and now toward balsam fir, largely because people want to put them up earlier, around (and even before) Thanksgiving. Post predicted balsam and/or Fraser firs will take over the market because spruce “can’t take the heat of the house” and “does not hold its needles” if erected before

Turn To **TREE FARMS** page **A4**

CHARTON CAPSULES

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING:

Overlook Hospice Services is seeking volunteers to provide companionship and support to hospice patients and their families. Volunteer activities include reading to patients, watching movies, playing

cards, walking dogs, fixing meals, running errands, providing short term respite and offering support to caregivers. No special skills are required other than an open heart and 3-4 hours/week. In addition to general patient care volunteers, we are seeking veterans to visit our veteran patients, musicians, dog therapy

teams and those interested in providing bereavement support to our families. Our 12 hour training begins on Saturday, January 6 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information please contact Susan Fuller, Volunteer Coordinator, at 508-434-2200.



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Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24 4 p.m. Mass in main church with Children's Pageant 4 p.m. Mass downstairs in church hall 10:30 p.m. Mass with Holy	New Year's Eve Sunday, December 31 Mass at 4:30 p.m. New Year's Day January 1 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Overlook seeking volunteers

Overlook Hospice Services is seeking volunteers to provide companionship and support to hospice patients and their families. Volunteer activities include reading to patients, watching movies, playing cards, walking dogs, fixing meals, running errands, providing short term respite and offering support to caregivers. No special skills are required other than an open heart and 3-4 hours/week.

In addition to general patient care volunteers, we are seeking veterans to visit our veteran patients, musicians, dog therapy teams and those interested in providing bereavement support to our families. Our 12 hour training begins on Saturday, Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information please contact Susan Fuller, Volunteer Coordinator, at (508) 434-2200.



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Car Buying Tips

Customers ask place: When is the best time to buy a Car or Truck?

The RIGHT answer: There are many opinions regarding this question. Sometimes our personal situations may dictate the best time to buy. Maybe you want to wait for a tax return or maybe you get a bonus at work. Coincidentally the holiday season is a good time to buy a car or truck. As a general rule the last month or two of the year is a good time to buy. The model year change has occurred so leftovers have strong incentives. Rebates and low finance rates are among the best of the year. With some models getting in short supply we will do our best to get what you want and in many cases we find folks can get a better car for less money because of the dealers desire to move what they have. It is also the time of year for many small

businesses to make purchases to improve their tax positions. The need for capital expenditures and the write offs for depreciation can help keep a business from paying too much to the tax man. We all want to keep our taxes to a minimum. Please consult with your accountant to discuss these potential benefits. Lastly many dealers like us are looking to get as many sales as we can for year end. Just like other retailers, car dealers like us want to cash in on the shopping season. We know we are competing against jewelry stores, toy stores, and just about every kind of gift seller. We want to meet sales goals, reach contest objectives, and make it so that our families may have a wonderful holiday season too. Place Motor wants your Holiday season to be special so when you come get your new car or truck, if you want us to, we will even put a bow on it for you. Happy Holidays!

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Wojnar now president of chiefs' association



Jason Bleau photos

Dudley Chief Steven Wojnar accepts the ceremonial gavel as he becomes the new president of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association



Dudley Police Chief Steven Wojnar addresses the crowd for the first time as president of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association



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.

working for us," Wojnar said. "We're well respected in town, all the officers are well respected, the courts always mention the great job they do and it's really been my privilege and honor to lead them."

Wojnar also spoke about his battle with colon cancer and the struggles life has thrown his way and how he managed to get through both his professional and real-world roadblocks with the help of many people in his life and a positive outlook towards the future.

As part of his installation celebration the chief was recognized for his continuous support of the Jimmy Fund and awarded the Hector J. Pelletier award by the Chiefs of Police Association. In lieu of party favors Chief Wojnar also announced a \$1,000 donation to the Adam Bullen Memorial Foundation which helped him through his cancer treatment.

Chief Wojnar called his installation as association president a major career moment and one he couldn't do alone. He also promised to do everything in his power to perform his duties properly and do what's best for the many dedicated law enforcement officials throughout the Commonwealth.

"The support of my peers in such an important role is truly tremendous. This organization is designed to focus on cooperation and the professional growth and development of police chiefs throughout Massachusetts. Whether you're from the largest city or the smallest town you're still recognized as law enforcement professionals and the safety and security of our citizens is our top priority. My experience in this organization has shown that we have a group of dedicated professionals serving in leadership roles in our communities," Wojnar said.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley Police Chief Steven Wojnar has reached a new high for his career in law enforcement being named the new president of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association.

A special ceremony featuring around 160 guests, including law enforcement officials and officers and state officials as well as representatives from the town of Dudley, was held Thursday, Dec. 14 to officially install Wojnar as the new association president at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center.

The ceremony included much pomp and circumstance including patriotic numbers by the Shepherd Hill Regional High School chorus and the presentation of colors by the Dudley Police Department Honor Guard.

The highlight moment of the event however was the passing of the ceremonial gavel as outgoing president and Middletown Police Chief James DiGianvittorio welcomed Wojnar to the top seat on the association to serve a one-year term.

Wojnar was awarded the position

after being elected by his peers to serve his first term as president. His installation came with many well wishes and stories from different officials and fellow officers Wojnar has worked with over the years, all of them confident the chief will do his new position justice.

Among the guests was Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, who considers central Massachusetts her home region. Polito said she was proud to see an officer from an area close to her heart take the reins on the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association.

"I'm very proud and honored to see that we have one of our own in central Massachusetts take on the presidency of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association," Polito said. "We do have a lot of work ahead of us and we look forward to working with Chief Wojnar."

Senator Ryan Fattman, who reminisced on meeting Wojnar first as a father and second as a law enforcement official, said he too was proud to see the chief achieve such a high honor from his peers and represent Dudley, and law enforcement officers throughout the state, in a new capacity.

"It's a great honor for me as the senator for the town of Dudley to have

our local chief be represented here today. It's impressive," Fattman said. "I think of how lucky I am to represent 14 communities where we have police departments that are beyond reproach. They take their job incredibly seriously. On behalf of the Massachusetts State Senate we are happy to have Chief Wojnar as the new president."

Also present to share their remarks were Attorney General Maura Healey, District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr., Secretary Daniel Bennett of the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, Dudley Town Administrator Greg Balukonis, and Dudley-Charlton Superintendent of Schools Gregg Desto.

Wojnar was humble in his acceptance of his new position, thanking everyone he could from his fellow chiefs to Dudley town officials, his family, members of the media and others who helped define his career. He also made a point to note that his success leading Dudley also has a lot to do with the men and women that embrace his leadership giving the officers of Dudley a special thank you.

"You can't do this job alone and (Dudley) is really fortunate to have a lot of great and dedicated individuals



Sue Hagberg takes a look at some of her fellow residents' comments.

REUNITE

continued from page 1

he retired, they moved to Overlook 11 years ago, and he passed away from cancer a few years ago.

She recalls that as the biggest change in her life, but still takes it with a touch of humor. "If he was still alive, I'm sure I'd be saying 'If he does that one more time...,' and he'd say the same of me," she noted.

Still-active people like Traina were the reason Brody started the Reunion Project in the first place.

"I find joy in being around people who own their aging," Brody said, noting the idea came from her own 50th high school reunion in Hartford. She thought about some of the women she hadn't seen in all those years, wrote them to say she was interested in taking their photos "and having a conversation about what our lives are like now and what we expected," she told several dozen exhibit-opening attend-

ees at Overlook last week.

When she did it, she expected they'd take her surveys home and fill them out later, but what happened was that the women did it right there and started talking, while the men hung out at the bar.

"People shared the most extraordinary stories," Brody recalled. Among them: the popular prom queen told her she got pregnant prom night, gave up her baby for adoption, and never had another one. Out of the blue 10 years ago, the daughter found her mother and "now [she] has a family," Brody said.

Brody's own memory was of being "a bottom-feeder because I was an artist; it had no credit at all." After she left, she went to college because of a mistake in her favor on the SAT, but "flunked out almost immediately."

She tried again later, and this time was required to take remedial classes in her own high school basement. Times had changed by then; the teach-

er noticed her struggling and asked if she'd ever heard of dyslexia. She hadn't, got tested, "and that's how I found my brain," Brody said.

As a guidance counselor, participant Sue Hagberg probably saw quite a few students like Brody. But her most vivid memories were of a very different place — her years in Las Vegas, the cultural difference between there and here, and a pair of cowboy boots.

"In the West, people's boundaries are much wider than in the East," she recalled, noting people there often think we're distant and stand-offish. By contrast, though, she also recalled "In New Mexico, people painted their doors blue to keep the witches out."

She also remembered surviving her dad's death when she was 8, her four "siblings pounding on me," getting "a new boyfriend every year," and her mother's very wise observation about life: "You can laugh, or you can cry."

"Then, I saw life as a series of things you had to do and have fun," Hagberg said. "Today, I see life as a series

of problems to solve and, despite them, to have fun, experience life and culture. Life is ever-changing. Accepting that has helped me float my boat through the whitewater."

Most of the facility's women weren't part of the project, for various reasons. For Barbara Howard, she wasn't there the day of the photo shoot, but she still sees the display as "very interesting, [especially] seeing some of the things most important in their lives."

As a young person on Cape Cod, Howard said her family really wanted her to follow

in the footsteps of her father, grandfather and great-grandfather, all of whom had been state representatives. But she never really wanted to, moved to Connecticut, "and now I'm too old," she added.

"The project itself, and [Brody's] motivation for doing it — she stumbled on some universal truths," Hagberg said. "Once they're out there, published, we say 'Of course,' but don't really think about it because we were struggling to survive. Being mindful in the moment, it's hard to remember being mindful at age 17."

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SAGE

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apparently has to wait until 15 years to be considered longevity. To me, that is a clear case of injustice toward a small group of employees in town," said Sage.

Selectmen did not comment on the matter at the time, a normal practice for many citizens' comments segment of meetings, and did not offer input later in the meeting. However, Sage made his point clear that selectmen should seriously consider revisiting the longevity payment rules to include the secretaries into the mix.

"If everyone starts at 10 years it should have been offered that the sec-

retarial union also starts at 10 years so that everybody in this community really is at parity. Right now, there's a small group of people who apparently aren't as valuable as far as their long term commitment to this town as everybody else and I think it should be corrected," Sage said.

Sage added that his interactions with third parties about the situation indicated the departments that received longevity pay within 10 years were "better negotiators" and felt selectmen may have played a role in the breakdown of talks with the secretarial union. This accusation was also not addressed by selectmen at the time of the meeting.

The Myth of the Spring Market



REALTOR'S REPORT

JAMES BLACK

Many people this time of year will tell me they want to wait till the spring before selling their home. Sometimes it is because they don't want to deal with selling their home during the holidays or having to leave their house for showings when its 10 degrees out or 10 inches of snow. The

other major reason people make this decision is due to thinking that if they wait till spring then they will sell quicker and for a better price. That will sometimes be true but it will not be based on the time of year as much as market factors changing. I also hear people say that no homes sell in the winter which is also a myth.

If we look at 12/1/2015 through 11/30/2016 it was taking on average 57 days to get an offer, homes were selling at 98 percent of their listing price and the average sales price was \$290,361 in Worcester County. From 12/1/2016 through 2/1/2017, the average days to offer was slightly lower at 56 days, also homes were still selling at 98 percent of listing price and the average sales price was up almost 1% to \$292,770. Approximately 14.3% of homes sold that year sold in those 3 months. This number is significantly lower than the other 3 quarters of the year. However, if less homes are selling that time of year then your chance of getting a higher price is much better.

I suggest consulting with a local Realtor to see how your specific market and town performs in the winter months as not every area has this same data. Your home may have limited off street parking, a steep driveway or a be a waterfront home which all can be affected more greatly by the winter.

TREE FARMS

continued from page 1

Dec. 15.

For Christmas tree farms, though, there is a potential light in the gloom. Among the trees predicted to do well are a few species that could expand into the region from the south: red cedar and short- and longleaf pine.

"The species listed as potential losers currently provide most of the region's commercial and tourism value," Iverson wrote, noting the economic impact is "likely to be substantial," although he does not specifically look at tree farms.

Post said tree farmers have seen a little bit of that impact already. Last year's drought and this year's wet spring plus dry autumn forced them to adjust fertilizer and water levels, and several articles online reported farms actually closing temporarily last winter because of the effect on their trees.

Luks said he "lost quite a few [trees] in the past two years because of drought," but they grew well because of this year's wet spring. In his case, trees "are the biggest percentage" of their business, with some com-

ing from land they own in New Hampshire. They sometimes see people just drop in to buy after finding them online, and also offer a variety of jams, wreaths, "kissing balls," birch reindeer and other things.

For Post, the trees are about a quarter of his annual business, since they also offer beef, many garden plants and fruit trees, and various other things. Over the next 10 years, he said he sees a different issue having more direct impact, though. When the 2008 economic crash hit, "a lot of farmers did not plant trees," and since they take 10-14 years to mature, that means the early and mid-2020s will see a dearth of mature trees for sale. However, it should pick up afterward, because we "just started seeing young farmers" resume planting them again, he added.

"You have to have a time commitment to grow Christmas trees," he said, noting that spruces grow fastest and firs slowest of the commonly used species.

In his case, that commitment has existed since about 1970, when his family chose a concolor (or white) fir for their personal tree and liked it. When they went back to their seller the next year, it had gone out of business,

so he chose to grow some himself.

Luks said his family has run the farm since the 1940s, when his brother got trees from the Extension Service and "noticed they like the soil here and are doing well."

"These things are all our own things from our own land," he added. "People really enjoy that."

Luks and Farmer's Daughter are just two of several area farms that grow Christmas trees (usually with many other products). The state's MassGrown website shows the following in the I-395 vicinity:

Farmer's Daughter, 153 Millbury St., Auburn, (508) 832-2995

Luks' Farm, 38 Laurel St., Auburn, (508) 832-5250

Pearson's Dairy, 342 West Main St., Millbury, (508) 865-2158
Abbott Tree Farm, 106 Northside Road, Charlton, (508) 248-4416

Davagian Tree Farm, 19 Merriam Lane, Sutton, (508) 865-3413

Sleighbell Tree Farm, 130 Whitins Road, Sutton, (508) 234-6953

Arrowhead Acres, 84 Aldrich Road, Uxbridge, (508) 278-5017

CHARLTON ALMANAC

— REAL ESTATE —

CHARLTON

\$318,900 82 Sandersdale Rd, Berube, Daniel, and Berube, Melissa, to Riopel, Joseph, and Riopel, Micheal.

\$249,000 14 Daniels Rd, Reem Property LLC, to Mcneaney, William J, and Mcneaney, Kim M.

\$230,000 47 Colburn Rd, Waterson, John R, and Waterson, John, to Steiger, Paul J.

CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., Pastor James Chase, 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.com, Sunday worship 10:30 am, Sunday School 9 am.

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Jehovah's Witnesses**, Route 169, 765-9519

• **Lamblight Christian Church**, 37 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Rev. Stephen Wade, (774) 452-2393 - Pastor's Cell. Sunday Service 10:30am. www.visitlamblight.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Lamaureux Ford recognized for exceptional service



Courtesy photo

Staff at Lamaureux Ford with the award

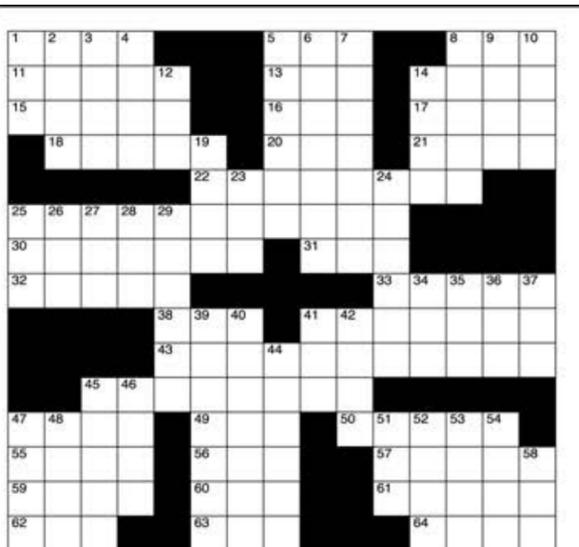
Lamaureux Ford was among a select group of Ford dealerships, less than 10 percent of all dealers nationwide, to be recognized with the 2016 President's award by Ford Motor Company. The prestigious award honors dealerships that have excelled in automotive retailing in 2016 by providing exceptional customer sales and service satisfaction.

"Earning this award is a reflection of our entire staff's commitment to delivering the best customer experience possible," say Lamaureux Ford's owners Marc and Lionel Lamaureux.

"We couldn't be more proud to receive this recognition, especially since it comes from the people we value most - our customers. They're the reason we were able to achieve this award."

The President's award was established in 1998. Dealers become eligible through survey responses from the customers related to their sales and service satisfaction.

Lamaureux Ford has won the President's Award for the 20th year in a row and 23 times overall.

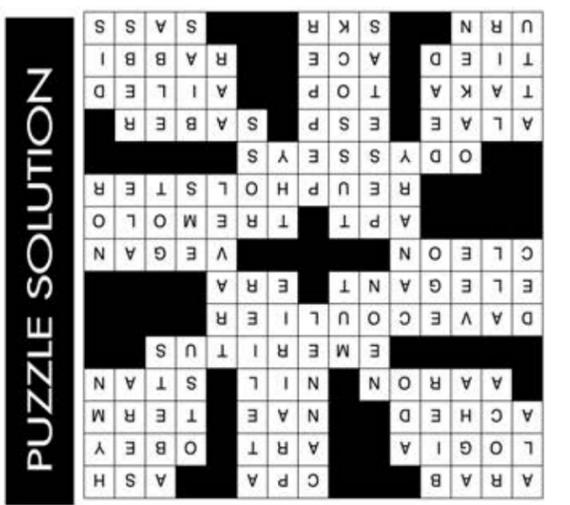


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Member of a Semitic people
- 5. Certified public accountant
- 8. Residue
- 11. Sayings attributed to Christ
- 13. The products of human creativity
- 14. Listen to
- 15. Longed
- 16. No (Scottish)
- 17. Descriptor
- 18. Yankees' sensation Judge
- 20. Zero
- 21. Comics legend Lee
- 22. Honorary title holder
- 25. "Uncle Joey"
- 30. Graceful and stylish
- 31. Pitching term
- 32. Former Mets outfielder Jones
- 33. One who avoids animal products
- 38. Quick to learn
- 41. Mechanism in an organ
- 43. Redo with new materials
- 45. Epics
- 47. Wings
- 49. Extrasensory perception
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Bangladeshi monetary unit
- 56. Not the bottom
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Bound
- 60. One who is highly skilled
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Tall, rounded vase
- 63. Liturgical language of Hinduism (abbr.)
- 64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pie ___ mode
- 2. Portuguese cape
- 3. Ottoman military title
- 4. Movable frame used in burials
- 5. Type of coal
- 6. A treeless grassy plain
- 7. Artist's workroom
- 8. Assists
- 9. Protein-rich liquids
- 10. A song of praise to God
- 12. Much ___ about nothing
- 14. Japanese city
- 19. Atomic number 10
- 23. Egyptian goddess
- 24. Go places
- 25. Having ten
- 26. Complete
- 27. Automotive belt
- 28. Psyche
- 29. Melodious bird
- 34. Medical personnel
- 35. Acquired
- 36. Type of beverage
- 37. Neither
- 39. Spanish monetary units
- 40. Small area of grass
- 41. Your
- 42. Diana __, singer
- 44. Salt's partner
- 45. Made of wood
- 46. No longer alive
- 47. Alaskan island
- 48. Wild animal's resting place
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Partiality
- 53. "Luther" actor Idris
- 54. UNLV's "Runnin' ___"
- 58. Criticize



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Donating your personal property



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
•••••
WAYNE TUISKULA

Donating items has multiple benefits. It is a good way to help local charities as they assist those in need in your community. You also get the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference in someone's life.

It provides you with other benefits as well. If you are an estate personal representative or just need some extra room, it can help you get things cleaned out. You may not have anything particularly valuable and an auction house may not be interested in selling your items. A charity may have many people who would be thrilled to have your unwanted dining room set, bookcases, household items and clothing.

There are many local charities that accept donations in our area. Many larger charities have locations where you can drop items off or arrange



to have items picked up. The Salvation Army has several donation centers throughout the area that the Stonebridge Press newspapers reach.

Local Salvation Army locations include the following:

120 E Main St, Webster, MA 01570 Phone: (508) 461-5207

120 W Main St, Spencer, MA 01562 Phone: (508) 885-8668

135 Providence Rd, Northbridge, MA 01534 Phone: (508) 234-4439

53 Grove St, Putnam, CT 06260 Phone: (860) 963-7602

8 Union Square, Gardner, MA 01440 Phone: (978) 632-9854

72 Cambridge St, Worcester, MA 01603 Phone: (508) 799-0520

Goodwill also has a Worcester location:

25 Park Ave, Worcester, MA 01605 Phone: (508) 752-4042

Habitat for Humanity website states that they make pickups of many types of furniture.

You can find additional information at www.habitat.org.

There are many other smaller local charities that operate thrift shops or make donations directly to those in need. Please email me if you have any that you'd like me to share with readers in a future column.

Along with helping local charities, you may get an additional benefit from your donation. Many of these charities will provide you with a donation slip. Goodwill and

Bankrate.com are two of many sites that offer suggested prices that can be used when you donate items. Some examples from Goodwill's website are \$7 for dresses, \$6 for jeans, \$10 for microwaves and \$75 for a dining room set, assuming they are in good condition. These are estimated prices and it is best to consult with your tax preparer on prices. If you are dropping items off at the donation center now, expect long lines. Many people drop off items near the end of the year to get donation slips for their taxes.

Our next live auction will take place in Worcester on Jan. 25th. I'll be teaching my Evaluating your Antiques class for the Bay Path Evening School on March 3rd. Other events are being planned for after the holidays. See www.centralmassauctions.com for details.

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

On the streets where they lived: riches in town records

The January meeting of the Worcester Chapter of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. will be held the first Saturday, on Jan. 6 at 10 a.m. in the Banx Room at the Worcester Public Library. Contact: Reference Department at (508) 799-1655 or mywpl.org, located at 3 Salem Square in Worcester. You can arrive beginning at 9:30 a.m. to attend an earlier half hour of socialization time.

The day will begin with a short business meeting followed by the "On the

Streets Where They Lived: Exploring the Riches Hidden in Massachusetts Town Records" presentation by Joy Hennig and Charlene Sokal.

Hennig is Worcester Public Library's local history and genealogy librarian. Sokal is the former Worcester Public Library's reference supervisor and genealogist.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in this presentation. Attendees are encouraged to bring along a friend(s), as well as your own non-alcoholic beverage,

munchies will be provided. Anyone bringing goodies to share will receive an extra door prize ticket. Membership is encouraged for anyone pursuing the hobby, passion, or profession of genealogy. Yearly membership is only \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family living in the same household.

Please note that parking isn't allowed in the "green" areas (further from the door). Note your space number and pay for parking at the outdoor kiosk (credit cards accepted) before entering the

library. Arrive early to avoid the lines at the parking kiosk. Some on-street parking may be available as well.

Questions? Contact: Nancy Schultzberg, publicity chairperson, at (774) 573-9529. For more information about the Worcester Chapter of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, visit our website: www.massachusettsocietyofgenealogists.org or www.msoginc.org.

McDonalds incident closes playscape

SPENCER — First responders acted fast last week to prevent further injuries to a distressed child in a fast food restaurant playground structure.

Just before 8 p.m. on Dec. 10, members of the Spencer Fire Department responded to the McDonald's restaurant at 59 West Main St.. Responders from the Spencer Police Department, Spencer Rescue Squad and a mutual aid ambulance staff from Leicester were already at the restaurant, attempting to rescue an injured child from an indoor play place climbing structure.

Firefighters on scene used specialized

equipment to remove a piece of the climbing structure and allow access to the 10-year-old girl, who was trapped 12 feet in the air within the equipment. Firefighters then lowered her to safety via stokes basket and a ground ladder.

The Spencer Rescue Squad provided further assistance to the girl, who suffered a dislocated knee and was taken to the hospital.

Restaurant officials did not respond by press time on whether safety upgrades will be made to the play place equipment following this incident, which remains closed.

LEOS

continued from page 1

with food coming from the Food Bank, Grafton's Community Harvest farm and elsewhere and most of the cooking done by volunteers. In both cases, they serve a few target zip codes in the city, although the food pantry will "serve an emergency one time" before referring them to a pantry in their own area.

"It's just never enough," she added. "If we had hundreds of beds, we'd fill hundreds of beds."

Lisa Courville, a Lions member who is a Leos advisor, said the kids connected to Jeremiah's Inn because they were seeking volunteer opportunities. This was the group's "big endeavor for the month."

"A lot of kids aren't touched by drug abuse or being thrown out of their homes," she said, although many have at least seen people in passing who are affected. "We have handed out bottles as we go down the road."

The idea for this project came largely from Leos advisor Steve Coronas, who said he "saw a group of very fortunate kids and a lot of need. There are some very good life lessons they're learning here."

He noted this Leos group is what's termed an "Alpha Club," in that it's community-based, as opposed to an "Omega Club," which would be school-based.

Courville said several parents and 15 kids formed the Leos group in March

after noticing there really were no groups in town that aimed at getting young people involved in community issues or local government. Since then, they've raised funds to donate a rescue mannequin to the fire department and sat in on the most recent special town meeting, among other things. They plan to partner with Heritage School next year to help its less fortunate families.

"We are a community service organization, and any way we can give back, we will try to," said Spencer Courville, the group's president.

Arduini said the Inn has a lot of things for which they need volunteers. That ranges from having kids from a CCD class cook the meal recently, to donated professional services. Some come weekly or monthly to do a specific thing; for example, she noted they have "the meatloaf guy" and "the taco ladies" who cook weekly.

"We do a lot in the community because the community is willing to do a lot for us," she said. "We get guys from everywhere. If you watch them come in, see how beaten and broken they are," and then see how much they've changed in a few months, it's amazing."

One of the Inn's goals is to reunite families, if possible. They often host supervised visits with state social workers.

"It's amazing to watch. We had a guy who hadn't seen his kid in years be reunited just before he left the program," Arduini said. "These guys are part of the community, and we have to get them back into the community."

materials were also identified during the search.

Both individuals located in the apartment were taken into custody.

Barreto was charged with possession with intent to distribute a class B substance and possession with intent to distribute a class E substance.

Rodriguez, who was found to have an outstanding warrant out for his arrest, was charged with possession of a class B substance.

DRUG ARREST

continued from page 1

Six grams of the substance was identified as well as six vials of Suboxone in a child's bedroom which was claimed by Rodriguez according to officers. Police also searched a vehicle in the parking lot of the apartment building finding 32 Gabapentin pills inside.

Scales and other drug packaging

Friday's Child



Kelsey is a loving sixteen year old girl of Caucasian descent. Kelsey's foster mother describes her as a "giggle puss". If you spend time with her you will quickly see why! She has the biggest smile and an infectious laugh. Kelsey likes to do karaoke, read, and listen to music. One of her favorite singers is "Pink"! Kelsey is in the high school where she receives support in school to help her succeed. Kelsey is diagnosed with Down Syndrome and is thriving in

school! Kelsey enjoys horse back riding, swimming, cooking class, and doing art activities.

Legally freed for adoption, Kelsey has shared she is looking forward to having a mom and a dad. She may want contact in the future with an adult sibling so a family should be open to maintaining this connection. She also will need contact with her brother.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have "a permanent place to call HOME."

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Pets and Santa

Courtesy photos

Friends of Charlton Animal Shelter and Cornerstone Bank held a program last weekend so pets could have their photos taken with Santa. An array of friendly cuddlers, from cats to tortoises managed a moment or two with the big guy.



OBITUARIES

Paul E. Stevens, 79



LEICESTER / CHARLTON- Paul E. Stevens, 79, went to his Heavenly home on Sunday, December 10, 2017 surrounded by his family, after a short illness. Paul was born in Charlton, son of the late Erwin and Jennie (Foskett) Stevens, he graduated from Charlton High School and Berkshire Christian College, married Marjorie E. Thurlow, lived in North Carolina before returning to Charlton to raise his family. He lived in Colorado for some years before moving to Massachusetts. He leaves behind three children, Jonathan and Kim (McDonald) Stevens of Holland, MA., Jennifer and Dennis McGrail of Leicester, with whom he lived; Jesse and Sherry (Rogers) Stevens of Baraboo, WI., eight grandchildren; Julie (Christopher) Stapleton, Jessica (Owen) Curboy, Jenna (Eddie) Rojas, Timothy, Matthew and Jacob McGrail; Solomon and Josiah Stevens; great grandchildren, Christopher, Clayton, Autumn and Dani-Lynn; sisters, Barbara Stevens Sellers Beaty of Keene, TX., Priscilla Stevens of Charlotte, N.C. and numerous brothers and sisters in law, nieces, nephews and cousins. He leaves us to join his wife Margie, and brother Raymond Lee Stevens (formerly of Castle Hayne, N.C.) in waiting for the hope of Christ and His return. Paul

worked as an Advent Christian Pastor, a dairy farmer, and as a truck driver and heavy equipment operator in the construction field. However, he considered it his true life's work and calling to share God's word, and to reach out to help others in any way he could. He did this from the pulpit, on the work site, and everywhere he went. Paul led by example, teaching his family the importance of Faith, family, and hard work. He touched the lives of many, through his faith, kindness, friendship, and generosity, and to all who knew him. In honor of Paul's memory, he and his family ask that you would pay forward any kindness he showed you, and carry on his mission of showing God's love to others. Calling Hours for Paul were Friday, December 15, 2017 from 5-7pm at the ROBERT J. MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd., Charlton. Paul's Funeral Service was on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 12 (Noon) at the Hope Christian Fellowship, 6 Haggerty Rd. in Charlton Burial will be at a later date in West Ridge Cemetery with his beloved Margie. In lieu of flowers, please consider a Memorial Contribution to: Teen Challenge 1315 Main St., Brockton, MA. 02301, or a Charity of your choice. To leave a condolence message or share a memory of Paul, please visit his on line guest book at: RJMillerfunerals.net

Barbara A. (Mallett) Tremblay, 80



CHARLTON - Barbara A. (Mallett) Tremblay, 80, of Stafford Street, died peacefully on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at the Overlook Masonic Health Center in Charlton. She is survived by her daughter, Annemarie Simmons and her husband Kris of Windham, CT; her brother, Ronald Mallett of Florida; her granddaughter, Kelli-Lynn Simmons of Windham, CT; and two great-grand-

sons, Kayden Simmons and Armani Santana, both of Windham, CT. She was predeceased by her companion of 7 years, Albert Nowlan who died in 2011.

She was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Wilfred and Doris (Brunett) Mallett, and was a lifelong resident of Charlton. She worked at American Optical in Southbridge for many years.

At her request, services will be private. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is assisting with the arrangements. To leave a message on her guestbook, please visit paradisfuneralhome.com

Robert R. Dumais, Sr. 91

Robert R. Dumais, Sr., 91, passed away Friday, December 8, 2017.

He was predeceased by his wife, Veronica (Jolly) in 1998.

He is survived by daughter Diane Johnson and her husband Clint of Spencer,

son Robert R. Dumais, Jr. and wife Heather of Charlton;

grandsons Travis Johnson and wife

Kate of North Brookfield,

Myles Johnson and fiancée' Katina of Worcester;

great grandchildren Haley, Ryan and Cody;

and his sister Lorraine Monette of Spencer.

There are no calling hours, burial service will be private.

Brian Cook Catron, 32



CHARLTON- Brian Cook Catron, 32, passed away Saturday, December 9, 2017 at his home.

He is survived by his son Travis Catron and the mother of his son, Jenna Broderick. His mother, Polly Cook-Ortiz of Charlton, his father, Gerald Catron of Rio Rancho, New Mexico and step father, David Toupin of Spencer, 5 siblings; Ben Catron, Gregory Toupin, Julie Toupin, Jamie Toupin and Jarrod Catron. He also leaves behind many aunts and uncles and his dog "Bella".

Brian also leaves his paternal grandparents, Bruce and Janice Catron of TN. He was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, John and Gretchen Cook of Charlton.

Brian was born and raised in Charlton and graduated from Shepherd Hill

Regional High School. He was a beloved son, brother and father. He loved to listen to music, attending shows and festivals with his friends.

He loved being a dad, and also loved to go fishing and camping with friends. Overall, the love he had for his dog Bella.

He was a Union member of Local#33 roofer union and worked for Greenwood Industries.

Calling Hours were Saturday, December 16, 2017 from 5-8 pm at the ROBERT J. MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd., Charlton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Boston Children's Hospital, 300 Longwood Ave., Boston, MA. 02115.

To leave a condolence or share a memory of Brian, please visit his on line guest book : RJMillerfunerals.net

Timothy M. Griffith, 55



SOUTHBRIDGE- Timothy M. Griffith, 55, of Charlton St., passed away on Sunday, Aug. 13th, in his home after a sudden illness.

He leaves his two brothers, Don P. Griffith

of Southbridge and Peter Griffith of Southbridge; three sisters, Joyce Smith of Southbridge, Charlene Albetski of Charlton and Christine Hebert of Southbridge; his close friend, Jeanie Johnson and her daughter Amanda of Southbridge; his business partner, Scott Benoit; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two brothers, Brian J. Griffith and Daniel A. Griffith, and a sister, Nancy Griffith. Tim was born in Southbridge the son of the late Coy R. and Jacqueline C. (Richer) Griffith. He was a graduate of

Southbridge High School and attended UMass Amherst.

Tim was a co-owner and operator of the Colonial Copy Shop in Southbridge. He previously worked for G & F Industries in Sturbridge and Flexcon in Spencer. He was an avid reader. He also enjoyed music, he played the guitar and sang. Tim was his Mother's caregiver for several years before her passing. He had many friends and will be remembered for his great sense of humor.

A graveside service for Tim will be held on Thursday, Dec. 28th at 1:00pm in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge is directing the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, 18251 Quantico Gateway Drive, Triangle, VA 22172.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

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

CALENDAR

Thursday, December 28

NEW YEAR'S AT COMMUNITY CENTER: Join us for our New Year's Party at the Holland Community Center, 40 Brimfield Road, Holland on Thursday, Dec. 28. Lunch served at noon. The Friends of Seniors are sponsoring a delicious menu being catered by Diane's Villa Nova and it's all FREE! You will have your choice of prime rib, chicken, or swordfish and an assortment of sides. Mocktails and dessert included.

Call (413) 245-3163 or email the Center at HollandCommunityCenter@gmail.com to make your reservation today!

Friday, December 29

BRIMFIELD SENIORS: The Brimfield Senior Center is celebrating the New Year with a Noon Year's Eve Party on Dec. 29 from 10 a.m.-1p.m. The Center will magically transform into a nightclub atmosphere complete with a variety show performance by the Amazing Motion Man aka Jody Scalise. Jody delights with precision pantomime, lyrical movement, giant bubbles, juggling

balls, sleight of hand, floating hats and so much more. Your meal will be hosted by the Friends of the Brimfield Senior Center and include roast beef, ending with great desserts. At noon, the "Ball" will come down as we gather for a rousing "Auld Lang Syne" and toast in the New "Noon" Year. December birthdays will be celebrated. Plan on arriving at the Center between 10 a.m. & 10:15 as the show will start promptly at 10:30 a.m. The Suggested donation for this event is \$5. Please RSVP no later than Dec. 26. The Senior Center is located in the 1st Congregational Church, 20 Main St., Brimfield, 413-245-7253. This event is being sponsored by The Friends of the Brimfield Senior Center.

Monday, January 1

FIRST DAY HIKE! Enjoy a First Day Hike Monday, Jan. 1 2018, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Heins Farm Conservation lands, parking at 197 Leadmine Road. Join Frost members Denise and Richard on this guided hike, exploring our newly opened Mt Laurel trail. Hike is about three miles long & will last about three hours. Older children welcome & dogs on leash. Dress for the weather & snow on trails. Bad snow-storm weather will cancel. Bring your

water bottle & snow shoes if deep snow!

ONGOING

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: On the third Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. at the Overlook SuIndependent 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.

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.

POLICE LOGS

Charlton Police Department

Arrests/Summons

Editor's Note: The information contained in this police log was obtained through public documents kept by the police department, and is considered to be the account of the police. All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Police agencies can no longer print the names of people who are arrested or charged with domestic assault related charges. The new law is designed to protect victims, so they are not re-victimized through indirect identification. December 10-16

Thomas Joseph of Hampden: leaving the scene of property damage accident
Ryan Hayden of Charlton: unlicensed operation of MV
Patrick Leonard of Charlton: allowing an uninsured MV on a public way, two counts

Georgia McKinstry of Rochdale: operating MV with a suspended license
Perez Ayala of Providence, RI: leaving the scene of property damage accident.

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EDITORIAL

Let there be peace...

We are here just three days before the biggest holiday in the Christian calendar, the birth. It is a joyous time, and meant as time for families to unite (or reunite), for good will toward one another, for charity, for hope, and also for meditation and prayer; for reflection and perhaps even repentance.

The end of the cyclical year, the dead of winter; the end of days for those who go by the seasonal year as the Solstice ends the solar calendar with the shortest day of the year and begins a slow climb toward more light.

Those who live in an even darker, colder climate than New England were the ones who lit a log in commemoration of this, the hope the light would come back, that the people would stay warm enough through the rest of the dark winter to survive.

Many traditions are based on even older traditions, adapted to new uses.

We don't mind at all, but we would like to see some revived.

The one that says for just a few days, we forgive one another our differences, no matter what they may be. We don't need to know what it is we fear about one another that makes it an "us" and a scary "them." We just need to be a people. A single entity. Just for now.

We need to erase imaginary lines drawn on maps and globes. We need to forget anyone actually "owns" dirt. Or air. Or water.

We don't. We borrow for a few years. It then reverts or moves on to another form and to another "owner." We carry more dust that belongs to us on the soles of our shoes that we can claim ownership to than the acres we fight over on man-drawn papyrus.

We need to learn to say...enough. We own enough, we have enough, we've had enough, that's enough...

The wealth of the world is skewed true, and no, we don't expect it ever to be equalized; nor should it be spread about without someone doing their fair share to earn a bit of it; work is rewarded not existence. But on the other hand, when the world is producing enough food to feed itself easily yet there are people starving, when there are people without housing or clothing in a world as rich as ours, there is something wrong with the economies of the countries.

Health care, education, food, basic needs, are not rights true, at least not now in our country at this time in history (and before you hit us with the education one, re-examine the criteria now being set for voc-tech schools, charter schools and public schools and tell us again how we all have a right to basic education).

A lot of it has to do with the gap between the costs of goods and services and the wages that have not risen had the same rate as those costs. A person making \$1 an hour in 1957 was living better than his counterpart at \$10 an hour now.

Our expectations of having someone else do the hard stuff is skewed too. We have attempted to give our power to the politicians, the ones in charge, the Powers That Be, the bosses. We want to keep our heads down, do our thing and not take any responsibility. It's someone else's problem, so we can just complain, not be part of the solution.

Which brings us full circle. If we aren't responsible, if we aren't the ones to reach out first, to say we will help, we will talk, we will ask, we will find out, we will fix, we will try... who will?

And if we want a bit of peace, we first need a bit of disturbance, of our own conscience.

OPINION

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

The Constitution deals with sexual abuse in Congress

According to the media members of Congress of both major political parties are dropping like flies to a fly-swatter in a barn: Senator Al Franken, C o n g r e s s m e n John Conyers, Ruben Kihuen, Blake Farenthold, Joe Barton, Trent Franks, Alcee Hastings, in the last 30 days. All are accused of sexually abusing women, some recent, some years ago. The Constitution deals with misbehaving members of Congress when followed fully.



LIBERTY UNDER FIRE
 DR. HAROLD PEASE

Unfortunately, with the disclosure of these seven also came the exposure of the existence of a secret funding source for members of Congress accused of sexual harassment and other work-place discretions created under the Congressional Review Act of 1995. Since 1997, the fund has paid at least \$15 million to settle complaints. Congressman Blake Farenthold is the first member of Congress confirmed to have benefited from it receiving \$84,000 in taxpayer dollars in 2014 to settle a sexual harassment lawsuit with a former aide. We will have many other disclosures to rise to the expenditure of \$15 million. A fund to potentially hide immoral activities is completely unconstitutional. It also removes a deterrent to transgression.

So how does the Constitution deal with misbehaving members of Congress? It begins with the morality of the electorate. John Adams, a Founding Father and second president of the United States, identified the first principle of a republic where a king does not dictate good or evil, but the participants in that government bridle their "human passions" through "morality and religion," left unbridled, he said, they "would break the strongest cords of our Constitution." He ended a lengthy paragraph on the topic with, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

At least nine other Founders expressed similar opinions. George Washington in his "Farewell Address" wrote: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion."

In their time, none denied the relationship between morality, religion, God and justice. When morality is situational, as it seems to be for so many today, this link is broken and one depends upon his own wisdom alone. There is no "appealing to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding," as expressed by Benjamin Franklin in the Constitutional Convention. As Washington once said, "Government is like fire, a dangerous servant and a fearful master." Unprincipled government can do much damage as it has to the Constitution for years.

We expect those we elect to govern to have strong moral fiber and to have their human passions fully bridled. If they are still struggling with the base, hedonistic, animalistic and adulterous elements of themselves, such as is reported of these mem-

bers of Congress, how can we expect them to make laws for the people based upon righteousness and justice? How can they discern such?

So the first constitutional principle is the election of persons to govern who demonstrate moral fiber. Moral bankruptcy usually starts long before one is a member of Congress. Al Franken demonstrated this by his choice of material as a professional comedian. Women complained of the sexually abusive behavior of John Conyers decades ago. Once this is known and confirmed, he should not be reelected. When the people themselves are morally bankrupt and do not care about the philandering of their favorite, as in the second election of President Bill Clinton, then such, as Adams said, breaks "the strongest cords of our Constitution."

Returning to the principle of electing only those with strong moral fiber, and zero tolerance for those who do not, will eliminate most, if not all, predatory behavior in Congress.

Once manifested two parts of the Constitution come into play to isolate the damage. Each House is to be the judge "of the Elections, Returns and Qualification of its own Members" making certain that it is the will of voters and that will was fairly derived (Article I, Section 5, Clause 1). But neither House can constitutionally rejudge behavior that is known to voters addressed during the campaign after the expression of the people, should any of the seven run and win in 2018.

Also, each House may "punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member" (Article I, Section 5, Clause 2). In this they deal with behavior occurring after being seated such as sexual harassment. So let the Ethics Committee of both houses deal with the accused.

But the Constitution has one more check. At least six of the seven accused of sexual abuse face their constituents in eleven months to be judged by them and reelected or not. Their best behavior is likely pending that outcome. Let these two constitutional filters do their work not media trials that only serve the vengeful and are too politicized to be fair.

If the above does not end predatory sexual behavior in Congress the Constitution can be said to be broken, as Adams said, at least on curbing immorality of its leaders. The disclosures are serious; still, we need to be reminded that there are 535 members of Congress and most bridle their "human passions" but the seven, who presumably do not, are seven too many.

Dr. Harold Pease is a syndicated columnist and an expert on the United States Constitution. He has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers and applying that knowledge to current events. He taught history and political science from this perspective for over 30 years at Taft College. Newspapers have permission to publish this column. To read more of his weekly columns, please visit www.LibertyUnderFire.org.

Time to review your investment strategy for the year



FINANCIAL FOCUS
 JEFF BURDICK

As the year draws to a close, it's a good time to review your progress toward your financial goals. But

on what areas should you focus your attention?

Of course, you may immediately think about whether your investments have done well. When evaluating the performance of their investments for a given year, many people mistakenly think their portfolios should have done just as well as a common market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 500. But the S&P 500 is essentially a measure of large-company, domestic stocks, and your portfolio probably doesn't look like that - nor should it, because it's important to own an investment mix that aligns with your goals, risk tolerance and return objectives. It's this return objective that you should evaluate over time - not the return of an arbitrary benchmark that isn't personalized to your goals and risk tolerance.

Your return objective will likely evolve. If you are starting out in your career, you may need your portfolio to be oriented primarily toward growth, which means it may need to be more heavily weighted toward stocks. But if you are retiring in a few years, you may need a more balanced allocation between stocks and bonds, which can address your needs for growth and income.

So, assuming you have created a long-term investment strategy that has a target rate of return for each year, you can review your progress accordingly. If you matched or exceeded that rate this past year, you're staying on track, but if your return fell short of your desired target, you may need to make some changes. Before doing so, though, you need to understand just why your return was lower than anticipated.

For example, if you owned some stocks that underperformed due to unusual circumstances - and even events such as Hurricanes Harvey and Irma can affect the stock prices of some companies - you may not need to be overly concerned, especially if the fundamentals of the stocks are still sound. On the other hand, if you own some investments that have underperformed for several years, you may need to consider selling them and using the proceeds to explore new investment opportunities.

Investment performance isn't the only thing you should consider when looking at your financial picture over this past year. What changed in your life? Did you welcome a new child to your family? If so, you may need to respond by increasing your life insurance coverage or opening a college savings account. Did you or your spouse change jobs? You may now have access to a new employer-sponsored retirement account, such as a 401(k), so you'll need to decide how much money to put into the various investments within this plan. And one change certainly happened this past year: You moved one year closer to retirement. By itself, this may cause you to re-evaluate how much risk you're willing to tolerate in your investment portfolio, especially if you are within a few years of your planned retirement.

Whether it is the performance of your portfolio or changes in your life, you will find that you always have some reasons to look back at your investment and financial strategies for one year - and to look ahead at moves you can make for the next.

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

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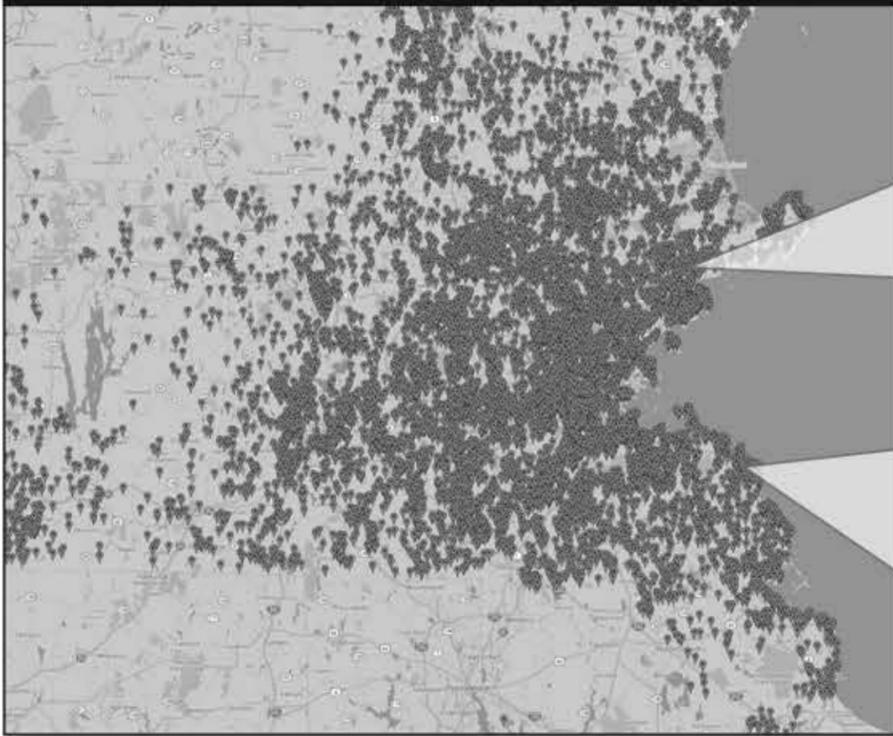
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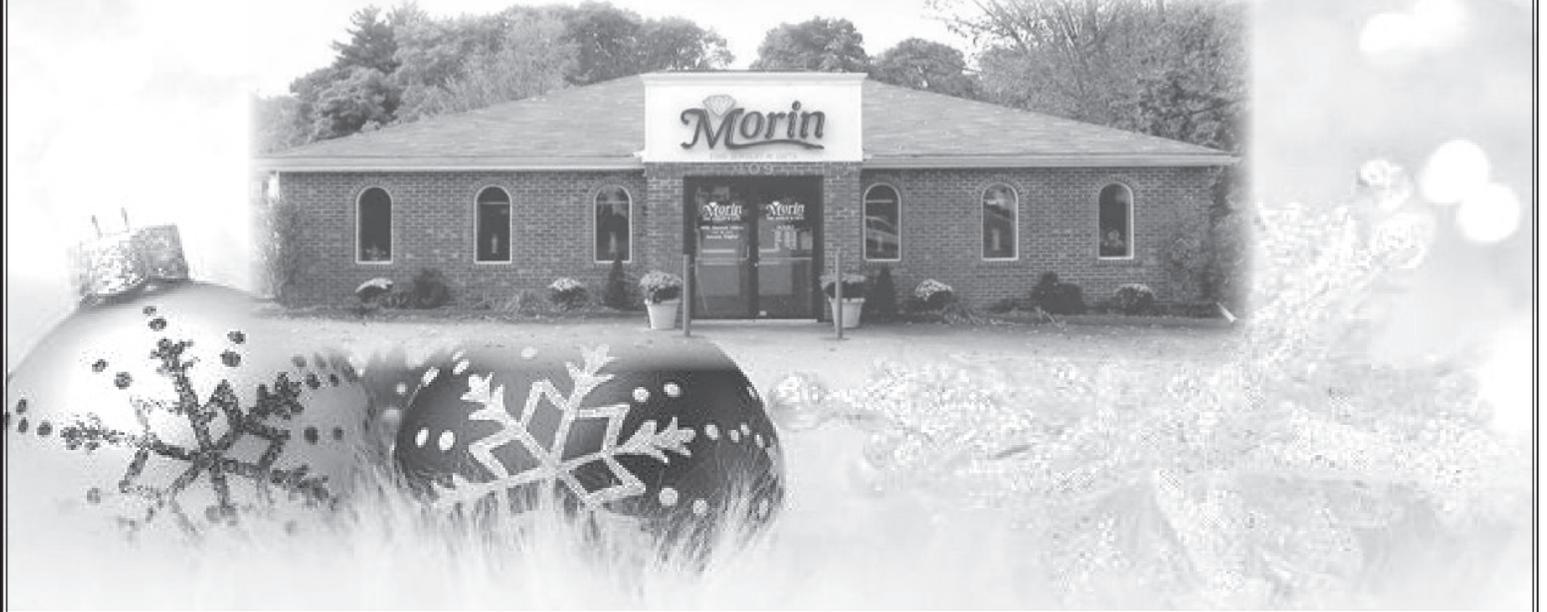
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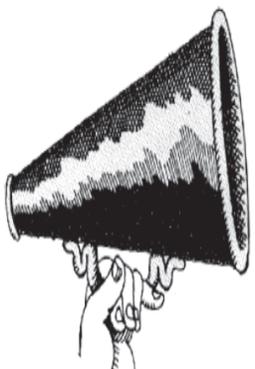
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SPORTS

Rams heat up in home opener, take down Chicopee Comp by 25 points



Shepherd Hill's Molly Springer catches a pass down in the block versus Chicopee Comp.



Shepherd Hill's Bailey Savage pushes a chest pass down the court to her team's offensive end.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Playing at home for the first time all season, the Shepherd Hill Regional girls' varsity basketball team shot accurately and scored early and often, easily defeating Chicopee Comprehensive, 64-39, back on Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Sophomore Isabella Nascimento led the Rams' offense, scoring 15 points on a mixture of drives and jumpers, and one 3-pointer. Junior Molly Springer added 13 points, senior Julia Dandridge had 12 and junior Kayleigh Irish chipped in with 10.

Rounding out the scoring for 3-0 Shepherd Hill was senior Bailey Savage (eight points), junior Reese Hammond (four) and senior Sarah Bellantoni (two).

"This is the best we've shot in this gym in a long time," Rams' head coach Jim Hackenson said. "Everyone shot the ball very well."

Shepherd Hill closed the first quarter by outscoring the Colts down the stretch, 13-3, which enabled the Rams to take a 25-13 lead into the second quarter.

"We were all hyped up to be playing at home," Nascimento said. "Everyone played really well, right from the start of the game. We passed the ball well; we shot the ball well."

Shepherd Hill then scored the first eight points of the second quarter to extend its lead to 33-13. The Rams led, 39-22, at halftime, and 58-28 after three quarters.

Dandridge scored all 12 of her points in the first 10 minutes of the game. She scored

six of the Rams' first eight points and eight of their first 14. Dandridge then scored four of Shepherd Hill's first six second quarter points.

From a points-scored-so-far-this-season perspective, the Rams' game with the Colts could be considered a breakout performance for Dandridge, who scored just four points total in the previous two games. She — and Hackenson — didn't see it that way, though.

"I think it was a combination of things," Dandridge said about scoring in double figures against Comp. "My teammates were doing a great job of getting me the ball — we've been working really hard in practice on our passing — and we all seemed to get a lot of energy out of the fact that this was our first game at home all season."

Hackenson scoffed at the

notion that the game against Chicopee Comp was a "breakout" game for Dandridge.

"It might have been, but I thought she played very well in our first two games also, especially against Grafton," Hackenson said. "But she only scored three points against Grafton and that's what people go by. But I don't go by points; I go by defense and rebounding and passing the ball. Julia's been doing all those things since our first game. It's just that she added scoring tonight and all of a sudden everybody notices she's out there."

Hackenson was happy with Dandridge's point-production against the Colts, however.

"She did start hot; she got off quick and the girls did a good of finding her underneath for the easy shot, and then she stepped out and hit the perime-

ter shot, too," Hackenson said. "I think this game is going to end up being a big-time confidence builder for Julia."

Maybe, maybe not; the bottom line, Dandridge said, is the team scoring, not her.

"It's not all about points to me. If we score as a team, that's the important thing. We have a lot of scorers; someone is always going to be open," Dandridge said. "It's just a matter of who's the most open, who has the best scoring opportunity. I'll gladly pass up a good shot and pass the ball to a teammate who has a better shot."

"It's whatever is easiest for the team," Dandridge added.

"Besides, defense and passing are as important, if not more important, than scoring — to me, anyway."



Isabella Nascimento of Shepherd Hill drives into the lane on Chicopee Comp's defense.



Shepherd Hill's Julia Dandridge elevates a shot up and over a defender from Chicopee Comp.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fall into fitness: Youth sports at the Y

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Tri-Community YMCA, a non-profit organization, is offering kids a great way to stay active and connected with others interested in healthy competition. Choose from a variety of youth sports for both boys and girls of all ages this Fall 2 Session.

Gymnastics: Tuesdays, through Dec. 21 at the YMCA's Gymnasium from 4-5 p.m. Ages 5 years and up. Start with the basics such as balance, coordination, tumbling, stretching and safety — and finish with full routines.

Youth Basketball League: Runs 10 weeks through the end of February, 2018 — Boys and Girls will learn the fundamentals of basketball, good sportsmanship, and most importantly, to have fun! Includes clinics, weekly team practices, games, team shirts and more!

Rock Climbing: Fridays from 6:30-8 p.m. Come try our 20-foot indoor rock wall with five different climbs from beginner to advance. The basics of climbing are reviewed. Come have fun and try out your skills. Free for Members and non-members included in a guest pass.

Cheer: Cheer is here! For Grades K-5 beginning the week of Nov. 13. Practices will be once a week on Thursdays and game times announced by coaches. This session offers a sound foundation for cheer, while learning about team building and the importance of good sportsmanship in a supportive and fun environment. No tryouts or experience required. All divisions are Co-Ed.

For more information on costs and to register, please call (508) 765-5466 or visit tricommunityYMCA.org.

Worcester State University to host catcher, youth baseball coaches clinics

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday, Jan. 15), the Worcester State University baseball program will host two clinics at the new \$52 million wellness center.

The catcher's clinic is from 9 a.m. to noon and is for ages 8-18 with a cost of \$50. It is designed for both the serious catcher plus beginners new to the position.

A free youth baseball coaches clinic follows later that night from 6-8 p.m. This is a lecture-style clinic for adults who coach ages 7-12. The focus is to talk baseball and present drills for coaches to use with their own teams along with how to run a successful

practice inside or outdoors.

Please visit wsulancers.com/camps-clinics and [facebook.com/WSUbaseballclinics](https://www.facebook.com/WSUbaseballclinics) for more information on these clinics and other happening throughout 2018. You can also call (508) 929-8852, (774) 230-3872 or email dbaker1@worchester.edu.

High school basketball coverage to be broadcast on FM airwaves

Beginning Friday, Dec. 8, live coverage of MIAA basketball moves to a new home on FM stations WXR-95.1 and WNRC-97.5, both of Dudley-Webster. These stations allow for a clear signal in the area at night and the opportunity to be on more than one FM outlet at times.

Matt Morway, a 31-year broadcasting veteran and New England Basketball Hall of Famer will continue to provide play-by-play, and he will still be joined by 27-year veteran Pete Geanis, a Gardner High School Hall of Famer. Live sports studio updates will be provided by Danny Dragin.

The broadcasting schedule, which is subject to change based on winter weather, is as follows:

Wednesday, Dec. 27: Shepherd Hill at Fitchburg, 7 p.m. (WXR-95.1)

Friday, Jan. 5: Oxford at Bartlett, 6:30 p.m. (WNRC, 97.5)

Friday, Jan. 12: Tantasqua at Oxford, 6:30 p.m. (WNRC, 97.5)

Monday, Jan. 15: Bartlett at Shepherd Hill, 7 p.m. (WXR-95.1)

Monday, Jan. 22: Leicester at Bartlett, 6:30 p.m. (WXR-95.1)

Tuesday, Jan. 30: Shepherd Hill at Shrewsbury, 7 p.m. (WXR-95.1)

Friday, Feb. 2: Westborough at Shepherd Hill, 7 p.m. (WXR-95.1)

Monday, Feb. 12: Southbridge at Bartlett, 6:30 p.m. (WXR-95.1)

Sunday, Feb. 18: Clark Tournament (TBA)

February School Vacation: Clark Tournament (TBA)

Thursday, March 1: MIAA Tournament (TBA)

Dudley/Charlton women's basketball looking for available players

There will be women's pick-up basketball happening at the Heritage School gym from 7-9 p.m. We play Monday evenings based on school schedule until June. There are no set teams and no fees, so no weekly commitment. Come when you can for some friendly competition and exercise. Must be 18 years of age or older. Please contact Deb at (508) 248-3600 or mzd531@charter.net for more information.

SPORTS

O'Regan helps Byrnes era at Shepherd Hill begin with win over Warriors

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Four players scored in double figures, led by senior Jason O'Regan, who poured in a game-high 24, and the Coach Mike Byrnes Era at Shepherd Hill Regional began with a rousing 89-64 road victory over Tantasqua Regional on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

O'Regan, who scored all but one of his points in the second and third quarters, was followed closely on the score sheet by classmate Danny Cavic, who added 19. Both O'Regan and Cavic connected on four 3-pointers in the game. Fellow senior Kenny Flynn added 15 and junior Cody Adams, a first-year player for the Rams after transferring into the school from Bartlett High, scored 12 points.

"Hopefully that's going to be our game — playing fast, shooting a lot of 3's and crashing the boards," said the 24-year-old Byrnes after making his high school coaching debut. "The team loves the run-and-gun style we're playing and the fact that we're trying to make it a track meet and wear down the opponent."

O'Regan, a self-confessed slow starter in the first game of each season, lived down to expectations against the Warriors by scoring zero points in the first eight minutes.

"Throughout my four years as a varsity player, the first game of every season I've always started out slow," O'Regan said. "First-game jitters, I guess. To start the second quarter though, I knew the jitters were gone and I was ready to go."

Tantasqua head coach Tom O'Neil said that he knew O'Regan would make his presence felt in the game despite not scoring in the first quarter.

"Jason's been a nemesis of ours since he was a freshman," said O'Neil about O'Regan, who scored 12 points in the second quarter and 11 in the third. "He beat us here his freshman year with a 3 late to win the game. He's a real tough player."

Shepherd Hill, behind the play of Cavic and Adams, broke a 6-6 tie midway through the first quarter with a 9-1 spurt. Cavic had seven in the run — six coming on a pair of 3-pointers — while Adams added a steal and a lay-in. The Rams led, 20-14, as play headed into the second quarter.

With O'Regan leading the way in the second period — he had 10 of Shepherd Hill's 12 points in a 12-5 run — the Rams led, 39-26, but the advantage seemed more commanding than 13 points. Byrnes' boys then erased all doubt about the outcome in the third quar-

ter, taking a 65-46 lead into the fourth period.

All 11 of O'Regan's points in the period came consecutively in a span that lasted just over a minute-and-a-half. During that span the score went from 49-36 Shepherd Hill to 60-41 Shepherd Hill.

"It was back and forth for a while, but then they started making shots and we didn't," O'Neil said. "Cavic scoring 13 in the first quarter, we didn't expect that. In the second quarter we started playing hero basketball and guys started taking it on themselves to shoot a lot of shots. Not bad shots, but not the best shot at the time and we shot too quickly."

Tantasqua (0-1) was led by Drew Peretti, who scored 12 points. Hayden Peterson and Chase Freeland added eight points each; Jackson Hall and Evan Couture had seven apiece. Cam Arello and Ethan Brunelle chipped in with five points each.

"In the second half the game just got away from us. We miss a shot and they would hit a layup," O'Neil said. "Miss, layup. Miss, layup. Miss, layup. Also, they made 10 3's in the game and it felt like more. I thought it would be a more competitive game."

O'Regan said he likes the brand

of basketball Byrnes has brought to Shepherd Hill.

"Going up-tempo has been great," said O'Regan, who played in front of a crowd that included scouts from Anna Maria College and Worcester State University. "Last year we were a slow-it-down, play-by-play team and that didn't work out to good for us. This year we want to get the ball off the boards, toss it up to our point guards and get our fast break going."

Byrnes was pleased with O'Regan's start.

"I thought Jason had a good game. I didn't know about how he starts slow to open the season, but that does explain his first quarter," said Byrnes, who runs The Swarm, an AAU basketball program. "We have high expectations for him. He's a captain for us and a leader for these guys. He's been playing very well and he displayed it tonight."

"I thought Danny [Cavic] really led us early and got us going with his big first quarter," added Byrnes, who served as an assistant coach at both WPI and Nichols College before taking the Shepherd Hill job. "He's one of our backbones and he has taken the team on his back."

Minutemen use high-powered offense to get past Auburn

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional boys' varsity basketball head coach Al Greenough said that some nights his team will have to win with offense and other nights it will be the defense that is relied upon. When the Minutemen hosted Auburn High on Tuesday, Dec. 12, it was all about the offensive attack.

Behind 11 made 3-pointers, Bay Path defeated the Rockets, 77-58.

"Offensively we brought it tonight," Greenough said of the Minutemen's fast-paced style.

Bay Path is now 2-0 after defeating Pathfinder Regional in their season opener, 79-31. Defense was the key in that contest, so the Minutemen have already displayed their two ways to win.

"We've won both ways so far this year and as long as they can continue to do so we're very excited about this year and what can happen," said Greenough. "Right now to start the year I couldn't ask for anything more."

Auburn was making its season debut and had trouble scoring in the early going, as they fell into a 34-21 halftime hole that they couldn't dig themselves out of.

"I thought we played with some good energy, but we still have to play with a purpose — and I don't think we know what that is yet as a team," said head coach Andy Niedzwiecki.

Bay Path opened the game on an 8-2 run, which featured 3-pointers by twin brothers Joren and Caiden Ellis. Later in the frame Pat Dyer drained a 3 of his own as the Minutemen led, 20-9, after the first quarter.

Auburn settled into its groove in the second quarter and played nearly equal with Bay Path. The Minutemen edged the Rockets in the frame, 14-12, to lead by a manageable 13 points heading into the third quarter.

But Bay Path had a high-scoring third quarter — "the third quarter they especially shot the heck out of it," noted Niedzwiecki — as they totaled 26 points to Auburn's 18 to lead, 60-39. Dyer had a pair of treys in the quarter, while the Ellis twins each added one more 3-pointer apiece.

The Rockets then won fourth quarter scoring, 19-17, to account for the final 19-point deficit.

"They pressured us, they forced us into mistakes and they made plays that we couldn't make," said Niedzwiecki. "As we keep going hopefully we'll improve a little bit."

Ehmil Johnson (10 points), Tyler Judice (10), Kualim Johnson (9) and Craigon Confer (8) paved the way for the Rockets.

For Bay Path, double-digit scoring totals were had by Caiden Ellis (23 points), Dyer (22 points, 7 rebounds), Joren Ellis (19 points) and Drew Paulhus (11 points, 9 rebounds). The foursome are all seniors, as is fellow starter Kody Sandgren, and the senior leadership excites Greenough for the season.

"I knew going into this year that I had a really experienced group of kids that have been playing together now for four years," he said. "It's the first time since I've been coaching here where we have a full team of Bay Path kids that total an AAU team. It helps out tremendously."

"We want a lot of balanced scoring," added Greenough. "These guys have learned that if we can get four guys, five guys near double figures we're going to be very successful."

And, after an 8-12 season a year ago and missing out on the playoffs, Greenough said that his team has its sights set on going .500 and beyond en route to the Central Mass. Division 4 postseason tournament.

"We want to get into that tournament. They want to go out on a good note," he concluded.



Nick Ethier photos

Drew Paulhus of Bay Path collects a pass on the wing.



Caiden Ellis surveys the floor while possessing the ball.



Tyler Judice of Auburn elevates to shoot a jumper in the lane.



Bay Path's Pat Dyer eyes the basket before taking and making a 3-pointer.



Bay Path's Joren Ellis gets fouled on a drive to the basket.



Auburn's Coleman Picard fights his way to the basket against a pair of Bay Path defenders.



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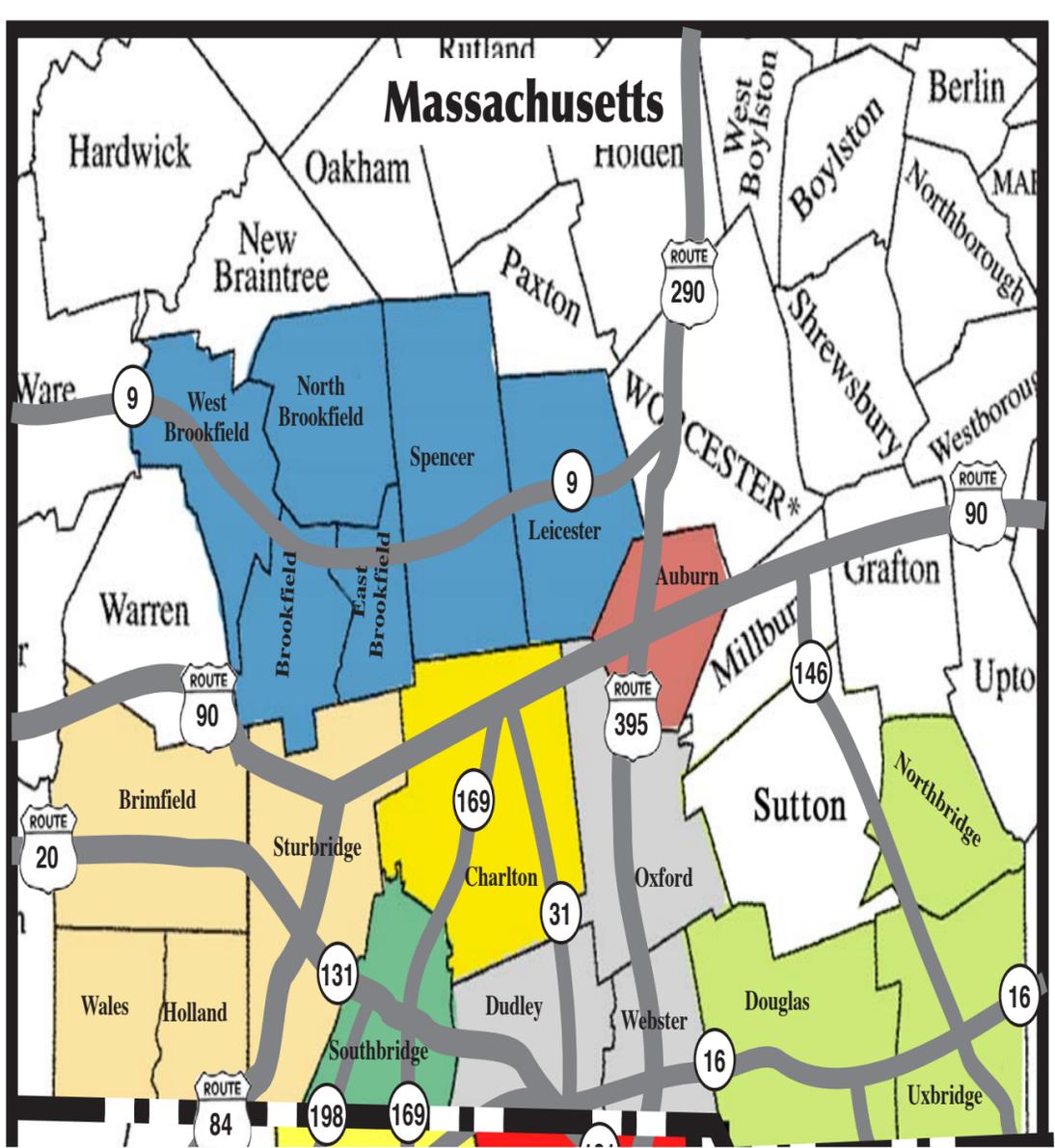
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Festive fun and holiday help is a click away

Along with the joys of preparing for the most merry time of year, come holiday hassles that prove the festive "hustle and bustle" isn't always that of Christmas carol fame. With so much to do and so little time, it's more important than ever to tap into available holiday resources. And when it comes to helpful ideas and festive fun, there's no place like the internet.

From organizing pre-holiday chores to printing out a letter to Santa, this week's column offers its annual pick of tried and true websites to help you celebrate the season with less holiday hassle.

Holiday Hustle Buster: OrganizedChristmas.com is like having your own holiday life coach. From designating particular weeks for each pre-holiday chore (cooking, cleaning, wrapping, etc.) to offering tools for each task (recipes, printable gift tags, etc.), this site just might help you pull off your yuletide preparations on time this year!

Note: List writers will love the site's printable holiday planner forms.

Name that Tune: You'll never flub up the lyrics to Good King Wenceslas again if you log onto Christmas-carols.net. The site features the words to many classic Christmas Carols and holiday tunes.

Note: Some hard-to-find old fashioned carols are listed here.

Fun with St. Nick: Emailsanta.com is a treasure trove of fun for kids. From

writing a letter to Santa to sending your pet's email to Rudolf, this site is pure holiday joy! Some other free offerings; play Rudolf's Christmas trivia; get Santa's autograph; send Christmas cards; count down to Christmas; laugh at silly elf jokes and more.

Note: This site is educational and fun. Plus it keeps the kids busy for quite a while

Recipe for Success: Can't find a recipe for that cookie you recall from childhood? Searching for a special recipe for a cookie exchange? Whether you're seeking a particular cookie recipe or just want to roll out a tried and true favorite, Christmas-Cookies.com has recipes for everything from Mexican Wedding Cake cookies to classic butter spritz. Plus, the site has reviews and blogs from users, and some great baking tips.

Note: Recipes include ethnic recipes and low carb cookies.

Holiday Heroine: Among the array of activities at www.northpole.com, is the opportunity to print out a personalized holiday storybook for youngsters. You create the book by filling in personalized names, etc., then use step by step instructions to print out and assemble the pages, including cover and back. Choose from: Elf for a Day; Christmas Eve Clean-up; or North Pole Christmas



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Party. Note: Check out their Good Deed Calendar to keep kids on track.

Where's Santa?: OK, so this one makes the list every year. But it's one not to miss! Want to know exactly when Santa Claus is coming to town? Log

onto www.noradsanta.org. Fabulous graphics make it festive. Tracking Santa across the globe begins on December 1.

Note: High tech tracking of Kris Kringle might appear a modern marvel, but the premise has been a tradition for more than half a century. Here's the story: Since 1955, NORAD and its predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) have tracked Santa each year. The tradition began after a Sears Roebuck & Co. store advertisement for children to call Santa on a special "hotline" included an inadvertently misprinted telephone number. Instead of Santa, the phone number put kids through to the CONAD Commander-in-Chief's operations "hotline." Thus, a tradition was born.

Not a Creature was Stirring: From eggnog to Wassail, you'll be able to whip up the best yuletide drinks in style if you log onto the free Online Bartending School at www.cocktailsonline.tv/. Over 170 free cocktail recipes and mixed drinks are offered; many with instructional preparation videos from professional bartenders.

Note: The site also offers interesting

cocktail trivia and some entertaining tips.

Crafty Christmas: Want to whip up a homemade hostess gift? Need a craft project to keep the kids occupied? Look no further than www.aboutchristmas-crafts.com. This site features an array of interesting crafts which include edible crafts, Christmas gift crafts, kids crafts and much more.

Note: Instructions are easy and projects are impressive. Some have free patterns.

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



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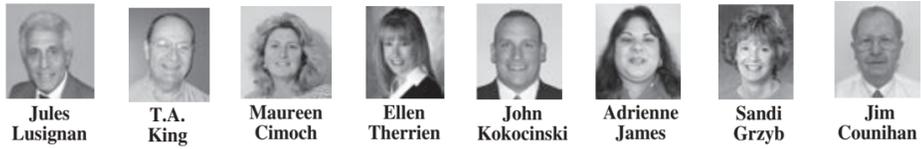


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SOLD

GRAFTON - 23 Maplewood Dr! Unique 5 Rm Brick Ranch! 3 Bdrms! Corner Lot! Enjoy the Convenience of One Floor Easy Access Living! Kit w/Breakfast Bar! Fireplace! Liv Rm! Din Area! Master Bdrm w/Full Bath! 2 Baths! Florida Rm! Private Back Yard! Attached 2 Car Garage! **\$289,900.00**

SOLD

LEICESTER - 2 Logan St! Beautifully Updated 6 Rm Split Entry Set on Nicely Landscaped 1/2 Acre! Stainless Appliance Kit w/ Granite Tile Counter Opening to Dining Area & Liv Rm! Fam Rm plus 2 Bdrms or 3 Bdrms! Full Tile Bath! Sunroom w/Wall AC! Hrdwd Flrs Throughout! **\$239,900.00**

SOLD

CHARLTON - 2 Pottamkin Hill Rd! Nice Updated 7 Rm Split! 32Acre Corner Lot! SS Appliance Kit w/Center Isl, Cathedral & Skylight! Din Rm w/Slider to 12x16 Deck! Cathedral Liv Rm w/Brick Frplc & Pellet Stove! 3 Bdrms! 2 Full Baths, Whirlpool Tub! Frplc Fam Rm! Garage! **\$289,900.00**

SOLD

EAST BROOKFIELD - 554 Podunk Rd! 5 Rm Cape! 1.5 Acres! 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths! New & Recent Features! Open Fr Plan! Granite Kit! SS Appliances! 1st Flr Hrdwds! Master Bath & Walk-in Closet! Natural Woodwork! Patio w/Hot Tub! Fruit Trees! Recent Roof & Windows! New Garage Door! **\$247,900.00**

NEW PRICE!

WEBSTER - 8 Oakwood Dr! 12 Rm Hip Roof 5,165' Custom Colonial on 1 Acre w/ In-ground Pool! Formal Din & Liv Rm! Frplc Fam Rm & Frplc Den! Master Suite! Master Bath! 6 Bdrms! 3 Full & 2 Half Baths! Hrdwds & Wall to Wall! C/Air! In-law Potential! 2 Car Garage! **\$499,900.00**

NEW PRICE!

STURBRIDGE - 13 Main St! Work & Live Here! Completely Remodeled! "Turn Key" 1st Flr Boony Salon w/Chair, Handicapped Bdrm, Ka, Gas Heat! 2nd Flr - Appliance Kit, Liv Rm, 2 Bdrms, 1.5 Baths, New Oil Furnace! 13 Parking Spaces! 2 Car Garage! Sep Utilities! Town Services! Rte 20, 84 & 90! **\$329,900.00**

SOLD

AUBURN - 5 Pinedale Rd! Updated 7 Rm, 4 Bdrm Cape! Appliance Cabinet! Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Hrdwds! 1.8 Rm w/22 Liv Rm out to 14x20 Deck! 1st Flr 2 Bdrms w/ Laminate Flrs! Recent Full Bath! 2nd Flr w/2 Bdrms w/Laminate Flrs! Laundry w/ Washer & Dryer! 2 Sheds! Town Services! **\$222,900.00**

SOLD

DUDLEY - 36 Fish Rd! 7 Rm Raised Ranch w/Huge Split Level Cathedral Ceiling Family Rm w/Skylights! Open Cathedral Ceiling Kit w/Din & Living Rms w/Skylights! 3 Bdrms! Master Bath! 3 Full Baths! Huge Steel I Beam Clear Span 2 Car Garage! 1.1 Acres! Oil Heat! Shed! **\$299,900.00**

SOLD

DUDLEY - 20 Williams St! Nice 7 Rm Cape w/3 Car Garage! SS Appliance Kit w/Oak Cabinets & Corian Counters! Frplc Liv Rm & Din Rm w/Hrdwds! Sunroom w/Hot Tub/Skylights! 3 Bdrms! Master Bath & Walk-in Closet! 2 Tile Bathrooms! Buderus Furnace! Town Services! Fenced Backyard! **\$244,900.00**

ON DEPOSIT

LEICESTER - 36 Boyd St! Spacious 3 Fam! 6/6 Rms! 3/3 Bdrms! Investment or Owner Occupied! Quiet Residential Neighborhood! Corner Lot! Open Din/Liv Rms, Eat-in Kits w/Pantries & Laundry! Sep Utilities! Roofs, Gutters & Downspouts 2017! Garage & Shed! Off St Parking! Well Maintained! **\$330,000.00**

SOLD

DOUGLAS - 93 Monroe St! 10.97 ACRES! Updated 1867 8 Rm Farmhouse! Flexible Floor Plan! Loads of Charm! Frplc Liv Rm! Fam Rm w/ Cathedral! Slider to Deck! Din Rm! 4 Bdrms! 2 Baths! 2 Car Attached Garage! Additional 3 BAY, 50x85', GARAGE BUILDING! **\$594,500.00**

SOLD

DUDLEY - 7 Kayla Lane! 8 Rm Colonial Set On 1.84 Acres! Appliance Granite Kit! Frplc Dining Rm! Living Rm w/ Hrdwds! Cathedral Ceiling Family Rm! 3 Bedrooms! Spacious Master, Master Bath! 2.5 Baths! 1st Floor Laundry! Farmers Porch! Deck! Attached 2 Car Garage! **\$359,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER - 9-11 Lyndale Ave! 8 Rm Colonial w/Greenhouses! Eat-in Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm Open to Living Rm w/ Wood Floors! Full Bath! Den w/Built-ins! 4 Large Bedrooms on 2nd Floor! Nice Level Lot! Walking Distance to Center of Webster! Town Services! Rte. 395 Near! Walk to Schools & Churches! **\$114,900.00**

SOLD

CHARLTON - 44 Oxford Rd! 8 Rm Colonial w/Farmers Porch! 1.38 Acres! New Quartz Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm w/Hrdwds! Frplc Fam Rm w/Hrdwds! Spacious Liv Rm! 4 Bdrms! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths! Total! 16x30 Deck! 2 Car Garage! Shed! 2016 Roof! Many Updates! **\$344,900.00**

NEW PRICE!

OXFORD - 74 Walnut St! 5 Rm Ranch! Central Location w/Good Size Level Yard! 2 Bdrms w/rd Possible! Full Bath! Hrdwds Liv Rm & Bdrms! Cedar Closet! Basement w/2 Finished Rms! Vinyl Siding! Older Replacement Windows! Deck! A/C Pool! Shed! Cosmetics! Needs! **\$179,900.00**

ON DEPOSIT

WEBSTER - 42 Cushing Rd! 7 Rm Ranch! Cabinet Kit w/SS Appliances & Tile Flr! Dining Area w/Corner Hutch! Frplc Liv Rm w/Hrdwds! 3 Bdrms! Master Bath! Full Bath w/Tile Flr! Den w/New Carpet! New Electrical Service! Partially Finished Basement! Garage! Screened Porch! Shed! Town Services! **\$239,900.00**

ON DEPOSIT

WEBSTER - 141 Gore Rd! Rte 161 1.88 Acres! Prime Exposure! Business Opportunities! Zoned Commercial! 185' Road Frontage! 183x2' 4 Car Garage! 120x2' Workshop! 7 Rm Colonial! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! Din/Liv Rm w/Hrdwds! Sided! NEW FURNACE! Needs! Updates to Electrical & Cosmetics! **\$109,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 294 Kildeer Island! North Pond! 62' Waterfront! Panoramic Views! 8 Rm Colonial! Kit w/Double Oven! GLEAMING Hrdwd Flrs! 4 Bdrms! 2 Full Baths! 14x20 Trex Deck! Newly Painted! Prof Landscaped! Fenced Yard! Plenty of Docks Included! **\$524,900.00**

NEW PRICE!

WEBSTER LAKE - 10 Kenneth Ave! South Pond! Sandy Shoreline! 9 Rm Contemp Ranch, 3 Bdrms! 3 Baths! Lake Views from Most Rooms! Hrdwd & Tile Flrs Throughout! Brunan Custom Granite Kit w/Cherry Cabinets! 1st Flr Office! Master w/New Bath! Frplc Fam Rm! Deck w/Custom Bar! 2 Car Garage! **\$639,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 60 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 52' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Panoramic Lake Views! 8 Rms, 3 Bdrms, A/C'd, Ranch! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Din Rm w/Hrdwds & Slider to Waterfront Deck w/Awning! Lake Facing Frplc Liv Rm w/Cathedral, Skylight & Hrdwds! Comfortable Master Bdrm! Frplc Lower Level Fam Rm! 2 Car Garage! **\$749,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 82 Lakeside Ave! South Pond! Prime 157' Waterfront w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Panoramic Lake Views! 10+ Rm, 4 Bdrm, 4.5 Bath, A/C'd, 3,832' Custom Colonial! Lake Facing Quartz Kit w/Heated Flr! Din Area w/Custom Wall Unit & Slider to Waterfront Deck w/Elect Awning! Frplc Liv Rm! Din Rm w/Tray Ceiling! Lake Facing Master w/Master Bath! Upstairs 3 Bdrms, 2 Lake Facing! Lower Level Fam Rm w/2nd Kit, Sauna & Full Bath! 3 Car Attached, 1 Car Detached! Security! Generator! Boat House! **\$1,195,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - Reid Smith Cove WATERFRONT LOT! South Shore Rd! Build Your Dream Home or Summer Retreat! Set on Quiet Road, Surrounded by Woods! Sloping Lot Down to Level Waterfront! 7,200' Lot! 57' on the Water & Road! Town Water & Sewer Available! **\$229,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 30 S. Point Rd! 91' Waterfront! Yr Rd 7 Rm Colonial! Ideal 2nd Home! Panoramic Views of South Pond! NEW Kit w/Din! Frplc Din & Liv Rm w/Lake Facing Picture Window! 3 Bdrms! Walkout Lower Level w/Fam Rm w/Summer Kit! NEW Int. Paint! Recent Roof & Siding! **\$349,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 55 Colonial Rd! South Pond! 105' Level Waterfront! Western Expo! Awesome Sunsets! 10 Rm Contemp! Pano Lake Views Most Rms! Open Fr Plan! Frplc Liv Rm! 4 2nd Flr Bdrms, 3 Lake Facing! Master Bath! 2.5 Remodeled Baths! 2 Car Garage! Dock! Add Lot Across St! Recent Roof! **\$599,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 33 Beacon Rd! 6 Rms, 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths! 141' Waterfront! 12,458' Lot w/Plenty of Privacy! Kit, Master Bdrm, Master Bath, Roof & Windows New in 2013! Enjoy Sunsets from Wrap-around Porch! Beautiful Lake Views! Frplc Liv Rm! SS Appliances C/Air! 2 Car Garage! **\$519,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 48 Laurehdorf Dr! Reid Smith Cove! One of the Lake's Best Lots! Beautiful 10 Rm, 3,686' Contemp! 104' Waterfront, 228' Rd Frontage, 33,628 Sq. Ft. or 77 Acres! The Best on Market! Gradual Sloped Lawn to Beach/Shore! Private Rd w/Woods Across Street! Location, Slope to Water, View & Exposure, Things You Can't Change. After that it's One's Imagination! Front, Back & Side Yards, Space to Room, Entertain, Park & Expand! Main Level, White & Black Granite Kit, Center Isl w/Gas Range & Sink, Wall Ovens! Din Area! Lake Facing Din Rm! Frplc Liv Rm w/Cathedral Open to Sun Rm w/Water View! Lake Facing Office/Possible 4th Bdrm! Half Bath! Upstairs, 3 Bdrms, 2 Bathrooms! Amazing Lake Facing Master, Bath w/Whirlpool, Steam Shower, Dbie Vanity, Cathedral w/Skylight & Laundry! Walk-out Lower Level w/ Frplc Fam Rm, Summer Kit & 3rd Full Bath, 3.5 Total! C/Air! Gas Heat! 2 Car Garage & More! **\$1,100,000.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 18 Bates Crossing! South Pond! Beautiful Sunrises! Huge Eastern Exposure! 8 Rm, 3,100' Custom Contemporary! 2.43 Acres! Substantial Privacy! Home Features Endless Possibilities! Open Fr Plan w/Magnificent Views from Every Rm! 3 Bdrms, 3 Baths, Cathedral Ceilings w/Skylights! European Kit w/Center Isl! Modern Frplc Liv Rm w/Glass Sliders Open to Waterfront Balcony! Master Bdrm w/en-suite Bath, Separate Shower, Jacuzzi Tub, Walk-in Closet & Attached Laundry! Lower Level Bdrms Share Private Bath! C/Air! Attached Garage w/Work Space! Detached 2 Car Heated Garage w/Workshop! Greenhouse! Panoramic Lake & Estuary Views! **\$950,000.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 901 Treasure Isl! Prime Beachfront! Townhouse! 6Rms! 1,874' Open Floor Plan! Appliance Granite Kit w/Hrdwds! Din & Liv Rms w/Hrdwds! 2 Bdrms! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths! Frplc Fam Rm w/Tile Flr! Recent Chair, Gas Heat & Windows! Trex Deck! Garage! BOAT SLIP! Heated Pool! **\$424,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 334 Kildeer Island! Middle Pond! South Facing! Well Maintained! 7 Rm Colonial! Appliance! Oak Kit! Din Rm w/Hrdwds! Cathedral Ceiling! Liv Rm w/Sunroom! Overlooking Lake! Lake Facing Master Suite, Master Bath! 3Bdrms! 2 Baths! Sandy Beach! **\$469,900.00**

SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE - 60 Lakeside Ave! 100' Waterfront! Huge Views of South Pond! Western Exposure - Fantastic Sunsets! In Time for Summer! 5 Rooms of Rustic Charm! Real Log Summer Cottage! 10,924' Lot Allows for Room to Expand! Remodel! 1st Tear it Down! Build New! **\$359,900.00**

Open House Directory

(C) Condo	(X) Condo	(M) Multi-Family	(T) Townhouse
(B) Business	(U) Duplex	(S) Single Family	(D) Adult Community
(P) Land	(L) Mobile Home	(A) Apartment	(W) Waterfront

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DUDLEY

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 1/2 acre lot, 1,000 sq. ft., Cathedral ceilings,
 Totally appliance Kitchen, 2 car garage, Furnished Family Room and rough plumbed for a second bath. Easy highway access, to Rtes 395, 20 Mass Pike and 146

2 Laurel Ln ~ \$249,900

DUDLEY

Tobin Farm Estates

2.5 Acre Lot \$70,000
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Webster: Duplex, 6 rooms and 2 baths each side, town services, 2 car garage

41 Thompson Rd ~ \$239,900

NEW PRICE

Webster: 3 bedrooms each unit, Siding, roof, windows are 10 years old, 1 car garage

50 Lake St ~ \$174,900

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

<p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23</p> <p>9:00 p.m. PERSONS OF INTEREST Acoustic cover rock band 308 LAKESIDE 308 East Main St. East Brookfield, MA 774-449-8333</p> <p>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY Buffet dinner, D.J. and continental breakfast 7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. \$30 per person For reservations call 508-832-2769 AMERICAN LEGION TUTTLE POST #279 88 Bancroft St., Auburn, MA</p> <p>RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH DJ SEAN MURRAY Dinner and dancing 308 LAKESIDE</p>	<p>308 East Main St. East Brookfield, MA 774-449-8333</p> <p>ONGOING</p> <p>ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. CADY'S TAVERN 2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI 401-568-4102</p>  <p>TRIVIA SATURDAY NIGHTS 7:00 p.m. register 7:30 p.m. start up HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB 325 Pleasant St., Leicester, MA 508-892-9822</p> <p>WISE GUYS TEAM TRIVIA Every Tuesday, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. CADY'S TAVERN 2168 Putnam Pike (Rt. 44) Chepachet, RI 401-568- 4102</p>	<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY NIGHT HEXMARK TAVERN AT SALEM CROSS INN 260 West Main St., West Brookfield, MA 508-867-2345 www.salemcrossinn.com</p>  <p>TRAP SHOOTING Every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Open to the public \$12.00 per round includes clays and ammo NRA certified range officer on site every shoot AUBURN SPORTSMAN CLUB 50 Elm St., Auburn, MA 508-832-6492</p>	<p>HUGE MEAT RAFFLE First Friday of the month Early Bird 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 1st table: 7:00 p.m. Auburn Sportsman Club 50 Elm St., Auburn, MA 508-832-6496</p> <p>TRIVIA TUESDAYS at 7:00 p.m. Cash prizes 308 LAKESIDE 308 East main St. East Brookfield, MA 774-449-8333</p> <p>TRIVIAL THURSDAY No cost to play Cash prizes Every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. CHESTER P. TUTTLE POST AMERICAN LEGION 88 Bancroft St. Auburn, MA 508-832-2701</p>
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LEGALS

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD PLANNING BOARD

The Brimfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on January 3, 2018 at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall (21 Main Street) regarding changes to the fee schedule.

December 15, 2017
December 22, 2017

LEGAL NOTICE

The Attorney General has approved Article 21 from the Wales Annual Town Meeting on May 17, 2017. The Town voted unanimously to amend the Town of Wales Zoning By-Laws by adding proposed Section 7.10 'Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations' with the following text, and further that non-substantive changes to the lettering and numbering of this bylaw be made in order to make it consistent with the numbering format and sequencing of the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Wales.

Wales Zoning By-Laws

Section 7.10 Large Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations

7.10.1 Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw is to ensure the safety and proper construction of new large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations by providing standards for the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of such installations that address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations.

The provisions set forth in this section shall apply to the construction, operation, and/or repair of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

7.10.2 Applicability

This section applies to large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations proposed to be constructed after the effective date of this section. This section also pertains to physical modifications that materially alter the type, configuration, or size of these installations or related equipment.

7.10.3 Definitions

As-of-right-siting: As-of-right-siting shall mean that development may proceed without the need for a special permit, variance, amendment, waiver, or other discretionary approval. As-of-right-siting is subject to site plan review to determine conformance with local zoning ordinances or bylaws. Development of a large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation in any area other than a designated location shall require a special permit in accordance with the Wales Zoning Bylaws in additions to site plan review.

Building Inspector: The local inspector of buildings designated by local ordinance or bylaw charged with the enforcement of the zoning ordinance.

Building Permit: A construction permit issued by an authorized building inspector; the building permit evidences that the project is consistent with the state and federal building codes as well as local zoning bylaws, including those governing large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

Designated Locations: The location(s) designated by the Town of Wales Zoning Bylaws Schedule of Uses 4.1 in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 5, where large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations may be sited as-of-right.

Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations: A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof-mounted, and has a minimum nameplate capacity of 250kW DC.

On-Site Solar Photovoltaic Installation: A solar photovoltaic installation that is constructed at a location where other uses of the underlying property occur.

Rated Nameplate Capacity: The maximum rated output of electric power production of the photovoltaic system in Direct Current (DC).

Site Plan Review: Review by the Site Plan Review Authority to determine conformance with local zoning ordinances or bylaws.

Site Plan Review Authority: For purposes of this bylaw, Site Plan Review Authority refers to the Town of Wales Planning Board.

Zoning Enforcement Authority: The person or board charged with enforcing the zoning ordinances or bylaws.

7.10.4 General Requirements for all Large Scale Solar Power Generation Installations

The following requirements are common to all large-scale solar power generation installations whether or not to be sited in designated locations.

7.10.4.1 Compliance with Laws, Ordinances and Regulations

The construction and operation of all large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with all applicable local, state

and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable safety, construction, electrical, and communications requirements. All building and fixtures forming part of a solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code.

7.10.4.2 Building Permit and Building Inspection

No large-scale solar photovoltaic installations shall be constructed, installed or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a building permit.

7.10.4.3 Fees

The application for a building permit for a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation must be accompanied by the fee required for a building permit. The site plan review authority may additionally require a review fee in accordance with its regulations.

7.10.4.4 Site Plan Review

Large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations with 250 kW or larger of rated nameplate capacity shall undergo site plan review by the Site Plan Review Authority prior to construction, installation or modification as provided in Town of Wales By-Laws Section 7.10.6

7.10.5 General

All plans and maps shall be prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Massachusetts.

7.10.6 Required Documents

Pursuant to the site plan review process, the project proponent shall provide the following documents:

- a. A site plan showing:
 - i. Property lines and physical features, including roads, for the project site;
 - ii. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, and screening vegetation or structures;
 - iii. Blueprints or drawings of the solar photovoltaic installation signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the commonwealth of Massachusetts showing the proposed layout of the system, lighting, signage, utility connections, transformers, and any potential shading from nearby structures, natural features or vegetation;
 - iv. One or three line electrical diagram detailing the solar photovoltaic installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all Massachusetts Electrical Code compliant disconnects and over-current devices;
 - v. Documentation of the major system components to be used, including the PV panels, mounting system, and inverter; Specifically a Bill of Materials (BOM) being utilized including the name of manufacturer, part numbers, full descriptions, data sheets, other information as asked for by the Site Plan Review Authority.
 - vi. Name, address license verification, and contact information for proposed system installer;
 - vii. Name, address, phone number and signature of the project proponent, as well as all co-proponents or property owners, if any;
 - viii. The name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the project proponent; and

a. Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site (see also Section 3.5);

b. An operation and maintenance plan (See also section 3.6);

c. Zoning district designation for the parcel(s) of land comprising the project site (submission of a copy of a zoning map with the parcel(s) identified is suitable for this purpose) including delineation of any wetland on or near the specific parcel(s) proposed for the installation;

d. Proof of liability insurance, and

e. Proof and Description of financial surety that satisfies Section 7.18.3

f. A public outreach plan, including a project development timeline, which indicates how the project proponents will meet the required site plan review notification procedures and otherwise inform abutters and the community.

The Site Plan Review Authority may waive documentary requirements as it deems appropriate on a case by case basis.

7.11 Site Control

The project proponent shall submit documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site sufficient to allow for construction and operation of the proposed solar photovoltaic installation.

7.12 Operation and Maintenance Plan

The project proponents shall submit a plan for operation and maintenance of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation, which shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, storm water controls (SWPP Plan), as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation.

7.13 Utility Notification

No large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be con-

structed until evidence has been given to the Site Plan Review Authority that the utility company that operates the electrical grid where the installation is to be located has been informed of the solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator's intent to install an interconnected customer-owned generator. Off-grid systems shall be exempt from this requirement.

7.14 Dimension and Density Requirements

7.14.1 Setbacks

For large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, front, side and rear setbacks shall be as follows:

- a. Front yard: the front yard depth shall be at least 200 feet.
- b. Side yard: Each side yard shall have a depth of at least 100 feet
- c. Rear yard: The rear yard depth shall be at least 50 feet, provided however, that where the lot abuts a Residential Housing, the rear yard shall be not less than 150 feet.
- d. Access roads or driveways shall be set back at least 25 feet from the side and rear lot lines.

7.14.2 Appurtenant Structures

All appurtenant structures to large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be subject to reasonable regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures, lot area, setbacks, open space, parking and building coverage requirements. All such appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations shall be architecturally compatible with each other. Whenever reasonable, structures should be shaded from view by vegetation and/or joined or clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts.

7.14.3 Size

The area covered by the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall not exceed five acres, in aggregate, of all arrays, structures and building and shall not include wetlands.

7.15 Design Standards

7.15.1 Lighting

Lighting of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with local, state and federal Law. Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as appurtenant structures, shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes and shall be shielded from abutting properties. Lighting of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be directed downward and shall incorporate cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution.

7.15.2 Signage

Signs on large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall comply with the Town of Wales Sign By-Law (Section 7.0). A sign consistent with a municipality's sign bylaw shall be required to identify the owner and provide a 24-hour emergency contact phone number.

Large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation, or for safety considerations (warning signs, etc.)

7.15.3 Utility Connections

Reasonable efforts, as determined by the Site Plan Review Authority, shall be made to place all utility connections from the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the utility provider.

7.15.4 Height

Other than accessory buildings and appurtenant structures, no components of a large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall exceed 15 feet in height.

7.16 Safety and Environmental Standards

7.16.1 Emergency Services

The large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the local fire chief and police chief.

Upon request, the owner or operator shall cooperate with local emergency services in developing an emergency response plan. All means of shutting down the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.

7.16.2 Land Clearing, Soil Erosion, and Habitat Impacts

Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws.

Replanting of vegetation shall be con-

sidered post-construction if it would be safe and not hinder the operation of the Array System.

7.16.3 Landscape Maintenance

Native plant species shall be used, with diverse species considered on a case-by-case basis, when landscaping and/or creating natural vegetation barriers to abutters. Use of plants identified by the most recent copy of the "Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List" maintained by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, is prohibited.

7.16.4 Sound Levels

The sound levels under normal operation conditions, measured at the boundary of the lot on which the installation is sited shall not be more than 10 decibels greater than would otherwise exist in the absence of such a facility.

7.17 Monitoring and maintenance

7.17.1 Solar Photovoltaic Installation Conditions

The large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall maintain the facility in good condition. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures. Site access shall be maintained at a level acceptable to the Town Fire Chief, Town Police Chief and Emergency Medical Services. The owner or operator shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation and any access road(s), unless accepted as a public way.

7.17.2 Modifications

All material modifications to the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation made after issuance of the required building permit shall require approval by the Site Plan Review Authority.

7.18 Abandonment or Decommissioning

7.18.1 Removal Requirements

Any large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned consistent with Section 7.18.2 of this bylaw shall be removed. The owner or operator shall physically remove the installation no more than 150 days after the date of the discontinued operations. The owner or operator shall notify the Site Plan Review Authority by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal. Decommissioning shall consist of:

a. Physical removal of all large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, structures, equipment, security barriers and transmission lines from the site.

b. Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.

c. Stabilization or re-vegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion. The Site Plan Review Authority may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping or designated below-grade foundations in order to minimize erosion and disruption to vegetation.

7.18.2 Abandonment

Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be considered abandoned when it fails to operate for more than one year without the written consent of the Site Plan Review Authority. If the owner or operator of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section within 150 days of abandonment or the proposed date of decommissioning, the town may enter the property and physically remove the installation.

7.18.3 Financial Surety

Proponents of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic projects shall provide a form of surety, either through escrow account, bond, or otherwise, to cover the cost of removal in the event the town must remove the installation and remediate the landscape, in an amount and form determined to be reasonable by the Site Plan Review Authority. The project proponent shall submit a fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal, prepared by a qualified engineer. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.

7.18.4 Independent Engineer

Upon request from the Planning Board, the proponent shall pay for a third-party Independent Engineer to review the site plan. **(APPROVED 12/12/17)**

Any claims of invalidity by reason of any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment may only be made within 90 days of the second publication of this notice. Copies of this bylaw may be examined at or obtained from the Town Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 834 Wales, MA 01081.

December 22, 2017

December 29, 2017



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- **Job Fair:** 8 AM to 6 PM on January 4, 2018
- **Location:** The Store Location, 44 Providence Pike, Putnam, CT 06260
- **Opportunities:** Full-time and Part-time opportunities available with career advancement opportunities
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