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Friday, December 3, 2021

Charlton PD's St. Mason promoted to Lieutenant



Photo Courtesy

Newly promoted Lt. Gary Mason is pinned by his wife during a ceremony on Nov. 23.

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Police Department officially has a new Lieutenant and it's a name many in the community will probably be familiar with. Charlton's Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the promotion of Sgt. Gary Mason to the lieutenant on Nov. 23 after Mason stood out through an assessment center testing process earlier this year. Lt. Mason is a 25-year veteran of the department who was

heavily lauded by both the police chief and the board of selectmen. "This is a great opportunity for the town of Charlton. He's already got the respect and confidence of the troops. I think this will be a very easy transition," Charlton Police Chief Dan Dowd said while presenting then-sergeant Mason to selectmen for consideration. Selectmen offered nothing but praise for Mason with Selectman David Singer offering his own complimentary words calling Mason a fitting candidate for

promotion. "I agree with Chief Dowd. I think this is great for the town. Sgt. (now Lt.) Mason has been a fixture in this town for a very long time and we're extremely lucky to have him," said Singer. Lt. Mason was humble in accepting the position thanking everyone in his life and at the department for supporting him through the years. "It's a pleasure and an honor to accept the position as a lieutenant at the

Please Read MASON, page A18

Sturbridge selectmen revisit parking lot, other projects

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Although voters shot it down overwhelmingly at Town Meeting in October, the proposal to turn a parcel at 501 Main St. into a parking lot is still alive. At their most recent meeting Nov. 15, selectmen were only going to briefly discuss it under old business, noting they hope to bring it back to the spring

Annual Town Meeting. But resident Susan Shea raised several questions during citizens' forum at the end, saying she was at Town Meeting and saw it as "such an excessive expense for what it is." She's referring to the fact the project's cost estimate then was just over \$300,000, which several voters objected to. She said

Please Read BOS, page A10

Charlton finalizes first phase of American Rescue Plan spending

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Charlton has a plan in place for at least the first portion of its American Rescue Plan funds following a Nov. 23 public hearing to finalize the initial slate of projects proposed by the town administrator. In October, Town Administrator Andrew Golas presented a preliminary list of initiatives to selectmen for consideration to use part of the \$4.1 million in funding provided to the town through the American Rescue Plan Act. After selectmen requested he slim down some of the options Golas returned with a revised list in early November that consisted of investment

in an engineering study for a three-phase water and sewer upgrade, updating police and fire radio systems, continued funding for COVID mitigation, a feasibility study for a potential relocation of the Department of Aging, investment in finishing the town's water line connection to the police department, digital archiving of town records, and a business and nonprofit grant program to be overseen by the Economic Development Commission. Selectmen praised the list of projects but insisted the public have one more chance to debate the list on Nov. 23. The public hearing was rela-

Please Read SPENDING, page A9

Fast start leads Tantasqua to Thanksgiving Eve win over Shepherd Hill

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The Tantasqua Warriors and Shepherd Hill Rams faced off once again in their annual Thanksgiving matchup, bringing back their rivalry after the 2020 pandemic prevented players from taking the field during the fall season. Tantasqua hosted the event on Thanksgiving Eve and dominated the game from the kickoff to claim their second victory since 2017 by a score of 20-16. It was the lowest combined scoring Thanksgiving game between the teams since 2014. Despite Shepherd Hill's dominance in Thanksgiving matchups, Tantasqua was determined to take home the victo-

ry by starting off strong and never looking back. The Warriors put up eight points in the first drive of the game thanks to a touchdown run by junior tailback Abner Colon-Martinez, who would go on to be named the Offensive Player of the Game. After a successful two-point conversion pass to senior Aidan Filler from senior quarterback Caleb Thompson, the Warriors attempted an onside kick and successfully recovered the ball. Tantasqua drove down the field once more and Thompson converted a QB sneak into another six points. After a failed two-point conversion attempt the Warriors found themselves 14 points ahead after the first quarter without

the Shepherd Hill offense having the opportunity to score. "We wanted to be aggressive. We've gotten a few onside kicks this year, so we felt confident in our special teams. We wanted the ball right off the get-go

and knew if we could go down and score points, we'd have a good opportunity," Tantasqua head coach Jon Hargis said. "We've had good opportunities to score points on our first drives all season, but

Please Read FOOTBALL, page A11



Photos Jason Bleau

Tantasqua's varsity football team claimed victory in their annual Thanksgiving matchup with Shepherd Hill, 20-16.

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Light in our Darkness – Wings of Song returns!

STURBRIDGE — After eighteen months of silence, Wings of Song, a premier community chorus in south-central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut, is singing once again. It's a smaller group, for the time being—just 23 singers out of the full chorus's 60, calling themselves the Wings of Song Chamber Chorale. These were the singers (all vaccinated) who were ready to don specially-constructed singer's masks and participate in socially-distanced rehearsals. Nevertheless, according to Music Director Nym Cooke, the singers' spirit is as strong as ever—and their sound is superb.

Cooke has chosen a program of twelve very special, soul-stirring pieces to mark the chorus's comeback, and to gladden the hearts of their hearers in this very difficult time.

He characterizes the program in this way: "These pieces dig deep, and touch wellsprings of beauty and spiritual richness that are sure to lift people's hearts. There's a line in Handel's Messiah: 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.' We've all been walking in darkness for some time now. May the beautifully-crafted classical works on this program—representing a mix of

joyful animation and deep peace—bring at least some glimpses of that 'great light' to our hearers."

The music spans four centuries, the 17th through the 20th, with composers ranging from the German Johannes Eccard (1553-1611) to the American Morten Lauridsen (born 1943). Inbetween are luminaries such as Georg Frideric Handel, Felix Mendelssohn, and Hector Berlioz. Handel's "And the glory of the Lord" from "Messiah" and Berlioz's "Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling" from "The Childhood of Christ" keep company with John Rutter's "Christmas Lullaby" and Morten Lauridsen's "O magnum mysterium." And there will be familiar carols for the season, of course: Randall Thompson's thrilling version of "Angels we have heard on high" and Felix Mendelssohn's "Hark! the herald angels sing."

Beyond the singers being vaccinated and masked, this will be an unusual concert in other respects. With COVID cases once again climbing in the U.S., special precautions must be taken to ensure the health and safety of both audience and singers. Audience members should be fully vaccinated, and

masks are required throughout the concert. As far as possible, the audience will be seated with some distance between "pods" of family and friends. And the shorter-than-usual program (no more than an hour in length) will be sung through without intermission. Look for singalongs, and our traditional post-concert social gathering with refreshments, to return at our Spring concerts!

As always, there will be two performances. On Saturday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m., the chorus will sing at the St. Joachim Parish Center of St. Anne/St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St. in Fiskdale, up from the corner of routes 20 and 148. On Sunday, Dec. 5 at 3 p.m., there will be a performance at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Woodstock, Conn., 24 Child Hill Rd. Admission to both concerts is free; a freewill offering will be collected. And both venues are handicap-accessible. Don't forget your mask—and come prepared for a beautiful and meaningful experience, rich in both music and spirit. For further information, contact Wings of Song President Carol Curtin at carolcurtin77@gmail.com, or Nym Cooke at nymcooke@gmail.com.

St. Joseph Church to host holiday events

CHARLTON — St. Joseph Church, located at 10 H. Putnam Extension, Charlton, announces the following holiday events.

Saturday, Dec. 18 - 6 p.m.
An Advent Experience
Celebrate the Light of the World with a free Candlelight Concert and "12 Trees of Christmas" Event. Music will be performed by Nashville Christian recording artist and songwriter, Heather Rae.

Sunday, Dec. 19 - 1 - 2 p.m.
Caroling on the Common
All are welcome to meet at the Charlton Library (40 Main St.) to sing Christmas carols around the Charlton Common. Song sheets will be provided. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Chapter 11379.

Come support local food drive!

FISKDALE — Calling all shoppers! As the holiday season is fast approaching, hunger levels have continued to rise in Massachusetts. According to Feeding America, one in four children are currently facing food insecurity. A way you can help is by donating to a food drive!

Tantasqua High School's Project 351 club will be holding a food drive on Sunday, Dec. 12 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. This food drive will be held at Shaw's Sturbridge, in the parking lot. The club will provide wish lists to help guide you while you shop. If you're unable to shop, monetary donations will also be gladly accepted.

Turn To **BRIEFS** page A3

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Quinebaug Lodge participated in Christmas tree lighting festivities

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, Nov. 27, it was a cold windy blistering night at the Christmas Tree Lighting festivities on the Southbridge common. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge had a booth set up and put smiles on many people and children's faces with the selling of kettle corn, hot dogs, fried Oreo cookies and fried dough. There was a Lama that children could pet and vendors selling Christmas ornaments that light up that you could wear around your neck or on your hats. A DJ played Christmas music in the gazebo and a vendor selling hot coffee and coco. There were long lines at the Quinebaug Lodge's booth to get the tasty treats the lodge was selling.

When the parade started and Santa came by, the lines were still long while many adults and children watched the parade go by. The common was lite up with Christmas lights and decorations of all kinds. Everyone at this event did not seem to mind the wind and cold because there was so much to see and do. If you are interested about Freemasonry and what we do in your local community, for more information and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our



The Quinebaug lodge booth with members working hard to accommodate these tasty treats to the people who attended this very busy event.

Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org.

Photo Courtesy

Villager Newspapers

ACCURACY WATCH

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

BRIEFS

continued from page A1

All donations will be going to the Wales Community and Brookfield Ecumenical food pantries, which collectively serve the towns of Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and the Brookfields. Make an impact this holiday season and come donate food with the Project 351 club!

USACE solicits comments on proposed work by MassDOT along Route 20 in Charlton and Oxford

REGION — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for proposed work in the French River, Little River, Texas Pond, nine unnamed intermittent streams, and associated vegetated wetlands along an approximately 3.2-mile long stretch of Route 20 in Charlton and Oxford.

The proposed work includes widening of Route 20; realignment of Oxbow Road

and reconstruction of its intersection with Route 20; construction of a shared-use path along the north side of the road between Route 12 and Oxbow Road; construction of a sidewalk along the south side of the road between Routes 12 and 56; replacement of the bridges over the Little River and French River; including installation of scour protection; and replacement of seven existing cross culverts conveying intermittent streams/wetland flow.

USACE is soliciting comments from members of the public; federal, state and local agencies; American

Indian Tribes; and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. The public notice with more detailed information is available for review on the District Web site at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/PublicNotices>, file # NAE-2014-02586.

Public comments on this proposed work should be forwarded no later than Dec. 23 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Attn: Dan Vasconcelos, Regulatory Division, 696 Virginia Rd., Concord, MA 01742 or by email to daniel.b.vasconcelos@usace.army.mil. Please reference file # NAE-2014-02586.

concelos@usace.army.mil. Please reference file # NAE-2014-02586.

All U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District news releases are available online at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Releases/>.

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🌿 🌿 🌿 Friday's Child 🌿 🌿 🌿



Arianna Age 14

Hi! My name is Arianna and I love ballet!

Arianna is a sweet and likable girl who likes to dance; she especially loves ballet and participates in ballet recitals every year. She does very well with her peers and is able to build and maintain healthy relationships.

Legally freed for adoption, Arianna would thrive in a family of any constellation, either with or without other children in the home, that is able to provide her with a stable and consistent environment. An ideal family for Arianna will be able to continue the services she has in place to address her academic and social/emotional needs. Arianna has established a supportive relationship with her maternal aunt, which a family must help maintain after placement

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

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

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BAY PATH ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year.

Grade 12

High Honors: Connor Barton, Justin Barton, Alexia Brawn, Catalina Burden, Dylan Butkus, Diego Canovas, Isabella Capuano, Jackson Chaffee, Stephanie Chege, Anaya Compres, Carter Coughlin, Izabella Coughlin, Marisa DeJesus, Chloe Dexter, Lillian Dolan, Erin Donahue, Marlee Donohoe, Nathan Dreitlein, Lillian Dunkerton, Gensies Gonzalez, Julia Graveson, Cameron Hafner, Nicholas Hunter, Logan Johnson, Cole Komssi, Bethany Lasell, Andrew Leach, Amber Mercon, Jovanni Morales, Olivia Morin, Samuel Murrillo, Aidan Oosterman, Angelina Ortiz, Paige Osche, Jayna Schmohl, Ethan Shanbaum, Sarah Simpson, Olivia St. Germain, Scarlet Tarveras, Mackenzie Tupai, Tyler Verrier

Honors: Aidan Adler, Lana Antocci, Adrian-Nicky Antwi, Thomas Becker, Dominic Benvenuti, Jayde Berthiaume, Sadie Bickford, Brian Bonnette, Kylie Bouchard, Hayden Bourgeois, Rebecca Boutilette, Patric Campbell, Graham Carbonneau, Adriana Carignan, Tinaya Chauvin, Aiden Chernisky, Yadrial Colon Vega, Chynna Cote, Kaden Cote McGrath, Dylan Cotton, Hailey Cournoyer, Kevin Cunningham, Chad Cutroni, Jack Dalton, Kurtis Davis, Cody Douglas, May Emsiranunt, Johnathon Ferreira, Daniel Gautier, Isabella

Gervais, Alex Gilfoy, Amie Grenier, Nathan Gulkin, Ashley Hamel, Julia Higgins, Zachary Hinman, Anthony Hudon, Ivory Morgan, Molly Johnson, Chloe Johnson, Kira Kalwarczyk, Lucas Kaufman, Ryan Kempeskie, Kevin Kilcourse, Tiffany King, Jason Kozlowski, Taylor Labrecque, Anthony Lang, Jacob LeBrun, William LeCuyer, Casey Levasseur, Lexie MacDonald, Marguerite MacKenzie, Ian Malone, John Marchetti, Emma Marcotte, Anthony Martins, Brandon Martocci, Alannah Matthews, Madigan McManus, Richard Menard IV, Cadie Miller, Aaron Mitchell, Brayden Nolette, William Ofori, Gabrielle Packard, Samuel Parker, Aaliyah Perez, Ilias Perez, Rachael Plaud, Hunter Pociis, Krystal Quadarella, Lukas Rafferty, Caleb Renaud, Carlos Rosado, Jacqueline Ross, Alex Saad, Luzyvette Sagastilelbelza-Lopez, Zachary Sargent, Kristina Scott, Anthony Seymour, Daniel Sibert, Chloe Sicari-Swinimer, Katrina Somers, Caroline Soucy, Kyra Stevens, Isabella Tanacea, Francheska Toribio-Polanco, Jalissa Torres, Camden Towns, Aaliyah Tremblay Collins, Jared Tucker, Rohan Vaidya, Kyle VanCott, Adriana Vazquez Gonzalez, Yamaira Vega Torres, Mateusz Zych

Principal's List: Princess Angela Agyeman, Makayla Aubin, Thomas Benoit, Brianna Bond, Samantha Brown, Kyle Burlingame, Andrew Cannon, Jayden Caribo, Nathan Cuff, Brayden Decker, Alyssa Evers, Laura Featherstone, Colin Gagne, Brady Garabedian,

Nicholas Gosselin, Joseph Guinard, Declan Johnson, Kailey Jones, Kayleigh Kanz, Wyatt Kelly, Ryan Komssi, Cody LaMonda, Madison Martin, Thomas Martin, John Martinek, Evan O'Malley, Elijah Paddock, Adalius Rivera, Evanie Rodriguez, Keith Roycewicz, John Schramm, Isabella Strzelecki, Kristina Sylwanovicz, Jomar Torres, Aaron Trahan

Grade 11

High Honors: Samuel Audunsson, Olivia Beaudette, Cheryl Dolson, Brenna Donohue, Elizabeth Dreitlein, Evan Gelineau, Barry Hanson, Emma Hesselton, Samantha Inangelo, Aiden LaFrance, Sydney Lamontagne, Judy Maignan, Erika Melendez, Jaysi Miller, Mackenzie Morrisey, Merissa Murray, Sabrina Rodrigues, Abraham Routhier, Wyatt Sadusky, Jazlynn Santana, Arminda Simoes, Sawyer Smith, Jonathan Young

Honors: Jake Aho, Lukus Bachand, Sincere Bailey, Haven Banks, Cauly Beaver, Quinn Beck, Alexander Besaw, Benjamin Besaw, Constantine Billis, Samuel Boria, Emma Boulet, John Boyle, Aleana Brayton, Dennis Brunelle, Miranda Burden, Matthew Casati, Daniel Chaffee, Michael Chansignavong, Isabella Coleman, Makayla Collins, Abraham Colon, Anthony Comforti, Libby Condrate, Ryan Couture, Edgardo Cruz-Merced, Ryan Davis, Cam'Ron Desrosiers, Ronald Desrosiers, Ty Dupuis, Zachary Finizza, Jayden Flanders, Alexis Fleck, Evan Frost, Casey Gallagher, Aiden Gelardi, Emily Gelineau, Noah Gilspin, Adrian Gonzalez, Osiris Gonzalez, Devon Goulet,

BRIMFIELD

\$349,900, 29 Crestwood Rd, Sontay, Byron, and Sontay, Rosa, to Liu, Yahua.
\$200,000, 13 Sturbridge Rd, Navarro-Brandi, Lidia R, to Steaming Tender Inc.
\$73,500, 276 Palmer Rd, Levine, Gwendolyn J, and Levine, Richard W, to Smart, Darryl.
\$15,000, Washington Rd #1, Shackett, Andrew E, and Shackett, Cheryl L, to Graham, Kevin.

CHARLTON

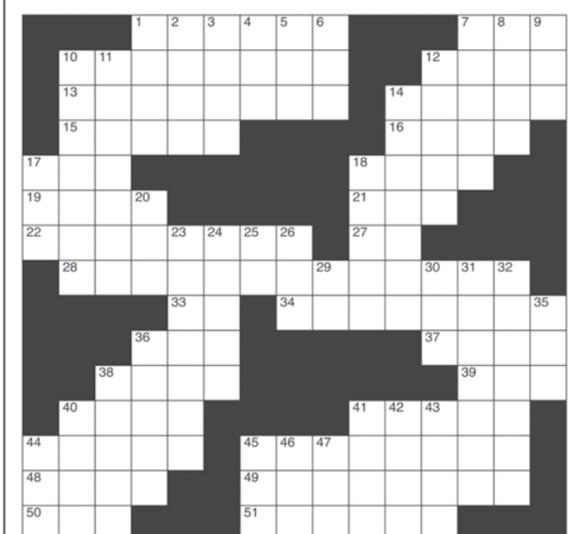
\$805,000, 237 Sunset Dr, Digregorio LT, and Digregorio, Paul J, to Plante, Cameron, and Bianculli, Naomi.
\$625,000, 22 Fulling Mill Dr, Bianculli, David A, and Bianculli, Brenda M, to Smith, Jeffrey K.
\$542,500, 5 Yeoman Rd, Fontaine, Ronald J, and Fontaine, Barbara A, to Gaudreau, Christopher.
\$540,000, 4 Amber Rd, Breen, Richard, and Breen, Lauryn, to Contes, Sammy, and Contes, Angela M.
\$510,000, 215 N Sturbridge Rd, Sharleville, Blair P, and Sharleville, Vickie L, to Levensorth, William P, and Levensorth, Elvira V.
\$382,500, 58 H Foote Rd, Shaw, Christopher M, and Wilmington TNA Tr, to Omaha Prop Manager LLC.
\$325,000, 190 Southbridge Rd, Rand, David M, to Northeast Energy Ctr LLC.
\$275,000, 12 Oxbow Rd, Bond, Robin M, to Pearson, Alexander, and Pearson, Julia.
\$220,000, 107 Center Depot Rd #A, Cochran, Frances A, to Bina, Lauren.
\$165,000, 19 N Buffumville Shore Rd, Canterbury, Dawn, and StGerman, Theresa M, to Mackenzie, Trevor, and Mackenzie, Heather.

HOLLAND

\$405,000, 299 Stafford Rd, Brassard, Ryan A, and Brassard, Kelly, to Batista, Devon A, and Batista, Tierney J.
\$375,000, 17 Park Ln, Park Lane RT, and Barbato, Charles A, to Hart, Sanna, and Hart, Paul L.
\$160,000, 16 Wales Rd, Nave, Gayle D, to Fielding, Jeffrey

B. \$135,000, 6 Vinton Rd, Plata O Plomo Inc, to Jbd Empire LLC.
\$70,000, 6 Vinton Rd, Campaniello, Frank M, to Plata O Plomo Inc.
\$41,000, 183 Mashapaug Rd, Mischler, Joshua P, to Glenn, Scott M, and Kennedy, Dayna.
\$35,000, 53 Halfway Ln, Brower, Hugh, to Genereux, Michael.

STURBRIDGE
\$880,000, 3 Fox Run, Eaton, Samuel G, and Eaton, Caitlin J, to Martin, Christopher J, and Martin, Kathleen A.
\$671,900, 243 Big Alum, Pratt FT 2016, and Pratt, Mary M, to Peterson, Ronald V, and Peterson, Yulie.
\$650,000, 10 Library Ln N, Gauthier, Bernard V, to Foley, Robert J, and Foley, Caroline M.
\$465,000, 35 Old Village Rd, Turning Point Inv LLC, to Spillane, Maureen.
\$460,000, 19 Shepard Rd, Galonek, William R, and Lightbown, Robert W, and Lightbown, Meghan K.
\$319,000, 84 Clark Rd, Nemet, Melissa K, to Lacroix, Adam, and Benoit, Tanya.
\$300,000, 64 Walker Pond Rd, Tourtellotte, Yvonne L, to Folcarelli, John M, and Folcarelli, Veronica.
\$210,000, 7 Crescent Way #214, Hatch FT 2017, and Hatch, Paul, to Martiros, Mary.
\$139,000, 22 Mountain Brook Rd, New City Investors LLC, to Wallace, Robert D.
\$139,000, 26 Mountain Brook Rd, New City Investors LLC, to Wallace, Robert D.
\$26,500, 34 Cedar St, Warwick Road Orange T, and Twersky, Shirley S, to Hyde Development LLC.

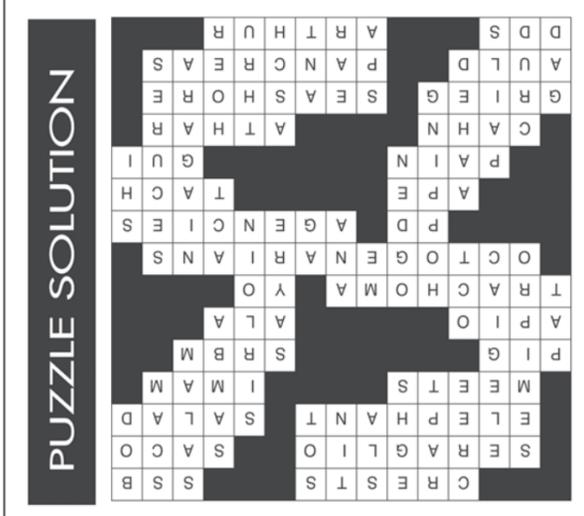


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Toppides
- 7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 10. A Sultan's court
- 12. Maine city
- 13. Largest living land animal
- 14. Appetizer
- 15. Encounters
- 16. Leader
- 17. The source of bacon
- 18. Nuclear near reach weapon (abbr.)
- 19. Celery (Spanish)
- 21. Pie ___ mode
- 22. Eye disease
- 27. Hello (slang)
- 28. Those in their 80s
- 33. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- 34. Business organizations
- 36. Mimic
- 37. For indicating speed of rotation (abbr.)
- 38. Feeling
- 39. Visual way to interact with computers (abbr.)
- 40. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
- 41. Essential oil used as perfume
- 44. Norwegian composer
- 45. Coast
- 48. ___ lang syne, good old days
- 49. Gland behind the stomach
- 50. Tooth caregiver
- 51. King of Camelot

CLUES DOWN

- 1. N. American indigenous people
- 2. Fascinated by
- 3. Root of out
- 4. Patti Hearst's captors
- 5. Atomic #50
- 6. Habitual drunkard
- 7. Arabic for "peace"
- 8. Trickery
- 9. One's physique (slang)
- 10. Not quite there
- 11. Wistfully mournful
- 12. Popular dance
- 14. Cut of meat
- 17. A way to stand
- 18. "Gunga Din" screenwriter
- 20. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- 23. A way of jumping
- 24. Utah town
- 25. Of I
- 26. Actress de Armas
- 29. Silver
- 30. Play a role
- 31. ___ Falls
- 32. Attaches to
- 35. Japanese title
- 36. Expressed pleasure
- 38. Buckets
- 40. Dirt
- 41. Hypnotists' group (abbr.)
- 42. Restaurant drive-___
- 43. Digs up
- 44. He voices "Olaf"
- 45. Relaxing place
- 46. Body part
- 47. Pesky house critter



PUZZLE SOLUTION

Turn To **HONOR ROLL** page **A5**

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CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 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 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **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, sned.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am. www.livingwordcharlton.com info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

HONOR ROLL

continued from page A4

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Sirard, Jacob Sirard, Adriana Stanley, Victoria Tinsley, Colton Tittle, Jack Ugrinow, Stone Zink, Gabrielle Zopatti

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Jeff Burdick, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Sturbridge, is supporting both a Thanksgiving can drive and Toys for Tots by using his office as a drop-off location for a canned goods and unwrapped toys drive. Canned items in need are stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy, pickles, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and instant potatoes. Residents may help support this effort by bringing in items to the Edward Jones branch office during the hours of 9am-4pm from November 8th to December 9th. The branch address 419 Main St, Sturbridge Mass.

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Shepherd Hill holds annual craft fair

DUDLEY – The Shepherd Hill Regional High School hosted the annual Festival of Crafts on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, returning to a tradition that, like many events, was interrupted by the COVID outbreak in 2020. Last year the event went virtual, but 2021 saw the many vendors return to Dudley to show

of their handmade goods and officially kick off the holiday gift-buying season. The event is traditionally one of the most important fundraisers for the high school's music programs and music students were on hand all day helping great guests and make the event another spectacular success.



Photos Jason Bleau

Students from the Shepherd Hill choir showed their Christmas spirit dressed in full holiday gear to help out at the event.



As the name implies, Heidi's Handbag Studio provided a fun selection of handbags of all shapes, sizes and styles.



Edward Desrosiers of Auburn brought his fine collection of hand-made wood carvings to the event each looking like they were ready to walk and fly off the table.



John and Doris Brooks give visitors a taste of the delicious treats from The Farl at Baptist Common in Templeton, Massachusetts.



Visitors to the craft fair participate in the annual raffles which included prizes from many if not all of the vendors at the event.



Potential customers take a closer look at the hand-made pottery products from Twiddle R's.



The staff of Mandy C's Sweetery serves customers at their station where they provided tasty treats "just like momma used to make."



Staff of the Kleen Guyz talk to customers about their hand made goat milk soaps. Goat milk and other alternatively made products were popular throughout the 2021 craft fair.



Students from the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy pose for a photo. They were on hand all day doing blood pressure and blood sugar checks to visitors to the fair.

LEGALS

Town of Sturbridge Board of Selectmen Public Hearing

Notification is hereby given that an application has been filed by Old Sturbridge, Inc., for a Change of Manager/Change of License Manager from Lisa Anne Hartigan to Michael Edward Heenan., for the premises located at 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge MA 01566 with the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen. In accordance with MGL Ch. 138, a public hearing will be held on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 6:35 p.m. at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566. Your advertisement must appear 10 days prior to the public hearing to comply with Massachusetts General Laws and/or Town of Sturbridge Bylaws. Failure to comply may result in your application being denied or delayed. **NOTE: The Town of Sturbridge, its Boards, Commissions or employees will not be responsible for the cost of the above legal advertisement.** December 3, 2021 December 10, 2021

December happenings at the Brimfield Senior Center 413-245-7253

LINE DANCING 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS AT 10:30 AM

Get some exercise, make new friends, and have fun while learning how to line dance! This is a beginner level class so no line dancing experience is needed. We will dance to all types of music so there will be something for everyone. You will learn easy, beginner level line dance steps and dance patterns. The focus will be on fun with slow, patient instruction. We will learn 1-2 new line dances per week while reviewing dances learned in previous weeks. Line dancing

has proven health benefits as it not only improves cardiovascular health, it helps to improve posture, strengthen your legs and back, and improves balance and memory. So, if you are looking for an enjoyable way to exercise both your body and mind, this is for you!

Craft Class December 16th - 10:30 AM
Tea Light Snowman ornaments. \$4.00 class. Please register prior to December 13th.

Pottery Wheel Demonstration with Master Potter Rick Hamelin. Wednesday, December 8th @ 10:30 AM

A Time to Spout Off - Teapots from Around the World

This workshop is a celebration of the similarities and differences experienced with many cultures by way of a pot of tea. The history of teapots will

take shape on the potter's wheel. I will introduce teapots from the Middle East, the Orient, Europe and the Americas. Brown Betty teapots, ring teapots and teapots filled from the bottom and a surprise ANIMAL teapot will be made on the potter's wheel.

We will be passing from person to person a freshly made pot from the potter's wheel and the chance to feel a dry and wet pot as it rotates on the wheel.

(This program is brought to you by a generous grant provided by your local cultural council which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.)

Please call the senior center prior to December 6th to register.

A light lunch will be served immediately after the program. A \$2.00 donation for lunch is suggested.

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 EDITOR

OPINION

What's your story?

It's holiday party season, and for most of us that, is a good thing. We get together with friends and family, enjoy some eggnog and a plethora of our favorite appetizers. However, we do know that oftentimes, we are invited by our significant others to attend a work soiree or we are attending one ourselves. Being in a room where you only know one or a few people could seem like a daunting task for our introverted readers, but have no fear — we have ways for you to have memorable conversations that you may end up actually enjoying.

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

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

If the person you are speaking with is from the area, ask them what they do for entertainment in town, including where and what their favorite restaurants are. Looking up recent sports standings is never a bad idea, even if you don't particularly care for sports. This way when you nod and smile, you can have some confidence in knowing that you are at least somewhat in the loop. If you've bumped into a fellow skier, discussing snow conditions and ski hills is an easy topic. Look up a recent odd news story that is interesting and humorous, that way during a lull, you can say, 'So, I was reading about a man who appeared before a Dutch court and requested that he legally be made 20 years younger.' (Yes, that actually happened; if we see you at a holiday bash, we will fill you in.)

Most conversations remain on the surface which is appropriate when you don't really know someone. However, if you feel comfortable and are enjoying the conversation don't be afraid to go a bit bolder. Generally, most people like to talk about themselves, not necessarily for selfish reasons, but who doesn't want to be known and appreciated? We all have unique personalities that are worth sharing.

Such questions that go beneath the surface may include, 'What is your biggest fear?' 'When you were growing up, what was your dream job?' 'Have you been to any interesting places lately?' 'Have you learned anything this week, that you weren't aware of last week?'

The easiest thing to do while in conversation this month is to ask how a person celebrates the holidays. Asking about traditions and the best holiday a person has ever had brings up fond memories and positive energy.

These questions tend to snowball naturally and voila a solid, meaningful conversation has been had and you could even make a new comrade along the way.



Latest antique and collectibles news

I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and is enjoying the start of the holiday season. There have been many antiques, collectibles and auction related news reports since my last recap over a month ago, so it's time to get caught up.

In local news, our recent Webster auction of Corvettes, boats, car parts and estate items was very successful. A 1962 Corvette brought the highest amount at \$30,000.

In global news, Reuters reports that a rare manuscript by Albert Einstein recently sold at auction. The 54-page manual was written by Einstein and Swiss physicist Michele Besso, who was Einstein's close friend and academic partner. According to Reuters, the manuscript offered insights on Einstein's theory of relativity "that laid the groundwork for modern cosmology and technology such as GPS navigation." The document was created by the pair between 1913 and 1914 and Einstein's theory of relativity was published in 1915. Documents by Einstein from before 1919 are considered very rare. The pre-auction estimate was 2 to 3 million euros (\$13.17 million U.S.).

Elsewhere, the holidays just got a little brighter for a fan of the movie "Elf." The outfit Will Ferrell wore while playing Buddy the Elf just sold at an auction along with over 1,000 additional pieces of Hollywood memorabilia. The Buddy costume had an auction estimate of between \$27,600 and \$41,000. An unidentified buyer paid almost ten times that estimate when it sold for nearly \$300,000. The volleyball from the Tom Hanks movie "Cast Away" sold for even more at \$388,750.

Another recent article tells the story of a London-based dealer who spotted a rare jade figure in a New York auction, as reported by England's Daily Mail. In his 2005 book, Geoffrey Munn wrote about Fabergé dealers Wartski.

One of the objects he discussed was a jade T-Rex dinosaur created by Carl Fabergé. The piece is believed to have been created for Russian Emperor Nicholas II. Munn and other experts believed that the carving was lost forever until Munn recently spotted it for sale at a New York auction house. Prior to going to auction, the piece had been on display in a local family's cabinet for 40 years. It's believed that a child who played with it broke and lost two arms on the dinosaur. Despite the damage, the T-Rex surged past the \$800 to \$1,200 estimate to sell for over \$81,000. Experts think that without damaged arms it could have brought over \$300,000. I'm happy to learn that the dinosaur that went missing for all of this time wasn't extinct.

We are currently cataloging the next model railroad, die-cast cars and models auction which go live this month. We are also currently accepting consignments of higher value antiques and collectibles for our next multi-estate auction. Sterling silver, gold jewelry, coins, antique paintings, old comic books, baseball cards and advertising items are just some of the items we are accepting on consignment for that sale.

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



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
 WAYNE TUISKULA

What to know about early IRA withdrawals

While you're working, you may be contributing to an individual retirement account (IRA), which can provide a tax-advantaged way to save for your future. So, is it ever a good idea to tap into your IRA before you retire?

Ideally, you should leave this account intact until your retirement. After all, you could spend two or more decades in retirement, so you'll need a lot of financial resources. Still, life is unpredictable, so there may be times you'll consider taking money from your IRA. You'll need to be aware, though, that if you withdraw funds before you turn 59 and a half, you will generally trigger a 10% penalty. Plus, you'll be taxed on whatever you take out, thereby losing, at least in part, the benefits of tax-deferred earnings offered by a traditional IRA. (With a Roth IRA, you can withdraw your contributions free of taxes and penalties, but the earnings may be taxed and penalized if you take them out before you're 59 and a half.)



FINANCIAL FOCUS
 JEFF BURDICK

If you need to withdraw funds from your IRA before you're 59 and a half, you may be able to avoid the 10% early withdrawal penalty if you meet an exception, such as one of these:

Paying for college – You are allowed to take penalty-free withdrawals to pay for tuition and other qualified higher education expenses for you, your spouse, children or grandchildren. However, since the withdrawals may be considered taxable income, they could reduce the student's eligibility for financial aid.

Buying a first home – You and your spouse can each withdraw up to \$10,000 from your respective IRAs to buy your first home. To qualify as a first-time homebuyer, you (and your spouse) need to have not owned a home for the two years preceding your home purchase.

Having a child – Following the birth or adoption of a child, you and your coparent can each withdraw up to \$5,000 from your respective IRA without paying the 10 percent penalty.

Covering medical expenses – You may be able to avoid the early withdrawal penalty if you use the money to pay for unreimbursed medical expenses (for you, your spouse or dependents) that exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income. You may also qualify to take a withdrawal without penalty to pay for health insurance premiums if you are unemployed. In the case of a disability, the 10 percent early withdrawal penalty also may not apply. These aren't the only exceptions to the 10 percent withdrawal penalty, but they do cover many of the common reasons that people may consider an early withdrawal from their IRAs. And if you do need to take an early withdrawal, consult with your tax advisor to determine your eligibility for avoiding the 10 percent penalty. Keep in mind, though, that you do have ways to potentially reduce the necessity of withdrawing from your IRA early. One proven technique is to build an emergency fund containing at least three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. You might also consider opening a line of credit. A financial professional can help you explore other options, as well. Ultimately, if you can leave your IRA intact until you retire, you'll be helping yourself greatly. But if you do need to tap into your account early, at least be familiar with the possible drawbacks – and how you might avoid them.

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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.



LETTERS

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 So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

Baking Spices Review

With the holidays around the corner, the focus turns to home-made pies, cookies and other comfort food confections that conjure up fond holiday memories. One of the simple pleasures of churning out home baked goods this time of year is the unmistakable aroma of such spices as cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. Thus, each year at this time I review an array of holiday spices that can benefit your health as well as your taste buds. Read on for some unconventional ways to spice up your life as well as a guide to storing spices.



TAKE THE HINT
 KAREN TRAINOR

eggnog or added to a meat pie, the nutmeg spice jar does duty beyond the kitchen cupboard, from clearing a complexion to promoting sweet slumber. According to the Encyclopedia of Healing Foods, a little nutmeg added to a glass of warm milk can lull you off to sleep in record time.

Nutmeg has also been hailed for its anti-inflammatory properties, which makes it a powerful weapon in battling blemishes. To zap a zit, make a paste of ground nutmeg and milk, and apply to pimple to reduce redness and swelling.

Cinnamon: Move over cinnamon toast and apple pie, the spice has a higher calling. Ever since a study published in the journal Diabetes Care found half a teaspoon of cinnamon daily could be helpful in reducing blood sugar levels

in people with type 2 diabetes, cinnamon has been touted as an additional dietary supplement along with conventional medications to fight the disease.

The study also revealed the spice reduced triglyceride, LDL cholesterol, and total cholesterol levels among the same test group.

Want more? Research from Copenhagen University showed a significant relief in arthritis pain when patients were given half a teaspoon of cinnamon powder combined with one tablespoon of honey every morning for a week.

And another study found that the mere act of smelling the spice can boost cognitive function and memory!

Cinnamon FYI: Microbiologists at Kansas State University found that adding small amounts of cinnamon to samples of apple juice contaminated with E. coli bug killed most of the bacteria. Just

Shotgun deer season kicks off

Massachusetts' shotgun deer season opened under less-than-ideal conditions! The deer herd in Massachusetts is at an all-time high. All deer must be checked in at authorized deer station for the first week only. When harvesting a deer, and it is processed by a butcher shop, or it is processed by an experienced meat cutter, it should provide hunters with plenty of venison for the freezer.

The Blackstone Valley has a huge population of deer today, but it was not always that way. Hundreds of deer hunters made the journey to Petersham and Hardwick, to mention a couple. Once you hit Worcester, it held a caravan of deer hunters heading to some of their favorite towns to hunt in the early morning hours. Most diners and breakfast shops along the way were packed with deer hunters. We were called flatlanders by the locals up there.

We all share the memories of the earlier days, but it is nice not to travel the sometimes two-hour journey to hunt deer. With gas prices soaring, a trip to the above-mentioned towns could cost many a tank of gas. Back in the day, gas was as low as 10 cents a gallon, and



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

rose to a huge price of 25 cents in the '70's and '80s. My favorite gas station was at the former Whitin Machine Works garage next to the fire station on Main street.

If you are lucky enough to harvest a trophy buck, you need to take special care of the deer skin, if you are planning to have it mounted. If the taxidermist that you chose is extremely busy with other customers' deer pelts, you may need to store it in your chest freezer until he has room for yours. Choosing the right taxidermist for the job is extremely important. Ask for references and work that he has done in the last few years.

Other questions to ask for is the final price, and how long it will take to get your mount back. You should get it in writing! In past years, some hunters ended up waiting a few years before receiving their finished mounts, and some actually ended up waiting even longer. Some were disgusted with the long wait sending it to another taxidermist, resulting in another year or two to have their deer mount finished. You need to do your homework. The cost to get a good job done for your trophy buck could cost upwards of \$500. Never ever

pay the taxidermist in full until you receive your mount. You will need to pay a deposit at the time that you drop off your deer head and pelt.

Black bear season in the valley opened this past Monday, Nov. 29, and will run till Dec. 11. With all of the numerous bear sightings in the valley, many deer hunters have purchased a bear permit from the state at a cost of \$5.

Mass. Fish & Wildlife has a new updated site to log onto, which started Dec. 1. You will also notice the hike in license fees and permits for next year. Most permits and stamps have increased from \$5 to \$10, and will automatically increase \$5 for the remaining four years.

Wallum Lake continues to provide some nice trout for shore line anglers, and those that have not put their boats away for the season. One local angler fished from his boat on Wallum Lake last week and caught a couple of 18-inch brown trout while trolling a shiner on one of his trout rigs. Anglers fishing from shore are also doing well, catching numerous rainbow trout. Ice fishing anglers are hopeful that there will be some good ice fishing this year, but you may need to go North if you want a good season. Global warming of planet earth has changed our lives forever, when it comes to outdoor activities in New England.



Photo Courtesy

This week's photo shows a deer with awesome antlers, taken in Massachusetts a few years ago, which was displayed in the Big - E sportsmen's show. Amazing!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....

MELINDA MYERS

Three indoor trees for the holidays

Photo Courtesy

Add a small-scale living evergreen to your holiday celebrations. Consider one that is suitable for growing indoors so you can enjoy it throughout the year.

The Lemon Cypress makes a great miniature holiday tree, centerpiece, or gift for a friend. The fragrant chartreuse foliage of this dwarf evergreen continues to brighten your winter décor long after the holidays are over. You can find them as topiaries or in their more natural pyramidal form.

Grow them in a sunny window and turn the plants occasionally to ensure all parts receive equal sunlight and grow evenly. You'll have the best results if you keep your plant in a cool location free of cold and hot air drafts.

Water your mini holiday tree whenever the top few inches of soil are dry. Wait until spring when plants begin to actively grow and need a nutrient boost before applying fertilizer.

The Norfolk Island pine has long been a favorite of indoor gardeners. Its pine-like appearance makes it a great holi-

day tree. Add a bit of garland and a few small ornaments for a festive effect.

Grow this plant in a cool, well-lit location free of drafts of hot and cold air. Avoid dry air and soil to keep the needles and branches green, flexible, and healthy. Water thoroughly whenever the soil is just slightly moist. Boost the humidity around this and other plants with a gravel tray. Place pebbles and water in the saucer. Set the pot on the pebbles above the water. As the water evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plant.

Switch out the ornaments when celebrating other holidays. Use hearts for Valentine's Day, eggs for Easter and orange lights for Halloween.

Rosemary wreath and tree topiaries are festive as well as fragrant and edible. Give the leaves a pet to enjoy the fragrance and lift your spirits. Or pluck a sprig to add welcome flavor to your winter meals and beverages.

Rosemary was as popular a Christmas plant as mistletoe and holly until the 20th Century. It's not clear why this plant fell out of favor, but it is growing in popularity as a holiday plant. You can find it in many garden centers and

Norfolk Island pine makes a great indoor holiday tree especially when combined with holiday plants or decorated with garland and small ornaments.

florists this time of year.

Rosemary represents love and remembrance, a great sentiment to share during the holidays. Growing Rosemary indoors can be challenging. Don't let past failures stop you from trying. Just keep experimenting until you find the location and maintenance routine that keeps your Rosemary thriving. If the plant turns brown, move it out of sight to the back of your indoor garden. It still smells good when you give it a pet and no one, but you will know.

Change things up this season with the addition of one or more of these indoor evergreen trees. They are sure to brighten your spirits and holiday décor.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndi-*



cated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

Change yourself to change your situation



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

We've all experienced times when things were going well, we were moving towards a goal, and suddenly things began to sour. A new manager may be putting negative pressure on you, and maybe a family member is constantly angry with you - no matter what you say or do, it's wrong.

Situations like this are most challenging. It's hard to move forward. We lose the spring in our step; we let our heads droop down, we wonder why everything has to be so bad. We go home at night, and we dread the next day. We wonder how it will be possible to make it through.

You say your prayers and beg for a change; you confide in your loved ones; They try to help, but nothing they say seems to make a difference.

The positive thoughts become few and far between. You try to be positive, but with a bad attitude, you think to yourself, "I just have to keep putting one foot in front of the other."

The fact is, things don't always go the way we plan. We plan for great things, and then not-so-great things can happen. We have great expectations, but sometimes those expectations are crushed.

When life becomes like this, it's easy to get negative; It's easy to get stuck; it's easy to think things will always be like this.

I used to believe that when life gives you lemons, you should squirt your enemies in the eye, but is that the best way?

Years ago, I had a job where everything was running smoothly; it was all under control. Suddenly a new manager was hired, and life became very different. Initially, I was ok with the pressure, but it became too much. I couldn't stand to be at work, and I was dis-

traught. It was a good job, and I didn't want to leave, but I didn't feel like I could deal with it any longer. I prayed, and I read, seeking a solution. I tried to change my manager, but nothing seemed to work; I lost my cool.

After some time, I realized I wasn't going to change the situation, nor was I going to change my manager; but instead, I was the one who needed changing.

Sometimes to overcome a problem, it isn't about changing the other person; it's about changing yourself. Often our reaction to what's happening is the problem. We have a choice.

I've had family members get angry at me, and my reaction only made things worse. I'd try to show them the error of their ways, I'd complain to other family members, I'd think of ways to change them, but it never worked. The only time things became peaceful again was when I changed myself when I changed my reaction.

The other person may

change, but it usually won't happen according to our time frame. When you can't change the situation, it might be because it's time to change your attitude and feel about it.

They say everything in life is only for a season; is that true?

Oddly enough, when I finally adjusted my attitude and gave up trying to change my manager and the situation, when I accepted that I was the

one that needed changing and I took steps to let go and become flexible, my manager was fired.

After reading that, I know some of you are going to change real fast! Don't get your hopes up! Ha-ha!

When he was gone, I missed him. I realized how much he had changed me and what valuable life lessons I learned in the process.

Everything in life is only for a season; whatev-

er you're going through won't last forever; soon, you'll be in a new season with new challenges. Make the most of each season. Allow the season to change you; it will prepare you for the next season.

Gandhi said, "...as a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him..." Is that true?

Try it and see.

SPENDING

continued from page A1

tively quite with no public input either in person or through the online stream of the meeting. Charlton Water and Sewer Superintendent Peter Boria was the only department representative to speak discussing his department's portion of the funding as he had at previous meeting. Boria said that the investment from the town in an engineering study will give his

department a clearer road ahead in terms of prioritizing and financing the three-phased project that includes facility and equipment upgrades.

"We did have some money set aside for future capital projects but I think it's better that we wait until this engineering study is done to identify and prioritize what the next steps will be before we assign additional money to it and with the additional funding coming down the

road there may be more separate funding from this in the future to offset some of those costs as well," said Boria. "For now, I appreciate the initial \$82,000 to get that study going."

The public hearing closed with little further debate concerning items on the investment list. Selectmen unanimously approved the town administrator's plan which leaves around \$2.1 million remaining in funds for future, yet-to-be-determined projects.

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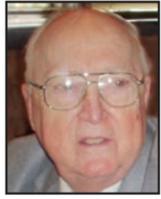
OBITUARIES

Stephen Krupika, Jr., 84

Sturbridge: Stephen Krupika, Jr., 84, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Nov. 23rd, in the Rose Monahan Hospice Home, Worcester, leaving his bride of 59 years, Geraldine Phillips Krupika.

Steve was born in Worcester, the youngest of 7 children of Stephen and Antoinette (Sabota) Krupika, Sr. He was predeceased by all of his siblings.

Steve was a generous person, always willing to help others. He had a dry sense of humor that brought a smile to the faces of many, whether the person was a nun, a nurse in the hospital or a clerk



in a store. Steve was a kind and loving person and will be missed by many.

A funeral Mass for Steve will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 1st, at 10:00am in St. Anne Church, 16 Church St., Sturbridge. Burial in Hope Cemetery, Worcester, will be held at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

BOS

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she wants a clear cost/benefit analysis and predicted other voters would, too.

Facilities Manager Robin Chrabascz said she'd put those figures and other documents related to the proposal on the town's facilities website (where they were as of last weekend). There, the cost estimate includes a wide range of things besides just pavement, some of them added to the original plan by request of either the Planning Board or Conservation Commission. Among them are concrete sidewalks, fences, lights, two bike racks, "site furniture," and loam and seed.

Making passing reference to some of those things, Selectman Mary Dowling said, "We could have been more detailed and explained to residents where the money was going." She and others said they would like to see public forums on the project.

Chair Mary Blanchard described the concept as "a service to the tourist, a

service to the residents, and a service to the businesses."

Town Administrator Jeff Bridges agreed, saying it grew out of a 2014 commercial tourism plan and surveys that have repeatedly found the Route 20 corridor lacks adequate parking. Noting it will help make the area "much more pedestrian- and walker-friendly" and allows access to the nearby Riverlands trails, he said it's "one way to reinvest [meals tax] money into the group that generates it."

The town Web site states purchase of that property and design work were both approved at the Jan 2020 special town meeting.

Chrabascz also told selectmen she was applying for a state grant to fund facility management tracking software, and the board approved kicking in \$1,300 in matching funds. If Sturbridge gets the money, the software will enable Chrabascz and others to see when things need maintenance. The software allows staff to barcode various equipment (for example, boilers); when she

More kitchen cupboard Rx:

Soothe a Sore Throat: To relieve a sore throat, squeeze one half fresh lemon into one half cup warm water. Mix one tablespoon of salt and one quarter teaspoon of cayenne pepper. Gargle with the mixture three times per day until pain is relieved. Do not swallow this mixture.

This remedy, attributed to Dr. Jane Guiltinan, chief medical officer at John Bastyr University Natural Health Clinic in Seattle, is said to also relieve coughs and fight viral infections.

Time to Cure Cough: Did you know Thyme may help reduce coughing due to a cold? Make up thyme tea by adding a teaspoon of crushed thyme to one half cup of boiling water. Allow to steep for ten minutes, then strain and sip. As a bonus studies suggest that thyme can help maintain brain function and promote heart health.

Halt a Headache: Cayenne pepper is a proven pain reliever, especially for headaches. It is said cayenne dilates blood vessels to improve circulation. Before you reach for a pain killer, you might want to try this: Mix one half teaspoon cayenne pepper in six ounces of water and drink slowly.

Cut Congestion: For generations, cayenne has been used as a remedy to clear a head cold and relieve congestion and sinus pain. All it takes is a dash or two of cayenne powder in a cup of hot tea (preferably with honey and lemon) to do the trick!

All of us likely have some aging spices in the back of the pantry shelf. To use or not to use, that is the question! For some specific guidance on when spices expire, here is a round-up of expiration dates of common spices,

CHARLTON – Jeffrey W. Boisvere, 56, died unexpectedly on Saturday, November 20, 2021, after an accident



in his home. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Elizabeth (Betty) A. (King) Boisvere of Charlton; his daughter, Sarah E. Boisvere of Charlton; his brother, Franklin Boisvere of Florida; and several aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, and cousins. He was born in Ludlow, son of the late Franklin and Patricia (Dupuis) Boisvere, grandson of the late Flo Dupuis with whom he had a special relationship with. He lived in Oxford before moving to Charlton in 1994. He graduated from Oxford High School in 1983, he proudly received his bachelor's degree after attending 7 years of night school through Emmanuel College in Boston. He proudly served in the Army National Guard in Massachusetts. He was a graduate of the Massachusetts Military Academy, and was a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer.

Mr. Boisvere was a sales manager at Mitsubishi Chemical in Southbridge, previously, he worked for ARCSOURCE, AIR LIQUIDE, and AIRGAS EAST all in Worcester. He was a member of

scans those codes, it will call up their maintenance record, owners' manuals and other useful information.

"We don't have a system that tells me what's going on with the buildings" except when custodians and others tell her something has broken, she said.

The first-year cost of \$11,316 includes training; subsequent years are \$7500 and will be included in the information technology budget, she added.

Chrabascz was also the point person for a discussion of an upcoming HVAC project at the library, where lack of heat forced it to close last Friday. Because that has been estimated at \$450,000, it will require Sturbridge to bring the building up to code in other ways, including handicapped accessibility, and has to be done using the state's designer selection criteria. Selectmen

courtesy of wideopeneats.com:

Allspice: Ground and dried allspice lasts about two to three years.

Basil: Fresh basil lasts about five to seven days, while ground and dried lasts about two to three years.

Bay leaves: Fresh bay leaves last about five to seven days, while ground and dried bay leaves last about two to three years.

Black pepper: Ground and dried black pepper last for about two to three years, while whole peppercorns last about five to six years.

Cayenne pepper: Fresh cayenne lasts about five to seven days, while ground cayenne pepper lasts about two to three years. Like paprika, cayenne pepper will last longer in the refrigerator, though it's not required.

Chili powder: Ground chili powder lasts about two to three years.

Cilantro: Fresh cilantro lasts about five to seven days, while ground and dried lasts about two to three years.

Cinnamon: Ground and dried cinnamon last about two to three years.

Cloves: Fresh cloves last about five to seven days, while ground and dried cloves last for two to three years. Whole cloves last four to five years.

Coriander: Ground and dried coriander lasts for two to three years.

Cream of Tartar: Ground and dried cream of tartar last about two to three years.

Cumin: Ground cumin lasts about two to three years.

Dill: Fresh dill lasts about five to seven days, while ground dill lasts about two to three years.

Garlic: Fresh garlic lasts for four to six months, while ground and dried garlic each last about two to three years.

Italian Seasoning: Ground and dried Italian Seasoning lasts for about two to three years.

Jalapeños: Fresh jalapeños last for about five to seven days, while ground

the Auburn Sportsman's Club, and a member of the United States Judo Association.

Mr. Boisvere was a seventh degree blackbelt in Judo and a fifth degree blackbelt in Jujitsu. He practiced and taught Judo for many years. He had been a Tactical Instructor for the Worcester Police Department in the past, and taught self-defense classes for women. He had a love for the sport of Judo, he enjoyed running, boxing, eating at restaurants, and loved spending time with his family. He enjoyed time at the beach in Plymouth. He was always smiling, had a huge personality that would light up the room, with an infectious laugh. He would want to be remembered as a "good dancer", and often complained that his "girlfriend" Denise Austin (fitness guru) would not respond to his letters.

Memorial calling hours are Thursday, December 2, 2021, from 4-6 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. A prayer service will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the conclusion of calling hours. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Maddilyn Rose Memorial Foundation Hometown Bank 31 Sutton Avenue Oxford, MA 01540 a charity to support anyone suffering from domestic violence issues.

voted to let the building committee handle the process of designer selection provided the board has the final say.

The plan is to bring that to the Annual Town Meeting for approval.

In other business, selectmen are starting the process of searching for a new town administrator after Bridges submitted a letter of resignation effective Dec. 21. The board itself will search for an interim administrator, who can serve for up to six months under the charter, with applications due by Dec. 15. Afterward, they will appoint a committee to handle the job of finding a permanent replacement; under the charter, that's five people: a selectman, a department head and three citizens.

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

and dried will last about two to three years.

Mint: Fresh mint lasts about seven to 10 days, while ground and dried mint last for about one to three years.

Mustard: Fresh mustard, not the condiment, lasts for about five to seven days. Ground and dried mustard, on the other hand, lasts for about two to three years.

Nutmeg: Ground and dried nutmeg last for about two to three years.

Onions: Fresh onions last for about five to seven days, while dried and ground onion powder lasts for about two to three years.

Oregano: Fresh oregano lasts about five to seven days, while ground and dried oregano last about two to three years.

Paprika: Dried and ground paprika last about two to three years.

Parsley: Fresh parsley will last about five to seven days, while ground and dried will last about two to three years.

Pumpkin Pie Spice: Ground pumpkin pie spice will last about two to three years.

Rosemary: Fresh rosemary will last about 10 to 14 days in the refrigerator, while dried and ground rosemary will last about one to three years.

Sage: Fresh sage will keep about 10 to 14 days in the refrigerator, while dried sage leaves will last about one to three years. Ground sage will last about three to four years.

Salt: Table salt keeps indefinitely, just like kosher salt and sea salt.

Steak Seasoning: Bottled or bulk steak seasoning will last about one to two years.

Taco Seasoning: Packets of taco seasoning will last about two to three years.

Thyme: Fresh thyme will last about 10 to 14 days in the refrigerator, while ground and dried thyme will last about three to four years.

Turmeric: Ground turmeric will last about three to four years.

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

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

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

TRAINOR

continued from page A8

one teaspoon of cinnamon killed 99.5 percent of the bacteria after three days at room temperature.

Ginger: Ginger bread and ginger snaps are familiar holiday treats, but did you know ginger has long been hailed for its power to tame a tummy ache? It's also a well known home remedy to treat motion and sea sickness. In fact, in one study, ginger was shown to be superior to a commonly used over-the-counter and prescription drug for motion sickness, reducing dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and cold sweats.

It's also claimed that ginger can aid in relieving arthritis and sciatica pain.

A simple Ginger tea is made by steeping one or two half inch slices of fresh ginger in a cup of hot water. Or add 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger powder too three cups of boiling water and let steep for a few minutes.

Or, some people simply eat several pieces of crystallized ginger to help relieve joint and nerve pain.

Allspice: Christmas pudding, mince-meat and pumpkin pies all benefit from the addition of allspice, but did you know your health can too?

Allspice is famous for its ability to relieve muscle aches and pains when applied topically. To make an allspice poultice, mix ground allspice with water to form a thick paste. Apply it to the body, cover with gauze and relax for 15 to 20 minutes.

Sipping tea made from the spice can also be helpful in relieving menstrual cramps and headaches.

Allspice berries can also be used to temporarily relieve toothache pain. Simply chew one allspice berry for quick relief.

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Pioneers take traditional Thanksgiving Day game from Bartlett, 28-12

SOUTHBRIDGE'S MIRANDA SCORES TWICE, WINS GAME MVP

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

SOUTHBRIDGE — Something had to give when winless Southbridge High traveled to Memorial Athletic Field to take on winless Bartlett High in the 101st Thanksgiving Day football showdown between the two teams. And despite the poor records, the crowd was relatively large and both sides put forth a good showing on the gridiron.

When all was said and done, the Pioneers rallied twice from one-touchdown deficits and scored the final three TDs to defeat the Indians, 28-12.

"We always tell the kids, this is our Super Bowl," said Southbridge head coach Frank Koumanelis. "That's one of the goals at the beginning of the season is obviously the Bartlett game."

Johnathan Miranda, a Pioneers' junior, was given the Captain Vincent Sabatinelli Trophy as the game MVP. Miranda, who missed most of the season while recovering from a left meniscus injury, rushed for two touchdowns and added a two-point conversion.

"I've been waiting for that day to come back," said Miranda, who used school choice to attend Tantasqua Regional during his freshman and sophomore seasons before transferring back to Southbridge. "It feels so much better today, physical therapy's been working."

And as far as beating the rival Indians goes, Miranda

was quite pleased.

"It feels really awesome, especially on Thanksgiving Day," he said. "Now I'm going to go home and have some good turkey."

Koumanelis reflected on the season and how it went from bad to worse, before working itself out for the better in the end.

"This was a challenging season. We got a slow start, we were a week behind everybody, and then we got hit by COVID," Koumanelis said. "Then we got hit with the injury bug. We went from 22 kids down to about 15 or 16."

"Then some of the kids started to come back," Koumanelis added, speaking of players like Miranda and Randy Melendez. "We hung in there and I think the kids showed a lot of character just going out there and playing every week. Finally, these past two weeks, we put it together and we put out a team that is going to perform."

Koumanelis called Miranda a fitting player to win MVP.

"Johnathan had a hell of a game. Two touchdowns, he had a ton of yardage," his coach said.

Bartlett scored first on the game's opening play from scrimmage. There, Bryce Patterson ran a counter up the middle for a 66-yard touchdown. After the Pioneers tied the score at 6-6 on Miranda's 25-yard scoring run, the Indians retook the lead on another Patterson play. Quarterback Michael Karontang launched



Photos Nick Ethier

The Southbridge High varsity football team is full of excitement while clutching the VFW Trophy following a 28-12 victory over Bartlett High on Thanksgiving Day.



With head coach Frank Koumanelis smiling, Johnathan Miranda of Southbridge is awarded the Captain Vincent Sabatinelli Trophy as Game MVP.

a 52-yard pass to Patterson for the score.

"It's a tough pill to swallow for a lot of our guys, especially the ones like Bryce Patterson. He's a fourth generation Bartlett football player," said head coach Mike Harpin. "It means a lot to him to have come out here and play as well as he did."

Southbridge tied the score at 12-12 when quarterback Blake Andrews called his own number and scored from a yard out. The Pioneers then took a 14-12 lead when Andrews tossed a two-point conversion pass to

Richie Nieves.

The score remained 14-12 until midway through the fourth quarter, when Southbridge scored twice more to put the game away. First, Miranda scored from 12 yards out and added the two-point conversion. Then, Adriel Olivo grabbed a Bartlett fumble and found pay dirt from 45 yards away. Olivo also added a fourth quarter interception.

"It's important not only for this season, it's important to get us into next season," Koumanelis said of the victory. "We'll hit the weight room

hard and hopefully get a few more numbers."

Harpin reflected on the close contest, stating, "It was a great game. It was back-and-forth until that very last one there. We played well, but we didn't play well enough. There's a lot of emotion in this game for both sides, including our fans and their fans."

"That team did a better job controlling the ball. We scored fast and quick, but then they took time away from us. Credit to Southbridge," Harpin concluded.



FOOTBALL

continued from page A1

The Shepherd Hill offense and Tantasqua defense line up for a play in their annual Thanksgiving rivalry showdown on Nov. 24.

we've had turnovers and things like that and penalties that stopped drives. I don't think our record speaks for how much these seniors and everyone else has battled the entire year."

Tantasqua held off Shepherd Hill to take their 14-0 lead into the second half. The Rams didn't back down, however, scoring their first points of the game in the fourth quarter on a run-in touchdown by senior quarterback Nolan Lagere before a successful two-point conversion by junior Romeo Holland made it a one-score game. Tantasqua responded when Colon-Martinez completed a 12-yard touchdown run to make

the score 20-8 after a failed two-point conversion. Shepherd Hill would score one more time in the fourth quarter courtesy of another Legere keeper touchdown and a converted two-point conversion by Holland, but the Rams were unable to drive down the field one more time to complete the comeback, giving the Warrior a 20-16 victory in the 47th meeting of the teams.

Shepherd Hill head coach Dave Buchanan commended his team's comeback attempt in the second half, but acknowledged that Tantasqua's quick two-score lead was too much to overcome.

"Unfortunately, we just ran out of time. Ultimately at the end of the day you can't let a team jump out 14-0 and then try to battle back. It's too hard at times for us to be able to do that so we have to start faster," Buchanan said. "It's a rivalry game for a reason and you're always going to get their best shot. It's a credit to Tantasqua. We've got a lot of tough kids and that's who we are, and tough kids never quit. That's a testament to all those kids who played tonight, and they played hard. I'm so proud of them. I absolutely love this group. It's tough for us to not send the seniors out with a win like we want-



Quarterback Caleb Thompson of Tantasqua is crowded by Shepherd Hill defenders as he pushes through a pile.

ed, but at the same time the seniors responded and that's a testament to their mental toughness and how hard they worked."

Tantasqua's win brings the Thanksgiving record between the two teams to 37-9-1 in favor of Shepherd Hill. The Warriors finished the season 2-8, while the Rams went 4-7.

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<p>Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>Once in a lifetime opportunity to own a Webster Lake Waterfront Cottage on Long Island! Properly named the "Grand View". Sandy beach, boat house! Antique Cottage w/5 Rms, 3 BRs, a stone fireplaced w/pellet stove, eat-in kitchen w/modern appliances, full bath! washer/dryer. Screened porches. Included. 25% ownership share in a main land waterfront lot at 38 Point Pleasant Rd, in sheltered Mumford Cove! land provides boat slip & winter storage. A FAR AWAY PLACE NEAR BY! \$389,900.</p>	<p>WEBSTER LAKE - 1301 TREASURE ISL.</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>Quiet Summers & Fall Seasons on Big & Beautiful Webster Lake. Completely updated Hardwood & Ceramic. Center Island Kitchen. 6 Rooms. 2-1/2 Baths. a must see. Overlooking the Marina. 2 Deeded boat slips. assisted sale \$600,000.</p>	<p>LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS</p> <p>Oxford - 2 Merriam Rd 80 +/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton! Great Location for Horses! ON DEPOSIT! \$329,000.</p> <p>Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! \$89,900</p> <p>WEBSTER - DOUGLAS RD 26 ACRES on SUGARLOAF HILL. 1000+/- ft of frontage! SORRY, SOLD! \$200,000</p> <p>Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! ON DEPOSIT! Each \$24,500.</p>	<p>OXFORD - 10 BEVERLY STREET</p> <p>ON DEPOSIT</p> <p>2 Family! A RARE FIND, BUILT IN 1967!! 2 PARCELS =16,224 SF!! EXTREMELY WELL MAINTAINED! Total 9 rooms, 5 Bedrooms, 2 baths. 2nd apartment is a perfect mortgage helper! Beautiful Hardwood Floors! Roomy yard. Off Street Parking! Neighborhood Setting! \$449,000.</p>	

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

<p>Webster Lake - 300 Killdeer Island</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! WEBSTER LAKE waterfront property on Killdeer Circle! Prime waterfront location! Gently sloping landscape to waters edge. Crystal clear, sandy bottomed shoreline. Everyday is a new day at the Lake! 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths! Walk out lower level to nice size patio! Garage. \$650,000.</p>	<p>WEBSTER - 1402 TREASURE ISLAND CONDO</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>Nicely appointed, Marina side condo - with 2 Boat Slips! 6 rooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2 bedrooms, fireplace, garage, Sandy Beach, Gazebo, Heated Salt Water Pool! \$595,000.</p>	<p>WEBSTER - 401 TREASURE ISLAND CONDO</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>WEBSTER LAKE! Treasure Island Townhouse! UNIT# 401 Quiet summers on big & beautiful Webster Lake! 6 Rooms. Open Floor Plan! Dining Area. Hardwood Floor & Carpet. Master Bedroom, W/2 Closets. Master Bath! 2-1/2 Baths Total! Slider to Deck & Slider to the Patio! Natural gas heat! 2 Boat Slips! Heated Pool! Natural Sandy Beach! \$439,000.</p>
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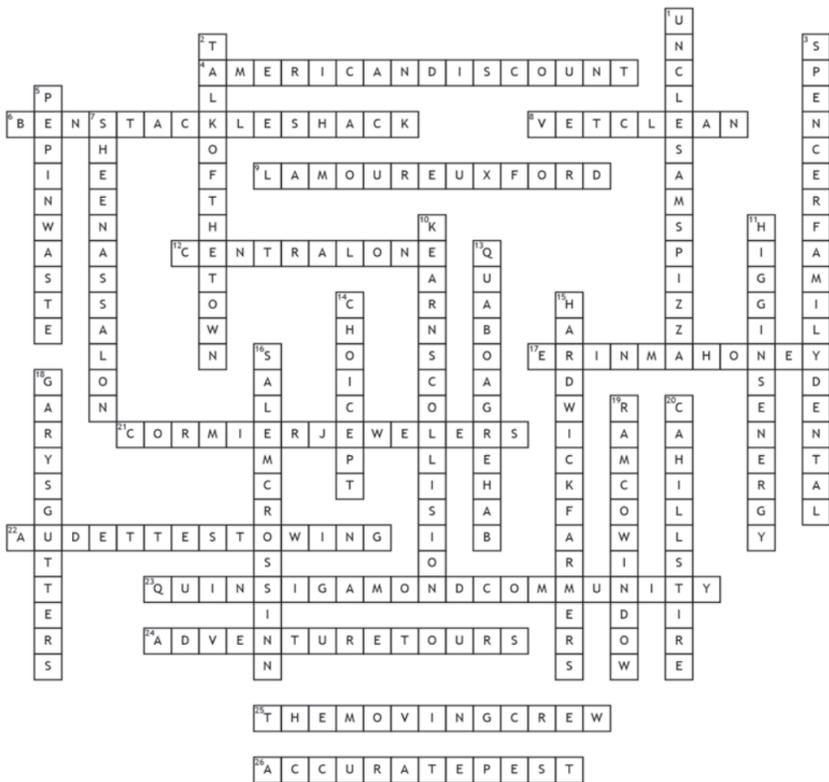


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We hope you enjoyed our 4th Annual ABC's of the Season crossword puzzle. The randomly chosen winner of all the correct entries for a \$25 gift card is Liz R. of Spencer.

Please continue to support these and all of your local businesses.

Thank you to all the ABC businesses and to those who completed our puzzle!

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Southbridge New, Sturbridge Villager, Webster Times - 508-909-4126

Oxford's offense explodes to beat Bay Path in Thanksgiving Day Battle for Buffums

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — Well, that's more like it.

Five days after scoring just six points in a bitterly disappointing loss in a Division 8 state semifinal, the high-voltage Oxford High varsity football team's offense was back to being its old self, scoring five of the Pirates' six touchdowns in a 41-14 Thanksgiving Day win over Bay Path Regional in the eighth annual Thanksgiving Day Battle for Buffums, held at Cmdr. Michael C. Masley Jr. Memorial Field.

For Oxford, which finished the season 9-3 — its first nine-win season since 1999 — the win was its fourth straight turkey day victory, knotting the overall series at four wins each. The Pirates have actually won five straight games against Bay Path, prevailing in a matchup between the schools in the spring during the Fall II season, 28-21.

Senior Antoine LaCourt-Ramos — the Snyder Award winner, given to the out-

standing player of the game — staked Oxford to a 7-0 first-quarter lead, scoring on a 15-yard interception return. LaCourt-Ramos has returned an interception for a touchdown in each of his four high school seasons.

"That's not normal," seventh-year Oxford head coach Jeff Clarkson said about LaCourt-Ramos' career feat. "I think it's a testament to how athletic and talented Antoine is."

Junior Lucas Lambert, who scored a pair of rushing touchdowns and was the game's Offensive MVP, pushed the Pirates' lead to 14-0 when he scurried into the end zone from eight yards out in the second quarter. Lambert's scoring run capped a 99-1/2-yard, 13-play drive.

"We got pinned deep in our own territory. We thought Bay Path was going to attempt a fake punt, so we didn't have anyone back to field the punt. They ended up punting the ball, got a great roll, and downed it on our half-yard line," Clarkson explained. "It was nice to see

the boys go out and put together that scoring drive. That was the offensive team we've been all year. Offensively we moved the ball well all year."

In the third quarter the Pirates quickly increased its lead to 21-0, Lambert scoring on a 10-yard quarterback keeper. The key moment in the three-play drive was a 33-yard completion from Lambert to senior Steve Fisher, which came on the play before the touchdown.

"Lucas is a very good runner," said Clarkson, who said Lambert began playing for him in youth football as a fourth-grader. He's just as good running the ball inside between the tackles as he is outside in the open field."

LaCourt-Ramos pushed the Oxford lead to 28-0 later in the quarter, scoring his first career rushing touchdown when he plowed in from a yard out.

Bay Path (4-7) got on the board in the third period, Gabe Espinosa recovering a Pirates' fumble in the Oxford end zone to make the score 28-7. At the end of the high-scoring third quarter Oxford took a 35-7 lead,

Lambert hitting junior Jordan DeLeon with a 52-yard scoring strike.

In the fourth quarter Bay Path receiver Jonathan Nussey (six catches, 117 yards) made it a 35-14 game when he gathered in a 23-yard touchdown pass from Anthony Catino. Pirates' senior Darius Richardson — who was named the Defensive MVP of the game — closed out the scoring with a 15-yard run late, which accounted for the 41-14 final.

"We made a lot of mistakes. Oxford is a good football team, so they took advantage of those mistakes," second-year Bay Path head coach Cody Giampa said. "Offensively they drove down the field on us and defensively they did a lot of good things in terms of bringing pressure, and we didn't do a good job of handling that pressure. They kept us pretty much out of our rhythm all game."

"We're excited about the team moving forward," Giampa continued. "We're losing some good seniors, but we're excited about the team moving forward. We knew in the spring

we were mostly sophomores, and we were going to take our lumps, but we had a really good JV team this year and we have a great freshman class, so we're looking forward to the future of this program."

Oxford, which loses six seniors — Richardson, LaCourt-Ramos, Fisher, Robert Cheney, Angel Roman and Chris Ballah — should be strong again next year because several starters will be returning.

"Juniors and sophomores made up the bulk of our team this year," Clarkson said. "Next year they'll be seniors and juniors."

Key juniors on this year's team include Lambert, Jadan Morales, Zak Parmenter, Quinn Clarkson (coach Clarkson's son), Travis Benoit and Sam Boucher.

"All those guys should start next year," Coach Clarkson said. "We also have a lot of sophomores I expect to be key contributors next year as well, including Jordan DeLeon, Connor Fantasia and Robbie Fisher."

Bay Path Nursing students participate in Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts

DUDLEY — The 29th Annual Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts was held at the Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Along with more than 125 New England Crafters and Artisans with top-quality hand-crafted items, raffles and food trucks, the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Class of 2022 participated. Professor Sarah Watson, MSN Ed, RN of Worcester led the volunteer practical nursing students with Blood pressure and Finger Stick Blood Sugar screenings.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for the students," said Watson. "I am glad to be joining Shepherd Hill's Festival again."

Watson led a group of student volunteers in the past but have missed the event last year due to the pandemic. Suzanne Taylor, MSN, RN invited Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and coordinated the practical nursing student's participation.

"We are grateful that Professor Taylor invited us and continue to give our practical nursing students the opportunity to be of service to the community," stated Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

The Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts is an annual event promoted by the Shepherd Hill Music Parents. Students from the music department sang and assisted with bringing food. The Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts has nearly 5,000 people attending annually. The celebra-



Rebecca Lorre of Oxford, Felisters Mburu of Shrewsbury, and Evalyne Njoroge of Southbridge volunteers at the Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts.

tion highlights the community. Vendors are looking forward to next year's celebration. For more about the Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/shepherd-hillfestivalofcrafts/>

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy
Bay Path Practical Nursing is

a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam.

Charlton establishes Capital Stabilization Fund

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The town of Charlton will be establishing a new account in the town's budget specifically designated for capital improvement projects. The Capital Stabilization Fund was approved during the Nov. 15 special town meeting by a vote of 272 to 66, and while it was a relatively minor item compared to other articles on the warrant, it's approval will allow Charlton to better allocate money for capital initiatives.

The fund was one of the earliest articles on the warrant and received little debate, although citizens did ask why such an account was needed. Finance Director Ashley Obrzut said the account is merely to make allocating money for capital improvements simpler and provide a designated location for funds to be earmarked for

these projects.

"Our thought process was to just split up some money for a specific purpose to have money for capital. Rather than having to go for free cash every time we can have some money set aside for other capital improvements as needed," Obrzut said.

Adding some more context to the account's limitations and safeguard, Town Administrator Andrew Golas later stated that any allocation from the account would require a two-thirds vote at town meeting. After the account was approved a later article on the warrant asked voters to allocate the first deposit into the fund. Voters approved moving \$250,000 from the stabilization fund to the Capital Stabilization Fund. The article also saw voters approve moving \$475,000 from sewer retained earnings to the Sewer Stabilization Fund.

Anna DiGregorio named to Dean's List at Stonehill College

EASTON — Anna DiGregorio, of Fiskdale, a member of the Class of 2021, has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

Stonehill is a Catholic college located near Boston on a beautiful 384-acre campus in Easton, Massachusetts. With a student-faculty ratio of 12:1, the College engages over 2,500 students in 80+ rigorous academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and pre-professional fields. The Stonehill community helps students to develop the knowledge, skills, and character to meet their professional goals and to live lives of purpose and integrity.

About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

Joshua Hyde Library welcomes Sarah Stewart Taylor for Stewing Over Mysteries event

STURBRIDGE — Joshua Hyde Public Library is pleased to host author Sarah Stewart Taylor for our annual Stewing Over Mysteries event on Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us in the Public House Tap Room for a fun night as we stew over mysteries with Sarah Stewart Taylor, author of the Sweeney St. George series and the Maggie D'arcy series. Sarah grew up on Long Island, and was educated at Middlebury College

in Vermont and Trinity College, Dublin, where she studied Irish Literature. She has worked as a journalist and writing teacher and now lives with her family on a farm in Vermont where they raise sheep and grow blueberries.

Tickets for this event go on sale Dec. 1, and can be purchased for \$16 per person in the Library or through PayPal on the Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library website, www.sturbridgelibrary-

friends.org/. Your ticket purchase comes with entry into the event, as well as a delicious beef stew dinner, rolls, coffee, & dessert. Make sure to reserve your spot early, this event sells out every year.

This event is sponsored by The Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library.

For questions or more information on this event, please visit www.sturbridgelibrary.org or call 508-347-2512.



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POLICE LOGS

Sturbridge police log

Friday, Nov. 19
 All afternoon – Responded to three ambulance calls.
 12:51 PM – Traffic stop on Rt 15 led to Auburn man getting a summons for driving after suspension and no inspection sticker.
 2:28 PM – Took walk-in report of fraud.
 5:25 PM – Responded to disturbance, Rte 20.
 5:47 PM – Traffic stop for erratic operation led to arrest of Christina Mele, 42, of 24 Mechanic St #6, Spencer, for OUI-Drugs.
 8:03 PM – Responded to 911 call for disturbance, Super 8 Motel.
 11:07 PM – Responded to disturbance in field, Douty Road.

Saturday, Nov. 20
 All Day – Responded to four ambulance calls.
 8:41 AM – Responded to threats, McGilpin Road.
 10:29 AM – Traffic stop on Main St led to a Ludlow man getting a summons for negligent operation, marked lanes violation and no inspection sticker.
 11:02 AM – Took report of property damage accident, Route 20.
 11:50 AM – Took report of vandalism, Breakneck Road.
 1:05 PM – responded to disturbance, New Boston Road.
 1:56 PM – Responded to fire call, New Boston Road.

6:07 PM – Traffic stop on Rte 15 led to New York City man getting a summons for unlicensed driving and using non-compliant aftermarket lights.
 7:01 PM – Another Rte 15 traffic stop led to a Maine man getting a summons for unlicensed driving and a miscellaneous equipment violation.
 7:38 PM – Another Rte 15 traffic stop led to a Connecticut woman getting a summons for unlicensed driving and a number plate violation.

Sunday, Nov. 21
 All Day – Responded to four ambulance calls.
 12:23 AM – Traffic stop on Main St led to Springfield man getting a summons for unlicensed driving, speeding and a lights violation.
 12:57 PM – Traffic stop on Rte 20 led to Connecticut woman getting a summons for driving after suspension, driving an uninsured vehicle and no inspection sticker.
 2:40 PM – Responded to property damage accident, Rte 15.
 5:56 PM – Responded to fire call, Crescent Gate.
 8:25 PM – Responded to fire call, Cedar St.

Monday, Nov. 22
 All Day – Responded to two ambulance calls
 2:02 AM – Traffic stop on Hall Road led to Everett man getting a summons for driving after suspension.
 11 AM – Traffic stop on Rte 131 led to North Brookfield woman getting a

summons for driving after suspension.
 12:41 PM – Responded to suspicious activity, Cedar St.
 4:04 PM – Took phone report of suspicious activity, Rte 20.
 5:27 PM – Took property damage accident report, Podunk Pike.
 7:54 PM – responded to fraud complaint, Brookfield Road.

Tuesday, Nov. 23
 All Day – Responded to seven ambulance calls and four property damage accidents.
 7:21 AM – Sent multiple units to respond to runaway/missing person call, Rte 15.
 9:40 AM – Took report of injury to property, New Boston Road.
 11:19 AM – accident on Rt 15 led to Holland man getting a summons for reckless driving, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, a marked lanes violation and a passing violation.
 12:01 Pm – Responded to fire call, Rte 15.
 1:41 PM – Traffic stop on Rte 209 led to arrest of Luis A F Leon, Jr of 110 Pine St #3R, Southbridge, for unlicensed driving, unregistered vehicle, and lack of registration sticker.
 3:56 PM – Responded to suspicious activity, Podunk Road.
 4:32 PM – Responded to suspicious activity, Steeple View
 6:21 PM – Responded to intoxicated person, Main St.

Wednesday, Nov. 24
 All Day – Responded to three ambu-

lance calls.
 9:28 AM – Took report of illegal dumping, Rte 20.
 1:24 PM – Traffic stop on Rte 20 led to Connecticut man getting a summons for unlicensed driving, using an electronic device while driving and registration not in possession.
 5:02 PM – Responded to runaway call, Cedar St
 5:19 PM – Took report of hit & run accident, Rte 20.
 7:24 PM – Responded to animal complaints, Rte 15.
 8:50 PM – Traffic stop on Rte 20 led to North Brookfield woman getting a summons for unlicensed driving.
 9:10 PM – Traffic stop on Rte 20 led to Woodstock man getting a summons for driving an unregistered vehicle, a number plate violation, and a number plate violation to conceal ID.

Thursday, Nov. 25
 All Day – Responded to four ambulance calls.
 12:01 PM – Responded to past larceny complaint, Main St.
 12:31 PM – Responded to disturbance, Goodrich Road.
 12:57 PM – Responded to call of past vehicular burglary, Main St
 3:57 PM – responded to phoned-in fire alarm, Rte 20.

Friday, Nov. 26
 3:06 AM – Responded to medical alarm, Lake Road.
 11:28 AM – Responded to fraud complaint, Wells Park Road.

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A. 2 26 25 8 25 15 11 21 13
Clue: Relating to the human spirit

B. 24 16 13 25 16 19 2
Clue: Things one accepts as true

C. 15 17 25 4 14 25 4 12
Clue: Using rational judgement

D. 15 5 12 16 15 17 16 8
Clue: In proximity to another

Answers: A. spiritual B. beliefs C. thinking D. together

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

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Photo Courtesy

The Publick House at 277 Main St. in Sturbridge is known for a number of things, but its Christmas decorations are second to none. This year, Cyclops-Snowman Productions will be premiering its family-friendly Christmas movie "Spills" in Paige Hall on Sunday, Dec. 5, and the general public is invited to attend. Mrs. Claus and Santa Bill will be there from 5-6 p.m. and Imperfect Joy will be taking family photos for a donation toward a local charity. The premiere will begin at 6 p.m. and will play every half hour until 8 p.m., as long as there are audience members. Admission is free.

SPILLS
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MASON

continued from page A1

Charlton Police Department. I want to acknowledge my family and friends, all of the members of the Charlton PD past and present that made me the person that I am," said Mason.

Mason's tenure with Charlton has seen him work his way up the ranks from dispatcher to patrolman to detective, detective sergeant, patrol sergeant and now lieutenant.

After the selectmen approved the promotion, the room was filled with applause with Mason pinned by his wife as the final step in the ceremony.



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