

## Bay Path LPNs on why giving back matters

CHARLTON — “I’m glad I could help. Thank you. . . and I’d do it again. I’m forever indebted for your patience and guidance. Please donate it back to the program. I’m very thankful for your kindness,” says Heather Sheehan, LPN Class of 2018.

“Thank you for all your inspirations you gave me with all your accomplishments you shared!” adds Tina Parent, LPN Class of 2015

“Always thinking of you. Your voice is in my head every day. I learned so many valuable lessons from you that I am proud to practice in nursing and life. . . thank you!” said Emily Lamoureux, LPN Class of 2019.

“Thank you. Bay Path helped me a lot. I’m happy to help,” Kiana McDonald, LPN, Class of 2017, chimed in.

“Thank you so much for everything you have done and continue to do! You are appreciated more than you will ever know!” said Paige Huie, LPN, CHT Class of 2014

“Just want to help. I’ll do what I can. I’m so glad she got it. Been there, I’m more than happy to help. It’ll be worth it!” added Carleen Berthiaume, LPN, Class of 2019.

There are many reasons why Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Alumni should consider making a gift: to show appreciation for the education that Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy has provided them; to give others a chance to have a similar experience; to stay connected to the Bay Path community;

At many colleges and universities, Alumni Giving starts even before graduation day. At Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, it begins at Orientation and Acceptance Ceremony



Photo Courtesy

Elizabeth Lartey, LPN of Worcester, and Isabella Boateng, LPN of Machester, Conn.

when soon to be graduates are paired off with incoming nursing students. It may begin as a request for mentorship, or as an inquiry for used textbooks. Eventually alumni giving evolves and alumni themselves find ways to talk about the importance of alumni giving to the school.

Giving Back Helps Your Own Reputation

Please Read **BAY PATH**, page **A3**

According to Hank Coleman, publisher of the finance blog Money Q & A, “Alumni should consider their diplomas like a share

## Helping Hands Society holds annual Christmas Fair

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Helping Hands Society celebrated the return of their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 4, one of if not the biggest annual fundraiser for the organization and it’s causes.

The fair was held at the society’s headquarters, the historical Dodge Chapel on Hammond Hill Road, and featured raffles, homemade cookies, and the Santa’s Village gift section. Judy Maskell, President of the Helping Hands Society, said the bulk of the funds raised from the event help support a variety of causes and much of it goes right back into the community to those in need.

“This event, along with others that we do like summer yard sales and that sort of thing, is really fundraising to maintain our treasury for scholarships. Our overall goal is to help families and individuals who have a need at any time of year. We also want to help to maintain the Chapel which we call our home,” Maskell said.



Photos Jason Bleau

Volunteers from the Helping Hands Society got into the Christmas spirit greeting guests during the Christmas Fair.

The raffle items for the event came from a variety of sources

Please Read **FAIR**, page **A15**

## Nativity Drive-Thru returns to Charlton this weekend

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Baptist Church has embraced a new holiday tradition with the return of the church’s Christmas Nativity drive-thru event this weekend.

The event started in 2020 as a way to help spread Christmas cheer and the story of Jesus’s birth and life that most associate with the holiday in a socially distanced format. The 2020 event was such a success the church has brought it back

for another year. One of the co-organizers of the event, Joy Coleman, said it’s likely this will become an annual tradition for the church.

“This format did come out of COVID and the limitations that we had, but it was such a blessing that there were so many people that were able to do something fun with their family that they weren’t able to do last year. They appreciate it so much and it was received so well that we knew we wanted to do this again. We’re in a better place than

we were a year ago and while we know the pandemic is not over, we’re grateful we could offer this again. It’s wonderful because the whole family can come and enjoy the show and they don’t have to get out of their cars,” Coleman said.


While many are familiar with the story of Jesus’s birth that is often portrayed through live or model Nativity scenes and on television and the big screen around Christmas, the story at the Charlton

Please Read **NATIVITY**, page **A4**



Photo Courtesy

A scene from the Charlton Baptist Church Nativity Drive Thru in 2020. The event returns this weekend for its second year.



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### Early deadlines for Christmas

To ensure that the Dec. 24 edition of the Auburn News arrives in subscribers’ mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week will be Friday, Dec. 17 at 9 a.m. Submissions are welcome by e-mail at [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news).

The staff of the Auburn News thanks our readers for their cooperation with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.

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# CMS Chamber urges holiday shoppers to Keep It Local

REGION — 'Tis the season to shop small and shop local! The Chamber of Central Mass South encourages you to make your holiday gift purchases at our local shops, restaurants and attractions. Keep your dollars in our community where they can do the most good, at neighborhood businesses in our local towns.

While we shop small, we can also celebrate large! We invite you to join your local Chamber of Commerce for some holiday cheer with our Members and Guests on the evening of Tuesday, December 14th! Be a part of the celebration at The Publick House in Sturbridge featuring fantastic food, a festive atmosphere in a glowing hall, great prizes and surprises, a 50/50 Raffle, and our chance to celebrate the season with our Members and friends.

We will be collecting for The Center of Hope's Holiday Giving Program at the Holiday Fun at Five. Many of the individuals served by The Center of Hope struggle financially and without help from the Holiday Giving Program, they may not receive a single gift. By contributing to the Center of Hope's Holiday Giving Program, you can help put smiles on faces this holiday season. We will have a basket under the tree at the Holiday Fun at Five to collect gift cards in denominations of \$10 or \$20. We thank you for your kindness and generos-

ity! The cost to attend the party is \$20 for Members who register, \$25 at the door, or \$30 for non-Members. RSVP to register by December 10 by phone at 508-347-2761 or email [info@cmschamber.org](mailto:info@cmschamber.org). All are welcome!

Save the date in 2022! The Chamber of Central Mass South cordially invites the public to attend a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Grand Opening at Premier Exteriors and Design on Wednesday, Jan. 5 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Located at 500 Main St., Sturbridge (Fiskdale), the former Bank of America branch location, Premier Exteriors and Design offers services including metal & asphalt roofing, vinyl siding, energy efficient windows and doors, gutters and gutter protection, custom decks, fences and hardscaping options. Premier Exteriors and Design opened for business at their Sturbridge location in September of 2021.

The Grand Opening event will feature a Ribbon Cutting ceremony presented by the Chamber of Central Mass South, presentations by local dignitaries, and opportunities for guests to meet the staff and tour the showroom. There will be light refreshments, coffee and soft drinks, and guests who place an order for services on this day will receive a 5 percent discount. All are welcome to attend. There is no cost and no need to RSVP. Just swing by and join in as the Chamber and our guests provide a warm

Sturbridge welcome and best wishes to this new business.

"We are excited to become members of such a great community," said Rob Germain, Event Marketing Manager at Premier Exteriors & Design. "We would love to learn who you are and show you how we can help you save money today and live better tomorrow."

Learn more about Premier Exteriors and Design at their website: [www.premierexteriorsanddesign.com](http://www.premierexteriorsanddesign.com). Reach them by phone at 413-207-6074.

Southbridge Credit Union is the Chamber's Featured Member of the Month. Members of the Chamber of Central Mass South since 1966, Southbridge Credit Union partners with our community businesses to help them succeed! Their array of business borrowing solutions can improve cash flow, expand your business, purchase assets, refinance debt or borrow funds. SCU's business borrowing solutions are there when you need to make things happen. "We're local. We're experienced. We've got you!" Learn more at [www.southbridgecu.com/business-loan-products/](http://www.southbridgecu.com/business-loan-products/).

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## Attorney Gina Plata-Nino appointed to Open Sky Community Services Board of Directors

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services, a behavioral health and human services agency based in Worcester, has elected Gina Plata-Nino to their Board of Directors. Plata-Nino is an attorney at Central West Justice Center, an affiliate of Community Legal Aid, and specializes in food insecurity.

Plato-Nino has been recognized for her extraordinary efforts on behalf of people who relocated to Massachusetts after being displaced by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, and more recently for efforts to assist the community during COVID through the Worcester Together coalition.

She was honored with the Massachusetts Bar Association's Rising Star Award in 2019 for effective advocacy around the issue of SNAP/ Food

Security. In 2021, she was the recipient of the Katherine Erskine Award for Business and Law from the YWCA.

She is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and served as a judicial law clerk in the Massachusetts Appeals Court. She has also practiced law at an international law firm in Southeast Asia.

About Open Sky Community Services Open Sky was formed through the 2018 affiliation of Alternatives Unlimited and The Bridge of Central Massachusetts. With more than 100 programs throughout Central Massachusetts, the organization provides services and supports to more than 4,900 adults, young adults and youth with mental health challenges, developmental disabilities, brain injury, substance use disorders, homeless-

ness or other complex challenges. Open Sky also provides services and supports for LGBTQIA+ youth through its Safe Homes program, as well as expert training for human service professionals and school personnel on evidence-based practices and best practice treatment models through the Bridge Training Institute. For more information about Open Sky, visit [openskycs.org](http://openskycs.org)



### ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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



### GOOD NEWS

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## Oxford implements winter parking ban

OXFORD — Chairman of the Oxford Board of Selectmen Dennis Lamarche announced the Board recently voted to set the dates for the Town's Winter Parking Ban.

"It is important to inform the community of the winter parking ban so residents will understand the need to allow our Department of Public Works the space needed to clear roads during inclement weather," stated Lamarche.

D.P.W. Director Jared Duval affirmed the need to enact a winter parking ban.

"We have one of the best teams around, but we need to be sure they

have the space required to effectively plow and salt the roadways. We all want to keep the streets safe for our residents and those traveling through our town," stated Duval.

The Town of Oxford's Winter Parking Ban will be in effect from Dec. 1 through April 1. On-street parking is prohibited between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. The Parking Ban will also take effect when there is an accumulation of three or more inches of snow, day or night. Fifteen minute parking is allowed for postal and package delivery.

### BAY PATH

*continued from page A1*

of stock in a company, alumni have a personal interest in ensuring that their University's prestige grows." Giving back, regardless of the act, or a donation in any size, "plays an essential role in maintaining the value of your own degrees."

A legacy Practical Nursing Students struggle to find the funds to cover educational expenses. Scholarships and grants ensure that these students can manage costs while

getting an excellent education. When alumni give back, they are investing in the practical nursing students and are providing a legacy for future generations. Many alumni state that the benefits they received from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy are intangible, and what alumni give back are not always easy to measure, but one thing is clear: alumni giving back makes a difference. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is different. Unlike large educational institutions, we look to alumni, parents, and friends of Bay

Path Practical Nursing Academy to help connect quality nursing education and a caring, supportive Bay Path Practical Nursing Community.

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.

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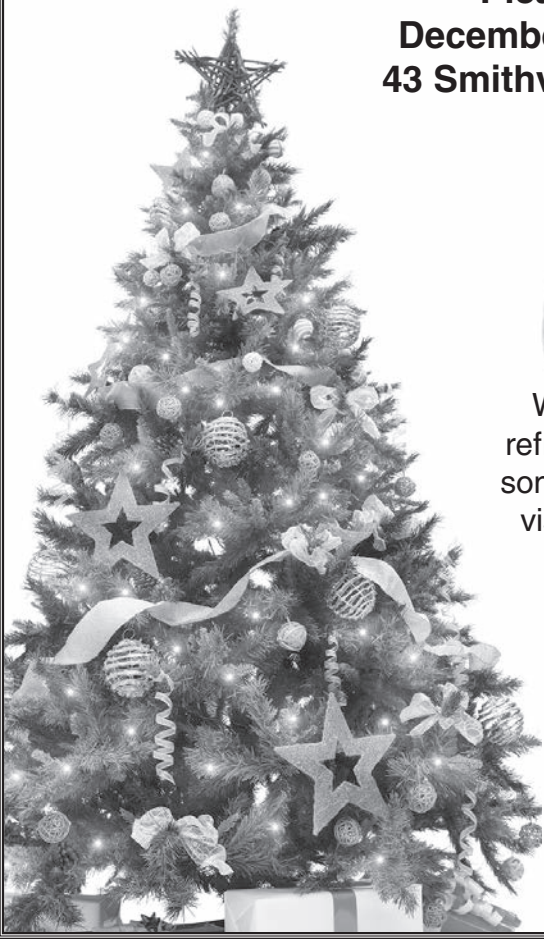
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# LeBlanc takes selectman's seat in special election

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — Anyone watching or attending last week's Selectmen's meeting saw a new face on the board, but he's definitely not new in Town Hall.

In last month's special election, Norman LeBlanc, Jr. bested Robert King for a one year seat on the board by a vote of 680-449. Both candidates noted the 11 percent turnout was pretty good for a special election.

"I'd like to thank the voters," LeBlanc said. "I appreciate them having confidence in me."

He said his primary goal in his new role will be to promote more business development to balance off the fact the town has already approved a couple of large residential projects. But he notes it needs to happen "in a way that's reasonable. We can't go crazy."

That focus comes from his long background on the Planning Board – 15 years – plus 12 on the Zoning Board.

"I don't think any of this is impossible," he notes, but it will require better



Norman LeBlanc, Jr.

cooperation among town officials. He said he sees the recent past as being a period of "too much finger pointing," but he's been around long enough to have seen it before. Such things are "cyclical."

His opponent essentially agreed, say-

ing Oxford has in the past invited people with disagreements to join town boards to see how things work "and not be combative." Despite losing, King said he still wants to see a better rapport between government and citizenry.

"Especially with a Town Meeting-style government, you should have everybody involved," King said, noting citizen commentary should be seen as "an opportunity for improvement."

He congratulated LeBlanc on his win, and said he's not sure if he'll run again. That largely depends on whether future elections feature unopposed races, something he said voters generally dislike. On the other hand, he said he'd consider joining an appointed board, but was told that won't happen due to a prior dispute with the town.

King also praised the town clerk staff's handling of the election and the fact there were no lines at the polls. Some of that was probably due to mail-in ballots, which he said he doesn't particularly like, but understands why people use it with Covid.

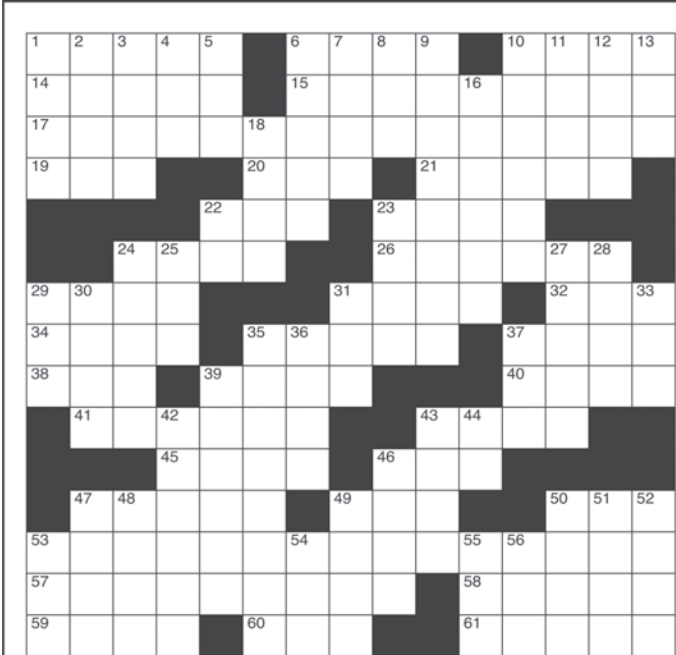
"I believe in voting in person ... and

do everything to exercise the franchise in person," he said.

Voters will soon get another chance to do that, either way. On Jan 4, the town is asking them to decide on a ballot question calling for a \$5 million debt exclusion for road work. Town Meeting approved it overwhelmingly in October, but state law doesn't allow the dollar figure to go on the ballot. Instead, the question reads as follows: "Shall the Town of Oxford be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay costs of engineering, designing, constructing and reconstructing roadways throughout the Town, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?"

On Dec. 16 at 6 p.m., the town is hosting a public forum on the proposal at the Senior Center (behind Town Hall). The previous day is the last day to register to vote for that election.

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



## CLUES ACROSS

1. Polish city

6. Very eager

10. Identifies a specific person or thing

14. Tennis great Naomi

15. One concerned by professional advancement

17. PGA Championship reward

19. A fashionable hotel

20. Norse mythology afterlife location

21. Stood up

22. Car mechanics group

23. Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)

24. Broken branch

26. Astronomy unit

29. East Asian nursemaid

31. "Airplane!" actor

32. Exclamation that denotes disgust
34. "Batman" villain

35. Downfalls

37. Philippine province

38. Once-vital TV part

39. Valley

40. Tax

41. Classic Scorsese film

43. Subway dwellers

45. Book part

46. Taxi

47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour

49. Swiss river

50. Founder of Babism

53. Have surgery

57. Withdrawal from a larger entity

58. Lot's father

59. Greek war god

60. 2,000 lbs.

61. Lemur

## CLUES DOWN

1. Quarrels

2. Right away

3. Comedian Carvey

4. Egyptian unit of weight

5. A Brit's mother

6. Tropical tree

7. One who speaks Gaelic

8. NHL legend Bobby

9. Vacation spots

10. Military personnel

11. Shakira's don't lie

12. Wimbledon champ

13. Teletypewriter

16. Mistakes

18. Whale ship captain

22. Thus

23. From end to end

24. Kids love him

25. One and only

27. Fencing swords

28. Taxis

29. Basics
30. Refuse of grapes

31. Go quickly

33. French ballet dynasty

35. Most open

36. Popular soap ingredient

37. US time zone (abbr.)

39. Items of food

42. Backbones

43. Infrequent

44. Blood type

46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter

47. Dutch colonist

48. Pike

49. Egyptian sun god

50. A cardinal is one

51. From a distance

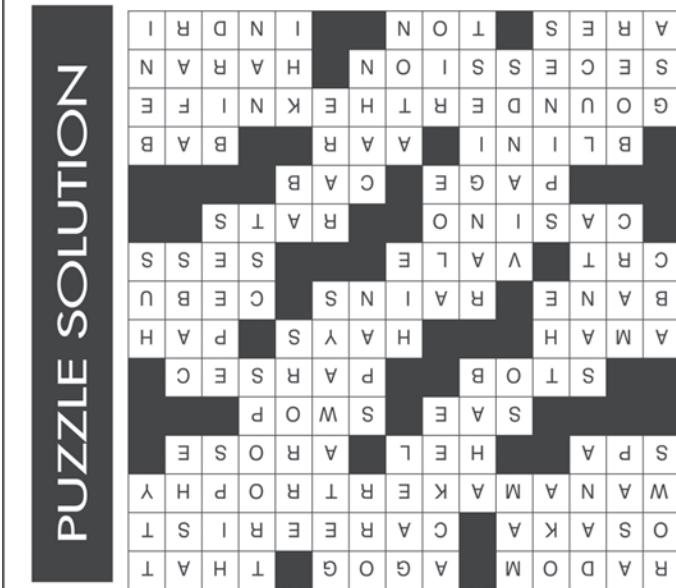
52. Bolivian river

53. N. American student organization (abbr.)

54. River (Spanish)

55. Chinese life force

56. Chinese surname



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# Charlton staying with single tax rate

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton is staying with a single tax rate after the Board of Selectmen held their annual public hearing on Nov. 23.

Selectmen met with Director of Assessing Kathleen Stanley for a quick discussion where the board unanimously decided to remain with a single tax rate splitting the tax burden evenly among all citizens and businesses rather than imposing a larger share on the commercial, industrial and private (CIP) properties. Stanley explained that Charlton saw a growth in CIP to 22 percent, while 78 percent of taxpayers are residential. The town experienced \$2.5 million in new growth while the single-family assessment increased

from \$289 to \$345. The single tax rate will assess \$13.29 per \$1,000 from the average tax bill down from \$15.01 the previous year.

Selectmen were all in agreement that they wanted to avoid adding a larger tax burden to businesses especially in the wake of a pandemic. Selectman Stephen Koronis summed up this sentiment in his statements prior to the board's vote.

"We're looking at the CARES Act and all the other things for small, medium and large size businesses that they're trying to rejuvenate, and everyone is going through a COVID crisis and pandemic. Now is not the right time to adopt a dual tax rate," Koronis said.

Board Chair Bill Borowski said he doesn't like the idea of Charlton even considering a dual tax rate noting that many

communities that have tried that approach are trying to reverse course.

"I've never been a fan of a dual tax rate and a lot of towns who adopt them find themselves trying to get back to a single tax rate, but once those taxes get cut it's really hard to say 'well we're going to increase you now,'" Borowski said calling it a "vicious feedback cycle" that pushes businesses out of town leaving citizens to pick up the loses regardless.

Selectmen voted unanimously to remain with a single tax rate. The board also voted against embracing a small business exemption and also voted not to impose an open space discount completing their housekeeping measures for the night.



## PAW of the WEEK

**Meet Fallon!** She's a 2-year-old, 50 pound female lab/terrier pup! This pretty girl is so fun! She loves being around people and other dogs. And, more than anything, she REALLY loves it when you play fetch with her! Fallon is medium energy and would fit well into most any home. She's a happy wiggle bum who is looking forward to meeting you! So what are you waiting for? Come fall in love.



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## NATIVITY

continued from page A1

Baptist Church takes things a bit farther exploring many more elements of Jesus's story and what happened before and after his birth.

"The idea is that God's love is free, and we want to offer something free to the community," Coleman said. "The event is just the story of Jesus from Caesar's palace where he issues a decree and then there are nine scenes that take place a go through to the birth of Jesus and part of his life until his death and resurrection. It's the story of Christmas tied in with Jesus's life."

The event will be held both Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12 from 6-8 p.m. and it a free drive-thru event at the Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Rd., Charlton.

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# Santa pet photo shoot a success!



Photo Courtesy

On Saturday, Dec. 4, the parking lot at the Cornerstone Bank in Charlton was busy with four legged friends, children, and adults, very anxious to have their photo taken with Santa in his sleigh. Friends of Charlton Animal Shelter (FOCAS) has been putting on this annual event for over 10 years now. Cornerstone Bank in Charlton has sponsored and hosted this great event with them. People were so excited and happy that Covid-19 did not cancel the event

this year. The lobby was filled with the excitement of dogs wagging their tails, some dressed up in holiday outfits, and their owners all smiles as each took turn for a photo with Santa. There were about 45 dogs, two hamsters and lost count of the number of children and adults that waited for the opportunity to sit in the sleigh with Santa. For more information on what FOCAS does, go to [www.focascharlton.org](http://www.focascharlton.org).

# Nichols College rings in the season with Light up the Hill

DUDLEY — The Nichols College campus and local communities gathered for the first Light up the Hill on Thursday, Dec. 2, to celebrate the holidays with a new tradition.

Nichols President Glenn Sulmasy and his wife Marla led hundreds of students, faculty, staff, family members and neighbors in singing carols at the college green wearing Nichols beanie caps. The group then paraded to Copper Quad, where they counted down the seconds on a tree and menorah lighting, enjoyed hot cocoa, made photo ornaments, and warmed up near firepits. The Nichols bison mascot, Thunder, was on hand to spread holiday cheer.

The event was also an opportunity to support the Blessed Backpack Brigade,

an organization based in the Dudley/Webster area that assists the homeless, unemployed, elderly, impoverished, veterans, and others. Collection bins were filled with much-needed items such as winter coats, gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers, toiletries, and non-perishable food items. The donations will be distributed locally among the needy.

Kate Joseph, vice president of Blessed Backpack Brigade, was amazed at the turnout.

"We are beyond grateful to President Sulmasy, First Lady Marla Sulmasy, graduate assistant Cari Cyr, and the entire Nichols community for the opportunity to be a part of the inaugural Light up the Hill event," she said. "We had a wonderful time caroling,



enjoying hot cocoa, and taking photos in front of the tree with Thunder. We were truly taken aback by the generosity that we witnessed - because of our Bison friends, we will now be able to provide many clients with crucial wish

list items to help them brave the cold winter months. It means a great deal to us, and even more to those we will help because of you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!"

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# OBITUARIES

## Paul M. Maher, 70

Paul M. Maher, 70, Saco Maine, formally of Spencer, died peacefully at his home, Saturday November 20th.



Leaving behind his beloved wife Deborah Martin of 21 years, his daughters Jessica Power of Barre and Amy Maher of North Brookfield, stepson Tyler Campbell and grandson Keaton of Agawam, sister Mary Sickenberger of Florida, many nieces, nephews, friends and family.

Predeceased by his father and mother, Ambrose and Marion, his brother Louie and sisters Bernadette Booth and Sandy Caudle.

Also known as Bigfoot, Bullwinkle and Sasquatch. Paul's large stature failed in comparison to his heart and unwavering willingness to help friends, and strangers alike, with any task necessary.

Born February 6, 1951 and raised in Spencer. As a young adult he was known for enjoying demolition derbies and racecar driving, especially at the Thompson Connecticut Motor Speedway.

Paul learned many skills and trades through the years, but he found his calling fixing tractors, farm equipment and heavy machinery. Spending many years working at Klems in Spencer before eventually opening his own business P.M. Truck & Tractor Service, and

then onto JE Murray in Auburn. He was always meeting and making new friends everywhere he went!

In retirement he found more time for his love of woodworking. He crafted many beautiful pieces of furniture with thoughtful detail. Eventually opening a booth at an Antiques Flea Market in Springfield.

Cooking big family meals together was certainly enjoyed. Breakfast treats like homemade bread dough and home fries were family favorites as well as his meat spaghetti and all the fixins that came with the Thanksgiving turkey!

Moving to Maine, with his wife, was a long awaited dream come true. Through the years, many trips to Maine were taken. Imagining a life near the

ocean, where they found joy and comfort in the waves. They loved visiting all the local craft and antique shops and sampling local restaurants. One favorite was Mikes Clam Shack in Wells for the Sunday Thanksgiving dinner!

We would like to thank all of his family and friends. Without all of you, and your stories, he would not be the man that he was. Per his request, there will be no calling hours or services held. Instead, we ask you all to please share your stories of Paul with those you know and those you meet. Because wherever you go, someone in the crowd, will remember the man named Bigfoot.

## Friday's Child



Ash and Emily  
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Hi! Our names are Ash and Emily and we want to be adopted together!

Emily and Ash are friendly and sweet siblings who are looking to be adopted together. Emily is a kind, humorous, sweet, and helpful girl. Very sociable, she makes friends easily, although she sometimes can miss social cues. She enjoys drawing, painting, watching anime and YouTube videos, and going swimming She easily engages in conversations and loves to talk about her day.

Ash, who uses they/them pronouns, works hard on building self-esteem, getting involved in the community, expressing

emotions, and exploring their gender identity. In school, they do very well in the classes that they enjoy. Ash does report that they are shy but can be outgoing when they feel comfortable.

Legally freed for adoption, Emily and Ash would thrive in a supportive and committed two-parent family or in a strong single-parent home. The ideal family would provide these siblings with structure, clear boundaries, and a nurturing and attentive environment. A home with other children in it would be welcomed as well as families with no children. Their new family must be willing to help these siblings maintain contact with their biological younger brother.

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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.mare-inc.org](http://www.mare-inc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

## Recycling Committee rebranding as Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Recycling Committee is rebranding as it makes the move to join the Keep Massachusetts Beautiful coalition after a promising growth to their partnership over the last year.

In 2021, many Charlton residents participated in Keep Massachusetts Beautiful's cleanup efforts leading the Recycling Committee to consider becoming a larger part of the organizations cause by localizing their efforts to Charlton. Committee Chair Debbie Marquis appeared before the Board of Health in November, who oversee the Recycling Committee, to discuss the partnership and why this requires the committee to change its name.

"One thing that we thought we would do in the future is to become a chapter town under Keep Massachusetts Beautiful. One of the prerequisites for that is to change our name from the Charlton Recycling Committee to the Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee. All of the towns, and there are many of them in Massachusetts that have joined, get a logo from the group and get a web

page on their big site," Marquis said.

The Board of Health fully supported the change but inquired about the benefits the partnership would provide for Charlton as a whole. Marquis said Keep Massachusetts Beautiful will provide resources and increase exposure for Charlton and its beautification efforts as it has for the more than thirty other communities that are part of the partnership.

"We would get more exposure. We'd get Facebook exposure," Marquis said. She added that Keep Massachusetts beautiful founder and Executive Director Neil Rhein has offered any support that they need as part of the partnership. "We'll just try to build it up and get photos of people picking up litter – We'll just do whatever we can to keep people in town keeping it clean and beautifying it. We'll see how it goes."

The membership will coast the committee between \$200 and \$300 a year supported by the sales of their committee products. The committee will be a joining under "option 2" of the membership which is the stage where the group is an elected or appointed town body rather than simply a smaller more volunteer oriented community coalition.



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## LEGALS

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by William Leary and Susan Leary, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Sherwood Mortgage Group, Inc., dated June 28, 2006, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39318, Page 205, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., to GMAC Mortgage, LLC, dated September 16, 2009, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44969, Page 302; by assignment from GMAC Mortgage, LLC, to Green Tree Servicing LLC, dated August 19, 2013, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 51414, Page 271; by assignment from Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC, to MTGLQ Investors, LP, dated

September 4, 2018, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59353, Page 321; by assignment from MTGLQ Investors, LP, to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Chalet Series III Trust, dated January 7, 2019, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60066, Page 212; and by an assignment from U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Chalet Series III Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Cabana Series III Trust, dated March 7, 2019, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60172, Page 306, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 A.M. on the 21st day of December 2021, at 853 Oxford Street, Auburn, MA 01501, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit:  
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as Lot 6 on a plan "Survey Plan Drawn by Bertin Engineering Associates, Inc. dated October 23, 2003 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Plan Book 806 . Plan 44. The above-referenced Parcel is part of the land described in deeds dated April 27, 1954 recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 3625 page 519 and dated October 11, 1954 recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 3861 page 593. For title see deed in book 35207, page 164.

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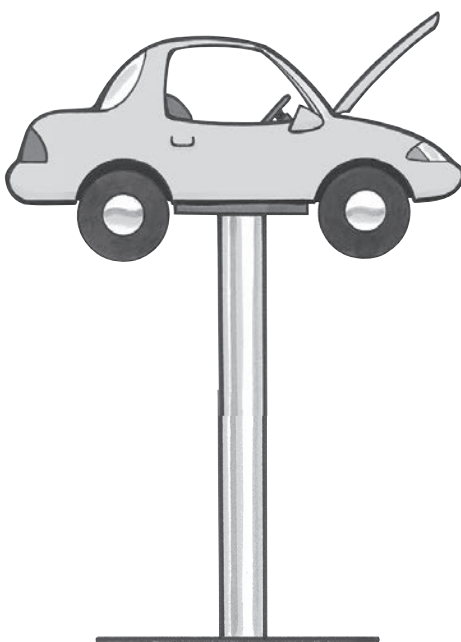
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# OPINION/COMMENTARY



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**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

## From apples to oranges (in stockings): The origins of Christmas traditions

Driving about town is fantastic this time of year; as more and more homes are decorated with bright lights to welcome the holiday season. Some people go all out, and others...well, they don't, and that's OK too. The important thing to remember as we get older is that right now, as you read this, there are countless children counting down the days until Santa arrives, or just finishing up with Hanukkah.

As our Editor was dragging their family tree into the house over the weekend, they started to think about how silly this tradition was. Why cut down a tree and drag it indoors, decorate it, and vacuum up pine needles all month long? We will admit, having the tree is fun, especially at night. With that, the research into holiday traditions began.

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of the Christmas stocking came from, or why traditional Christmas colors are red, green and gold or why Kentucky Fried Chicken in Japan is so busy on Christmas? There are endless myths and fables surrounding the Christmas holiday, but there are even more interesting facts. While researching Christmas, and digging deep, we found a plethora of fun and thought-provoking facts worth sharing with our readers.

The first one notes that early images of St. Nicholas depict him as a strict disciplinarian rather than the overweight, jolly man in the red suit we see today. Way back when, a common Christmas eve tradition was to tell scary ghost stories by the fire, boo.

In 1914, during the Great War, a truce between the United Kingdom and Germany was held. They decorated their shelters for the holiday and exchanged gifts and even played a game of football with each other.

When a child drops a letter in the mail to Santa in America, the mail is sent to Santa Claus, Ind.

Thanks to the province of Nova Scotia, which, since 1918, has been sending the city of Boston an enormous Christmas tree as a thank you for supporting them during the Halifax explosion.

Pope Julius I proclaimed Dec. 25 as the official day to celebrate the birth of Christ in A.D. 350.

For the past 40 years, people in Japan eat Kentucky Fried Chicken for Christmas dinner and must make their orders two months in advance.

British illustrator John Callcott Horsley invented the first Christmas card in 1843.

In England from 1649-1660, Puritanical guardian of the realm Oliver Cromwell outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols, which he and his fellow Calvinists viewed as vestiges of Catholic excess.

The first artificial Christmas trees were made in Germany out of dyed goose feathers (we're still trying to picture this one).

X is the Greek letter "chi," which is an abbreviation for the word "Christ" in Greek — hence the abbreviation X-mas being used so often.

Several European countries thought that good and evil spirits were active during the Twelve Days of Christmas. These 'spirits' then became known as Santa's elves.

Have you ever wondered what a 'Yule' log actually is? We have too. It is a large log that is burned during the Twelve Days of Christmas as a symbol of health, fertility, luck and is said to ward off evil spirits.

In Bolivia, there is a celebration called the 'Mass of the Rooster' that takes place on Christmas Eve. Some folks bring roosters to the mass to symbolize the thought that a rooster was the first animal to announce the birth of Jesus.

In 2010, the Columbian government hung lights on jungle trees. When the FARC guerrillas sauntered by, the trees lit up and released banners asking the terrorists to lay down their weapons. As a result, 331 guerrillas peacefully

Turn To **EDITORIAL** page **A9**

## Take the risk

I encourage people to follow their dreams.

Following my dreams has been the single most excellent motivator in my life; it's what gets me out of bed in the morning. My biggest dream I am still chasing today, although life has brought me to a place where I'm chasing it most unusually and uniquely, I'm more convinced of my destiny than ever before.

Dreams can change; old dreams can be replaced with new ones. If you didn't pursue a goal earlier in life, it's never too late to follow the same one or a new one now. I say go for it, and you'll find that doors will open; you'll be presented with opportunities you would never have had if you played it safe instead.

Through the years, I've often wondered why everyone doesn't chase after their dreams. Is it because they don't have them? Is it because they don't believe it's possible to achieve them?

I've heard people describe their dream as a pipe dream, defined in the dictionary as an unattainable hope or plan. I guess they say that because, at the outset, they told themselves it wasn't possible, or maybe they tried, gave up, and decided it wasn't meant to happen.

For those of you who do believe it's possible to accomplish your dreams, you may have weighed the risk. Many people are risk-averse. Some might say that taking the risk of following your dream is careless and self-destructive. I believe the opposite. I would never categorize carelessness and self-destructive behavior in the same category as following your dreams - no matter how risky.

Many of you who were reading this were fans of my father, Gary W. Moore, who started this column four years ago. He was an author who is most known for his novel, "Playing with the Enemy," which is still in print today. "Playing with the Enemy" earned him a great deal of



POSITIVELY  
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fan mail. It was his first book, and everyone seemed to love it.

One person wrote to my father and told a story of how he was a successful lawyer with a great family and how "Playing with the Enemy" taught him to forgive himself. He had gone through many years of regret, beating himself up and feeling like a failure.

When my dad told me the story about this man, I thought to myself, "How could he possibly feel like a failure? He was a successful lawyer with a great family; what more could he want?"

It turns out he was an outstanding boxer in his younger years. He decided to pursue a law career and give up his dream of being a professional boxer because it was just too risky. In the years after his decision, he began to have regrets; as time went on, the regrets started to grate at his soul. It wasn't until he read my father's book decades later that he decided he needed to forgive himself.

That story has stuck with me through the years. He didn't follow his dreams because he felt it was too risky.

It reminds me of my favorite quote by Jim Rohn: "It's all risky, the minute you were born it got risky, if you think trying is risky - wait till they hand you the bill for not trying. If you think investing is risky - wait till you get the tab for not investing. It's all risky, getting married is risky, having children is risky, going into business is risky, investing your money is risky, It's all risky; I'll tell you how risky life is - you're not going to get out alive...."

If you think following your dreams is risky - wait till they hand you the bill for not following your dreams.

It's all risky. Are some dreams riskier than others? It all depends on what you're willing to risk.

Are you willing to risk facing the consequences for not stepping into the fullness of your destiny?

## Brighten someone's holiday season with Christmas cactus

The holidays have arrived and so has the Christmas cactus. Set this favorite holiday plant in a basket, decorative pot or foil wrap and it will be ready to give as a gift or add to your holiday décor. With proper care this holiday favorite can flower for four to eight weeks and grow for decades, becoming a family heirloom handed down from one generation to the next.

The plant sold as a Christmas cactus may actually be a Thanksgiving cactus. The true Christmas cactus blooms later and has small segments with rounded edges. The Thanksgiving cactus, though often sold as the Christmas cactus, has toothed or jagged segments and typically blooms prior to Christmas.

Fortunately, their growing requirements and care are basically the same so the plants will do fine no matter the name on the label. These, or hybrids of the two plants, flower with cool nights and long uninterrupted dark periods. A third holiday plant, the Easter cactus, sets flowers in spring as the days start to lengthen.

Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti are epiphytes that naturally grow on trees in shaded and humid forests along the coast of Brazil. They all prefer bright indirect light, high humidity and a thorough watering when the top few inches of soil begins to dry. Don't over water but don't let the soil dry completely. Water a bit more often when the plant is in bloom.

Grow them in an organic well-drained potting mix for best results. Water thoroughly and pour off the excess that collects in the saucer to avoid root rot. Reduce maintenance and improve the growing conditions with the help of gravel trays. Place a layer of pebbles, decorative stones or marbles in the saucer or bottom of the foil wrap or basket. The pot will be elevated above any excess water that collects in the pebbles. As the water evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plant.

Keep your flowering cactus in a cool bright location to extend its bloom time. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air, moisture stress and other changes in the environment that can cause buds and flowers to



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
**MELINDA  
MYERS**



Photo Melinda Myers

**Christmas cactus is a general name given to a small group of cacti called Schlumbergera that are native to southeastern Brazil's coastal mountains.**

provide bright indirect light each day. Any interruption in the dark period from outdoor, street or reading lights can delay or prevent flowering.

Many experts find providing the same dark treatment as poinsettias, 14 hours of dark each night, promotes flowering. Michigan State University recommends providing 16 hours of total darkness and eight hours of light for at least eight days to promote flowering.

Add a Christmas cactus to your indoor plant collection and share a few with friends and family over the holidays. These easy-care flowering beauties are sure to brighten the recipient's mood 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-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).

## Readers Share Favorite Tips and Tricks



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
**KAREN  
TRAINOR**

It's time once again to share some helpful hints readers send my way. As we gear up for the holidays, the following readers took time from their busy schedule to pass along a tip or trick they've picked up along the way.

Remember readers, you can win a three course dinner for two at Publick House! Just send in your favorite hint! Good luck!

\*\*

Want to save both money and calories? A reader figured out the correct ingredients to splitting a box mix in half – no waste!

I have another hint for your column: The two of us love cupcakes from a cake mix but a full box is too much. I divide the mix to one egg and divide the liquid the same. The full mix usually requires 2 or 3 eggs and produces 24 cupcakes so you can cut it down to 8 or 12 using only one egg.

Paul Davignon  
Uxbridge, MA 01569  
\*\*

This reader's recycling hint is a triple win!

For scented jar candles that you think have burned down as far as they will go but have leftover wax at the bottom (sometimes as much as a half inch or more), don't discard the wax. Break up the leftover wax in cubes and put them in a wax warmer/melter. They will melt nicely and continue to give off the scent and you will have saved money not buying wax cubes, and stopped the wasted wax form being added to the landfill!

Donna Joyce,  
Southbridge, MA  
\*\*

Oopsie! A solution for the absent minded - this reader passed along a tried and true tip, that continues to come to the rescue!

If you seal an envelope and then realized you forgot to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Viola, it unseals easily.

Donna Lewandowski  
Charlton, MA  
\*\*

A longtime reader passes along another of her successful remedies:

This tip worked, several months ago and again today. A small piece of husk from an oat grain e.g. oatmeal, was stuck near the back of my tongue. Coughing forcefully didn't work, gargling with warm or cold water did not work.

I took a wooden long handled Q-tip, but regular size would work too, it is dry on the head and touched quickly and pulling forward, secured the husk and drug it to the front of my mouth to remove safely (do not put too far back on the tongue to gag!).

Also I teach CPR AED First Aid Professional Rescuers and if necessary, would use this for someone. My dad, during the aging process, choked often, so I have spent many years helping him, and I have taught CPR etc. since 1985.

Also, if the person is conscious, can speak, just can't get it off their tongue, a small piece of dry bread (1 inch), chewed well and swallowed will move it down.

Viola Bramel  
Northbridge, MA  
\*\*

Publick House Dinner for Two Winner  
Congratulations to Donna Joyce of Southbridge for her moneysaving candle tip above. Her name was drawn for a three course dinner for two!

\*\*

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

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A9**



# A tale of two hunts



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
• • • • •  
RALPH  
TRUE

Local deer hunters had a somewhat slow day this past Saturday west of Route 146, but hunters that put their time into areas north of 146 harvested a good number of deer this past Saturday. A quick ride on Saturday to get results of the deer harvest at Bob's checking station was shocking but not unrealistic, taking into account the high harvest of deer by archers a few weeks earlier: A total of 82 deer were checked in for the week at the Webster station, as of noon Saturday, which included a six-point, 174-pound buck. Lenny Audette harvested a huge 10-point buck in Uxbridge last week. Unfortunately, no picture was available at the time of this writing.

A report by a Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife employee that only one deer had been checked in at noon on Saturday was a far cry from only a few years ago at

the Webster station. Because of the high population of archers that now hunt deer in this state they now harvest more deer than during the shotgun season, which is one of the contributing factors. Thirty-five automobiles were lined up along Route 16 from Douglas to Webster on opening day and only half that many by last Saturday. All of the deer checked in were in good shape, according to the staff at the Webster station.

This year, MF&W officials were swabbing the nose of deer to get a more accurate account of how many deer were infected with the Covid virus. No update on the results were available at the time of this writing. Unfortunately, MF&W does not share to much information on the deer harvest until next year, which makes it harder to inform our readers. The new checking system for registering harvested deer on line during the archery season, the last week of shotgun, and the entire season on Black Powder has made it a lot easier for sportsmen to comply with the requirement.

Massachusetts shotgun deer season will end this Saturday December 11, and the black powder season will

open on Monday, Dec. 13. The black powder season will end at the end of the month Dec. 31. The high tech black powder guns are now rifled, and are extremely accurate up to 100 yards, at least for those that are highly experienced in their use. There are still deer hunters that prefer to use the old flintlock rifles, making it a lot more challenging to harvest a white tail deer. Good luck!

The new MF&W licensing system is now up and running. This is the first year in a long time that an increase in license fees went into effect. The fees will automatically increase for the next few years. If you have not been following the news on license increases for hunters and fishermen for the last 12 months, you will when you apply for your 2022 licenses and permits.

Duck hunting will reopen on Dec. 13 in Central Massachusetts with a daily bag limit of six birds. The final season will close Jan. 1. Canada goose hunting will also reopen on Dec. 13. Hopefully, the snow will not blanket the fields during the season, making for some great shooting opportunities. If snow does cover the fields, hunters will need to



Photo Courtesy

This week's picture shows a happy angler Dan Southwick, with a huge pike he caught a few years ago while ice fishing. Could this be you this year?

hunt rivers and streams, which is a lot more dangerous for man & dog. When a freeze up occurs during the late seasons, it drives the geese and ducks to open water, which often has a coating of ice along the shoreline. It can be dangerous for both man & dog.

Over the years, numerous hunters and dogs have lost their life because of thin ice. Do not let it happen to you. On Jan. 15, the late Canada goose season opens in Massachusetts,

and the daily bag limit goes to five birds. Your federal duck stamps are still good to hunt migratory birds into 2022, but you do need to purchase a new 2022 hunting license and state migratory stamp to hunt.

Ice fishing can hot be far off, I hope! More on this subject next week. Be sure to stay off of unsafe ice.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## How to care for wild birds this winter

The arrival of winter forces everyone to confront the changes synonymous with the season, and local wildlife is no exception. Low temperatures, harsh winter storms and a scarcity of food can make it challenging for wildlife, including birds, to thrive throughout the winter.

Even though several species of birds are migratory and travel to warmer climates to wait out winter, many others stay put. The Audubon Society says that keeping close to home helps some species of birds maintain their territories.

Some birds will puff up to retain heat; others will seek shelter in dense foliage or cavities to avoid the elements. Many birds will huddle together to share warmth.

Another way of keeping warm is building up fat as an insulator and energy source. The Audubon Society says more than 10 percent of some birds'

winter body weight may be fat. That can be challenging to maintain when common sources of food, such as insects and berries, disappear as winter wears on. This is when some human intervention can prove handy, advise ornithologists. A few simple efforts may benefit birds and other wildlife that may not hibernate winter away or escape to the tropics.

- Have a supply of food, bird feeders, houses, and any other bird-related gear at the ready before the storms really rev up.
- Invest in nutritious food, such as black oil sunflower seeds or blends that are high in black oil sunflower seeds. You also can make available more foods that are high in fat, such as suet, peanut butter or even whole peanuts. Mother Nature Network also suggests adding meal worms if they can be found.
- Choose feeders that will keep seed



dry; otherwise, it will be prone to bacterial and fungal growth.

- Don't discard fallen leaves or any downed twigs or pruned boughs from trees. This will give birds material for creating shelter or hiding away when the weather gets especially brutal. When the Christmas tree is finished

for the season, place it in the yard as a windbreak for birds.

- Put shallow water sources around so birds can drink. Replace them frequently if water freezes.

Wild birds can benefit from some help when the temperatures start to drop in winter.

## Unique reasons to shop at small businesses

The numbers don't lie. Locally owned businesses may be classified as "small," but they have a big impact on the national economy.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Business Employment Dynamics report, small businesses created 10.5 million net new jobs between 2000 and 2019, accounting for 65.1 percent of net new jobs created since 2000 in the United States. The Government of Canada reports that the number of small businesses in Canada in 2020 was far greater than the number of medium and large businesses, accounting for 97.9 percent of all the businesses in the country.

Supporting locally owned businesses is a great way to support a neighbor, but that's not the only attraction. Here are several reasons to shop small.

### The feel-good factor

Doing for others certainly has an impact on the person on the receiving end, but also benefits the do-gooders. A November 2020 survey by Union Bank found that 72 percent of Americans said supporting small businesses was



more important than getting the best deals. That may be due to the feeling of helping out a fellow neighbor.

### Create job opportunities

Shopping at small businesses keeps those establishments afloat, and it also keeps their employees afloat. Small businesses are the largest employers in the United States. That's also true in

Canada, where 68.8 percent of the total labor force works for a small business. A person may never know when he or she — or a relative — will need a job. Keeping small businesses viable provides a strong job market for locals.

Keep more money in the community  
The Small Business Administration says \$48 out of every \$100 spent at a small business stays in the community. Spend the same \$100 at a national retailer and only \$14 stays.

### Enjoy a more local flavor

National retailers and other businesses follow a global business model that may not allow for much customization, but small businesses can provide products or services that relate directly to the needs of the communities they serve. These same small businesses also may be more inclined to work with local vendors and start-ups than national companies that have global supply chains.

These are just a few of the many reasons to seek out small businesses when in need of products or services.

### EDITORIAL

continued from page A8

re-entered into the community.

Here's an interesting one: the Bicycle card company created playing cards during WWII that revealed an escape route for POW's in Germany.

In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," the verse referring to "true love" is a reference to God. A "partridge in a pear tree" represents Christ and the "two turtledoves" represent the Old and New Testaments.

Did you ever wonder why the colors red, green and gold are affiliated with Christmas? The color green is a symbol of life and rebirth, red symbolizes the

blood of Christ and gold is a symbol of light, wealth and royalty.

Christmas trees are grown for roughly 15 years before they are purchased.

In Poland, spider webs are a common decoration for trees because a spider, according to legend, wove a blanket for baby Jesus.

In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the country to officially recognize Christmas.

Mistletoe is considered sacred to the Druids because it produces fruit and remains green throughout the winter. The Druids never let the plant hit the ground and believed that it was a cure for infertility and warded off evil spirits.

President Teddy Roosevelt, widely acknowledged as one of the first environmental advocates, banned Christmas trees from the White House in 1901.

Apples were the first Christmas tree decorations.

Why do we hang stockings by the chimney with care? Apparently, there were three sisters who were too poor to afford a marriage dowry and were bound to end up on the streets. Bishop Saint Nicholas filled their stockings with gold coins, and their lives were forever changed.

We hope you enjoyed these fun Christmas facts, and hope that you have a happy holiday season filled with endless laughter and memories to last a life time.

### TRAINOR

continued from page A8

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.



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SPORTS

Auburn High Winter Schedule

All schedules are subject to change. To find up to date schedules, please visit [arbitrirlive.com](#).

**Boys' Basketball**  
Dec. 10 at Gardner High, 7  
Dec. 14 at Bartlett High, 6:30  
Dec. 17 vs. Southbridge High, 6:30  
Dec. 21 at Quaboag Regional, 6:30  
Dec. 28 Bob Muir Tournament, TBA  
Dec. 30 Bob Muir Tournament, TBA  
Jan. 4 vs. Tantasqua Regional, 6:30  
Jan. 7 at Northbridge High, 6:30  
Jan. 11 vs. Millbury High, 6:30  
Jan. 13 at Grafton High, 6:30  
Jan. 20 at David Prouty Regional, 6:30  
Jan. 24 vs. Leicester High, 6:30  
Jan. 27 vs. Oxford High, 7  
Jan. 31 vs. Worcester Tech, 6:30  
Feb. 3 at Uxbridge High, 6:30  
Feb. 5 vs. Assabet Valley, 11 a.m.  
Feb. 8 at Bay Path Regional, 6:30  
Feb. 11 at Oxford High, 5  
Feb. 14 at Leicester High, 6:30

**Girls' Basketball**  
Dec. 13 vs. Bartlett High, 6:30  
Dec. 16 at Southbridge High, 6  
Dec. 20 vs. Quaboag Regional, 6:30  
Dec. 23 at Advanced Math and Science Academy, 5  
Dec. 28 at Notre Dame Academy, 2:30  
Jan. 3 at Tantasqua Regional, 6:30  
Jan. 6 vs. Northbridge High, 6:30  
Jan. 10 at Millbury High, 6:30  
Jan. 13 vs. Grafton High, 6:30  
Jan. 17 at Assabet Valley, 5  
Jan. 21 vs. David Prouty Regional, 6

Jan. 25 at Leicester High, 6:30  
Jan. 27 vs. Oxford High, 5  
Feb. 1 vs. Main South, 6:30  
Feb. 3 vs. Uxbridge High, 6:30  
Feb. 5 vs. Assabet Valley, 12:30  
Feb. 11 at Oxford High, 7  
Feb. 21 vs. Notre Dame Academy, 12:30

**Boys' Ice Hockey**  
Dec. 9 vs. Nashoba Regional, 4  
Dec. 15 at Hudson High, 4  
Dec. 27 vs. Woodstock Academy, 3  
Dec. 29 at West Springfield High, 1  
Dec. 31 vs. Medfield High, 2  
Jan. 8 at Marlborough High, 4:30  
Jan. 12 vs. Westborough High, 6  
Jan. 15 at Woodstock Academy, 5  
Jan. 23 at Dedham High, 4  
Jan. 26 vs. North Middlesex Regional, 6  
Feb. 5 at Algonquin Regional, 6  
Feb. 9 at Westborough High, 8:10  
Feb. 19 at Medfield High, 4:30  
Feb. 21 at Sandwich High, 6

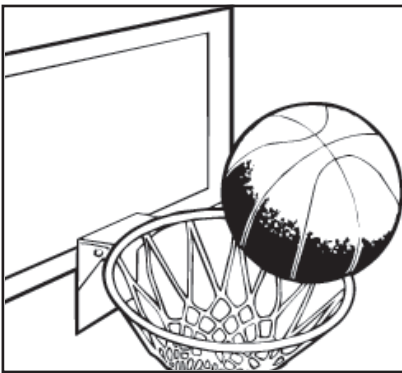
**Girls' Ice Hockey**  
Dec. 13 at Algonquin Regional, 6  
Dec. 15 vs. Leominster High, 6  
Dec. 21 vs. Newton North High, 5  
Dec. 27 vs. Woodstock Academy, 1  
Dec. 29 at Ursuline Academy, 3  
Jan. 10 at Leominster High, 5:30  
Jan. 12 at Oakmont Regional, 6:30  
Jan. 15 at Woodstock Academy, 7  
Jan. 17 vs. Needham High, 3  
Jan. 22 at Pope Francis Prep, 1  
Feb. 16 vs. Woodstock Academy, 5

Bay Path Regional Winter Schedule

All schedules are subject to change. To find up to date schedules, please visit [arbitrirlive.com](#).

**Boys' Basketball**  
Dec. 10 vs. Southbridge High, 6:30  
Dec. 13 vs. North Brookfield High, 6:30  
Dec. 16 at Parker Charter, 6  
Dec. 22 at Tri-County Regional, 6:30  
Dec. 30 vs. Keefe Tech, 6:30  
Jan. 3 at North Brookfield High, 6:30  
Jan. 5 vs. Assabet Valley, 6:30  
Jan. 10 at Abby Kelley Foster, 6:30  
Jan. 18 vs. David Prouty Regional, 6:30  
Jan. 19 at Worcester Tech, 6:30  
Jan. 21 at Blackstone Valley Tech, 6:30  
Jan. 26 vs. Advanced Math and Science Academy, 6:30  
Jan. 31 at Oxford High, 6:30  
Feb. 2 vs. Keefe Tech, 6:30  
Feb. 7 vs. Abby Kelley Foster, 6:30  
Feb. 8 vs. Auburn High, 6:30  
Feb. 14 at Southbridge High, 6:30  
Feb. 16 at Monty Tech, 7

**Girls' Basketball**  
Dec. 10 at Southbridge High, 5  
Dec. 14 at North Brookfield High, 6:30  
Dec. 16 vs. North High, 5:30  
Dec. 20 at University Park, 5:30  
Dec. 22 vs. Tri-County Regional, 6:30  
Jan. 3 vs. North Brookfield High, 5  
Jan. 5 at Assabet Valley, 6:30  
Jan. 10 vs. Abby Kelley Foster, 5  
Jan. 11 at Tri-County Regional, 5  
Jan. 14 at Parker Charter, 6:30  
Jan. 18 at David Prouty Regional, 6  
Jan. 19 vs. Worcester Tech, 5  
Jan. 21 vs. Blackstone Valley Tech, 5  
Jan. 26 at Advanced Math and Science Academy, 5  
Jan. 27 vs. Bartlett High, 5  
Jan. 31 vs. Oxford High, 6:30  
Feb. 7 at Abby Kelley Foster, 6:30  
Feb. 8 at Bartlett High, 6:30  
Feb. 14 vs. Southbridge High, 6:30  
Feb. 16 vs. Monty Tech, 6:30



**BUZZER  
BEATER!  
CHECK OUT  
THE SPORTS ACTION!**

Pro boxing returns to Webster  
for first time in 27 years

NEW ENGLAND'S FUTURE VIII  
SET FOR DEC. 18



Main event fighters Wilfredo Pagan and Carlos Marrero, III will meet in a rematch of their exciting draw earlier this year, once again, for the vacant New England Junior Welterweight title.

WORCESTER — Rivera Promotions Entertainment (RPE) is bringing professional boxing back to Webster for the first time in 27 years on Saturday night, Dec. 18, at Webster Town Hall. RPE's popular "New England Future VIII" will be headlined by a rematch of arguably the 2021 New England Fight of the Year to date between Puerto Rico-native Wilfredo "El

Sucaro" Pagan (6-1-1, 3 KOs) and Carlos Marrero, III (2-6-2), who fought to a thrilling 6-round split draw this past Aug. 14 in Worcester. Three-time, two-division World champion, RPE promoter Jose Antonio Rivera, fought in the last show in Webster back on Nov. 18, 1994, when the then 11-0 Rivera stopped Gerry O'Campo in the fourth round at Municipal Auditorium. Rivera

also fought at the Municipal Building in Webster on Dec. 10, 1993, knocking out Julio Torres in round three. Fighting on that same card was his close friend, 3-0 Worcester heavy-weight Bobby Harris, whose son Bobby "BH3" Harris, III will be fighting on the RPE Dec. 18 card. "Being able to run a boxing event at the Webster Town Hall is very exciting for me," Rivera said. "I remember fighting there in '93 and '94 and the place being packed. The fans are so close to you, it has a Blue Horizon feel to it with fans right above your head in the balcony section. In our 'New England Future' series, we like to showcase boxers from all over New England and we are happy to bring that to Webster, Massachusetts. The fans will not be disappointed with our line-up of boxers from Worcester, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Lowell, Southbridge and other cities and states throughout New England." Pagan, fighting out of Southbridge, and Bridgeport's Marrero, III will be fighting again for the vacant New England Super Lightweight Championship in the 6-round main event. The original Pagan-Marrero was an extremely entertain-



Carlos Marrero, III (L) and Wilfredo Pagan battled to a draw this past August.

ing, non-stop clash in which momentum swung round by round from one fighter to the other. One judge scored the fight 58-56 in favor of Pagan, another 55-59 for Marrero, and the last 57-57. Tickets are priced at \$75 (reserved seating) and \$45 (general admission) and available

for purchase or by contacting Jose Rivera ([elgallojar@gmail.com](mailto:elgallojar@gmail.com)/508.864.6954), AJ Rivera ([anthoneerivera@gmail.com](mailto:anthoneerivera@gmail.com)/774.272.2269) or any of the fighters. Doors open at 6 p.m. ET, first bout at 7 p.m. ET.



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OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year.

High Honors  
Grade 7: Savior Aiguier, Shayla Boliver, Ariana Byrnes, Colton Carlsen, Catherine Cloutier, Marie Cosentino, Abigail Davis, Cameron Davis, Eric Day, Lillian Demicco, Emily Dupuis, Dylan Filipkowski, Randi Flynn, Joshua Friend, Finnian Keefe, Henry LaMountain, Ethan Lemire, Damon Libby, Daymyin Lopez, Jared Magnusson, Kate Mao, Colin McIlvaine, Nicholas Meneguzzo, Jayden Minardi, Riley Moody, Kiley Paronto, Shayne Ryder, Zachary Sirard, Lillian Vaillancourt  
Grade 6: Khloe Anderson, Andrew Collins, Kaeli Cordova Del Cid, Laura Grenier, Olivia Hammond, Sophia Keefe, Olivia LaMountain, Elijah McKenna, Brooke Nitti, Jackson Stuart, Victoria Sullivan  
Grade 5: Isabella Benitez, Nikolas Coraccio, Emma Farrar, Emmarry Gustafson, LuccaHamel, TuckerHarrity, Destiny Purcell, Isabelle Richmond,

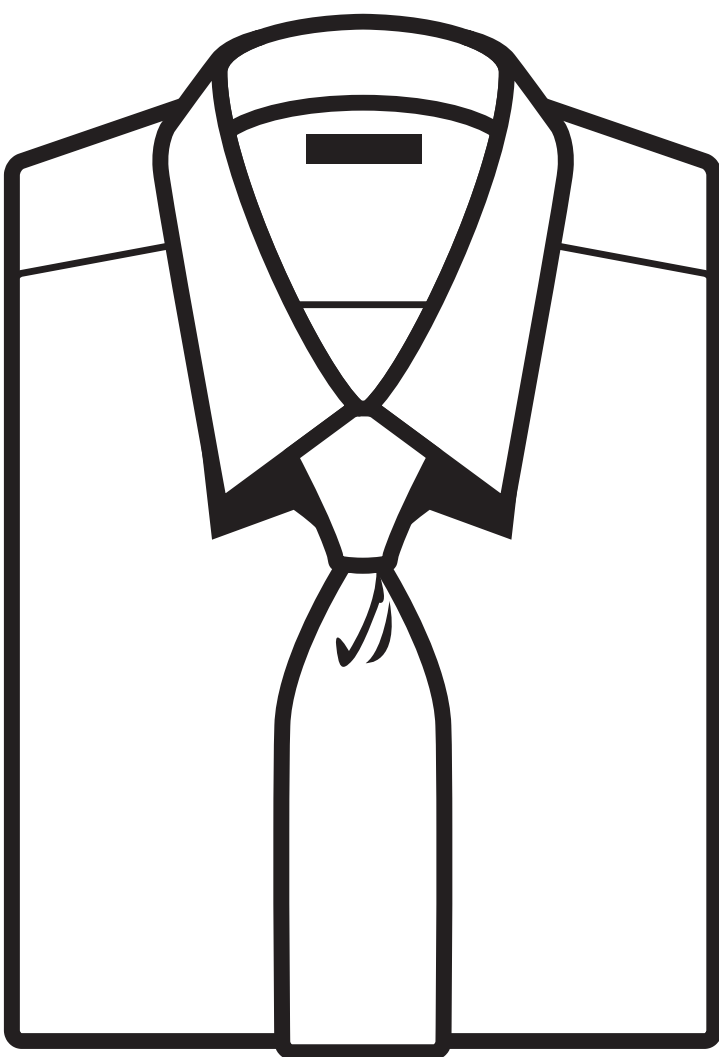
Audrey Smith, Simon Spofford, Colton Toedt, Samuel Yogaratanam

Honors  
Grade 7: Gabrielle Bartlett, Emma Brindisi, Grace Crouch, Ariana Dolan, Kaleb Falconer, Angeliz Felix, Truner Goyette, Jordyn Grazulis, Nathan Holmes, Luis Izquierdo, Berlin Krysiak, Darrian Lambert, Carlos Leon Rosario, Leighya McDowell, Brooklynn Mott, Chase Paul, Lia Pavilionis, Mia Prefontaine, Natalie Richards, Mason Rossetti, Benjamin Rucho, Julian Ruiz, Jordyn Sabotka, Addisyn Skeates, Alex Soucy, Hailey Sprague, Braden Stone, Rachel Torres  
Grade 6: Sabrina Adamiak, Gabriel Alves, Samantha Bouley, Jacob Burroughs, Sydney Chisholm, Ayva Coffey, Isabella Costa, Nathan DeAdder, Zachary Dufresne, Rylie Dwyer, Colt Eisnor, Tyler Fedorisky, Myles Francis, Alexander Frisch, Xavier Higgins, Chloe Hosley, Noel Jandrow, Colin Joyce, Ella Kasprzycki, Keith Kirkpatrick, Beatriz Luna, Zachary MacDonald, Luis Martinez, Jr., Kyleigh Minardi, Isabella Monahan, Ashlyne Monsen, Landon

Nelson, Nico O'Hearn, Lacey Parker, Charles Paul, Fagner Paula Junior, Anthony Polletta, Tyler Porcino, Joseph Pretty, Isabella Roszkowski, Adam Silwoski, Lillian Spitz, Torin Stone, Jaelyn Thomas, Lucas Troiano, Keagan VanArsdalen, Larry Wade  
Grade 5: Madison Auty, Zachery Barberio, Liam Bazin, Brenna Burke, Kaylin Cabana, Chase Checkoway, Billa Coghlan, Kellsey Dunn, Charlotte Ezzo, Braydon Fournier, Sophia Francis, Thomas Griffin, Mary-Jane Hall, Ethan Hamilton, Ali Johnson, Brianna Judge, Brooke LaCoille, Peter LaMountain, Ivy Latino, Chloe Lavallee, Arianna Leite, Alan Levkovski, Antonio Lopez, Gabriella Lucier, Elijah Lyons, Riley Maki, Samantha Marrier, Nathan Mayo, Keigan McIlvaine, Tyler Melton, Agnes Molloy, Catalina Montalvo, Brooke O'Connor, Noah Poirier, Savannah Pratt, Tyler Remillard, Canon Rheault, Gabriel Rodriguez-Carpenter, Zachary Rucho, Alexander Skeates, Donald Spaulding III, Ava St. Peter, Brenna Tebo, Jameson Tyrrell, Althia Willis, James Wilson



Celebrate the necktie.  
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



- **1901:** THE FIRST NOBEL PRIZE CEREMONY IS HELD IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN.

- **1948:** THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS ITS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

- **1996:** NELSON MANDELA PROMULGATES THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THIS CLOTHING ACCESSORY  
IS OFTEN WORN BY MEN OR  
WOMEN AT FORMAL OR  
BUSINESS OCCASIONS.

ANWER: NECKTIE

# How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Necktie

**SPANISH:** Corbata

**ITALIAN:** Cravatta

**FRENCH:** Cravate

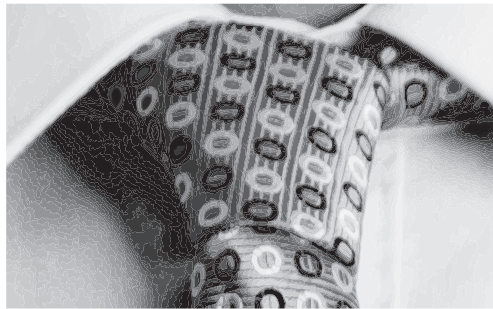
**GERMAN:** Halstuch

Did You Know?

A BOW TIE IS A TYPE OF NECKTIE  
THAT IS FORMED BY TYING  
THE TIE INTO A BOW OR  
KNOT.



# GET THE PICTURE?



**Can you guess what the bigger picture is?**

ANSWER: NECKTIE

⊙ \*\* ☐ ☺ ~ ⬤ ♫ ✧ \* ✕ ✎ + ≡ ❄️ ⚴️ 🌑 ☾ ♀ ✨ 🌀 🔮 ☯️ Ω ♂  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

# CRYPTO FUN

☐ ☾ Ω ✱ ♂ ≍ ~ ☆ +  
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to food service.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 6 = E)

**A. 14 6 22 1 6 22**

Clue: Waitstaff

**B.    4   7   17   3   6**

Clue: Dish

**C.     12   6   13   23**

Clue: Lists food options

**D.    20   25   3   24   9   6   13**

Clue: Cooking room

Answers: A. server B. plate C. menu D. kitchen

# SUDOKU

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

**Level:** Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

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

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

**ANSWER:**



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T.A. King



Maureen Cimoch



Ellen Therrien



John Kokocinski



Adrienne James



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**DUDLEY** - 10 Camelot Circle 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, 2,520' Center Hall Colonial featuring an In-Ground Pool on a 28,131' Lot! Tile Entry Foyer w/ Guest Closet! SS Appliance Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Spacious Dining Area, Tile Flr, Pantry Closet, Recessed & Pendant Lighting! Formal Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Chair Rail! Formal Liv Rm w/Crown Molding! 13.6x27' Fam Rm w/Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert, Soaring Cathedral Ceiling, Ceiling Fans & Skyline! Half Bath! 3 Season Porch! 1st Flr Laundry! The 2nd Floor w/4 Bdrms! Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Dble Granite Vanity! Full Hall Bath w/Dble Vanity! C/Air & Vac! 2 Car Garage! Fire Pit! Many Updates! Original Owner - Pride of Ownership! **\$570,000.00**

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### Featured New Listing!



SOUTHBRIDGE - 140-148 HAMILTON ST.

Multi-Familys - 4 Buildings! 9 Occupied Residential Units! 1 Occupied Commercial Unit! Huge BONUS, Drive through Heated Garage, can accommodate up to 18 Vehicles! **\$975,000.**

#### DUDLEY - 10 MILL ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful family home! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, newer widows & heating system. Mini split system. Hardwoods. Lg eat-in kitchen /Corian counters & Island! Warming fireplace with handsome mantel. Generous dining room, spacious enough for your family gatherings. lower level fireplace family room. Harmon pellet insert! 2 car garage. Reduced **\$340,000.**

#### WEBSTER - 23 EMERALD AVE.



SORRY, SOLD!

Extraordinary Find! Beautiful 2 Family! Owner occupied with pride and it shows. Grand Front Entry! 3,012 SF +/- living area. 12 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 updated Baths. 2nd Flr - Granite Countertops! High ceilings & Hardwood Floors, Modern Kitchens. Manicured 13,525 SF Lot with a Hip roof 3 car garage! **\$439,900**

#### WEBSTER - 10 THOMPSON RD



ON DEPOSIT

2 FAMILY! LOCATION, LOCATION! OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS A SOLID INVESTMENT. A GENERAL BUSINESS ZONED! PRIME WEBSTER BUSINESS DISTRICT! A LARGE, DEEP LOT, 14,875 SF/0.34 ACRE. 9 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, FHW/OIL. Garage! Lot is currently private with a mature tree line in the rear. Property serviced by Municipal Water & Sewer, Natural Gas line in Basement. A QUICK CLOSE IS POSSIBLE. **\$195,000**

#### WEBSTER • 22 EASTERN AVE



SORRY SOLD!

LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE, HUMBLE ABODE, THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK? Convenient Location, corner lot! 1288 SF +/-, 4 BRS w/1st Flr Mstr BR, Half Bath! Eat-In Kitchen, Dining/Living Room Combination! 3-Season Porch. 2nd Flr - 3 BRs, Reshingled Roof, Replacement Windows, Updated Electric, Buderus Boiler. Part finished walk-out bsmt! Garage! **\$215,000**

#### THOMPSON CT - 15 WAGER RD



SORRY SOLD!

Cape with 3 bedrooms, gleaming hardwoods, stone fireplace. Septic (2019), replacement windows, family and dining room, fresh paint throughout! Generator hook up, and updated Buderus boiler with holding tank. Garage under. This one maybe for you! assisted sale **\$279,900.**

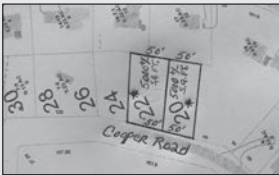
### Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island



SORRY, SOLD!

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.**

#### WEBSTER - 20 & 22 COOPER RD

LAND with Sewer & Water access! Excellent Opportunity for New Homes! Boat Ramp Near by! **\$24,500., each.**

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Oxford - 2 Merriam Rd 80 +/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton. **ON DEPOSIT \$329,000.**Oxford - 4 Leicester St. - Approx. 8.47 Acres! River Frontage. **NEW PRICE \$79,500.**Webster - DOUGLAS RD 26 ACRES! on SUGERLOAF HILL 1000 +/- of frontage! **SORRY, SOLD! \$200,000.**Webster - COOPER RD - 2 BUILDABLE LOTS! Water & SEWER Access. Zoned Lake Res! **\$24,500. Each**

#### OXFORD - 10 BEVERLY STREET



SORRY, SOLD!

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.**

## On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

#### WEBSTER LAKE - 300 KILLDEER ISL.



SORRY, SOLD!

Killdeer Circle! Gently sloping landscape to waters edge. Crystal clear shoreline. Ranch with 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths! Walkout lower level to patio! Garage! **\$650,000.**

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#### WEBSTER - 401 TREASURE ISLAND



SORRY, SOLD!

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.**

#### WEBSTER LAKE - 1301 TREASURE ISL.



SORRY, SOLD!

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**FAIR**  
continued from page A1

including businesses, local agencies and organizations and private donations amounting to around 70 different items valued at hundreds of dollars. Maskell said seeing the continued support of businesses, locals, visitors and members of the society itself was a heartwarming way to bring the holiday spirit to Charlton after a long 2021.

“It’s wonderful to see the people back

here and they’re people who come all the time. They know who we are and what we try to do for the town. They’re just so supportive of us,” Maskell said. “Between the raffles, the Santa’s Village area, and our homemade cookies it’s one of our biggest fundraisers. Our members are a big part of this event. We have one member who made a quilt that’s on the raffle. Our members put in an awful lot of time, and they know that’s what it takes to be successful anyway.”



Members of the Helping Hands Society greet customers at the homemade baked goods table.




Around 70 raffle prizes were available at the Christmas Fair donated by a variety of local businesses, organizations and private donors.

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“Highest Rate of Pay in Worcester County!”

**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Thursday December 16th

*Our Job Fair is Kid Friendly*






Health Center Positions:  
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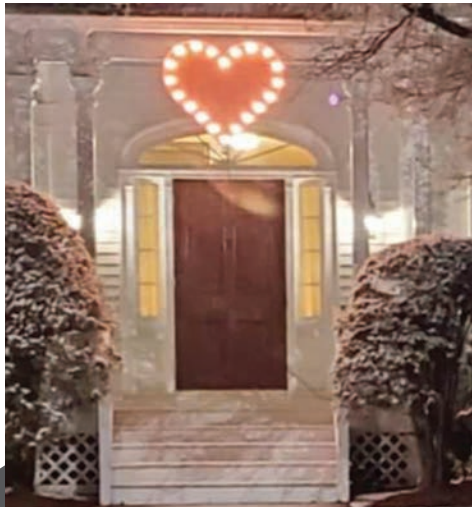
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