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Blackstone Valley Tech students earn John and Abigail Adams scholarships

UPTON — Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School has announced the Class of 2023 John and Abigail Adams four-year scholarship recipients.

The John and Abigail

Adams Scholarship provides a tuition credit for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. Eligibility to earn a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is based on students' first-time

scores on high school MCAS tests. The scholarship only covers tuition and must be used within six years of a student's graduation. The following students have earned a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship (students are

listed alphabetically by town):

Bellingham
Nicholas Cummings, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Rudolph Patete, Engineering & Robotics; and Sarah Trumm, Dental Assisting.

Blackstone
Mason Baldini, Engineering & Robotics; Daniel Cardone, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Ashlyn Lambert, Multimedia Communications; and

Sophia Mazzuchelli, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication.

Douglas Griffin Beaulieu, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Brady

Turn To **SCHOLARSHIPS** page **A13**

Police make two arrests in Northbridge

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

NORTHBRIDGE — Members of the police department recently announced that two local residents have been placed under arrest on firearms charges and more.

Both arrests took place at the end of November, according to reports; police described in a press statement the separate incidents which resulted in the arrests of Whitinsville resident Nicholas Gonynor and Northbridge resident Spencer Thomas.

Gonynor was placed under arrest "as a result of an investigation," the Northbridge Police Department shared in its press statement; the arrest occurred on Saturday, Nov. 26, according to reports.

"[Officer] Michael Marino, Officer Jordan Tredeau, and Officer Tyler Mitchell arrested Nicholas Gonynor of 222 North Main St., Whitinsville," police shared, adding that A.F.N. Browning 380 pistol and ammunition were seized, "along with an amount of suspected cocaine."

According to police, Gonynor was placed under arrest for the following charges: Carrying a Firearm without a License, Loaded; Possession of Ammunition without FID; Carrying a Dangerous Weapon; and Drug, Possess. Class B.

The following day, on Sunday, Nov. 27, police released that another arrest was made.

"After receiving information, an investigation was conducted and as a result a Taurus 'The Judge' 45 Colt/410 shotshell revolver was seized," police shared in a statement.

Subsequent to the investigation, Northbridge Police

Turn To **ARRESTS** page **A13**

Local students can help 'Name A Snowplow' with contest

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Local classrooms can now propose names for a snowplow in their school's highway district.

The new "Name A Snowplow" contest, held by the Massachusetts Department of

Transportation (MassDOT), seeks to solicit names for 12 snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming winter season, according to contest details. The contest is open for elementary school students across the state; the application deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23, according to reports.

"The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize all of the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season," MassDOT released in a press statement.

"We are excited to provide elementary school

students with an opportunity to have some fun this winter season by helping to name a snowplow," said MassDOT Secretary & CEO Jamey Tesler. "The contest is a great way for younger students to take some time to have fun, be creative, work together to

Turn To **NAME** page **A13**

Avoid invasive plant decor this holiday season

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

REGION — State officials are asking residents to avoid decking the halls with invasive plants this holiday season.

Some invasive plants can spread quickly and "completely crowd out" native plants, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife reported.

"During the holiday season, many people use plants to decorate their homes or businesses," said MassWildlife, the agency responsible for the conservation of freshwater fish and wildlife in



the Commonwealth. "If you wish to use plants in your decorations, be sure to select native species such as native pines, spruces, hemlock, American holly, mountain laurel, fir, or winter-berry holly."

Two particular exotic, invasive plants include

"Oriental bittersweet" and "multiflora rose," according to reports.

"These plants may have attractive berries, but they can cause severe damage to native plants, shrubs, and trees," state officials said. "Invasive plants can spread quickly in open fields, forests,

wetlands, meadows, and backyards, crowding out native plants that provide valuable wildlife habitat."

Oriental bittersweet was described as "a climbing deciduous, woody vine" that can

Turn To **DECOR** page **A13**



At Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School recently the drama club, led by math teacher Molly O'Brien, delivered several performances of "Law and Order: A Fairytale Unit." The play is about the investigation of crimes committed by nursery rhyme and fairytale characters such as The Seven Dwarves, Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel, and Pinocchio. Investigations occur to solve the crimes and characters are represented by attorneys who try to prove their guilt or innocence. Back: Starting Left: Bruna Palla, Abi Simpson, Lili Rockwood, Avelyn O'Brien, Michael Pacheco, Angie Beltran Colon, Yasmi Santana, Connor O'Brien, Leo Johnson, Robert Casati, Kat Szretter, Kristina Liberty, Jadriel Nunez, Min Belmonte, Danny Chaffee, Cam Renzi, Cheyanne Mitchell, Jet Carrascal, Dominic Pigeon. Front: Starting Left: James Ferreira, Cat Schiappa, Anna Guay, Jordan Ferreira, Ava Wall, Marissa Dumas, Emma Dwyer, Odin Lacroix, Farnsworth, Kyrie Doud, Trinity Mercier.



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Catholic Charities invites volunteers to assist on Christmas Day

WORCESTER — Catholic Charities Worcester County announced today that they are still accepting volunteers to deliver and serve Christmas dinner to those in need. Whether delivering meals or serving the noontime meal at St. Paul Cathedral, volunteers will have an opportunity to visit with people who would otherwise be alone this Christmas.

For more than 60 years, the Bishop of Worcester has hosted a dinner provided by Catholic Charities Worcester County to assure a meal and fellowship to home-bound elders, people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and those who would otherwise be alone on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Both

sit-down dinners at the Cathedral of St. Paul and home-delivered meals are available to those in need on these important holidays. In 2021, the Bishop's Holiday Dinners on Thanksgiving and Christmas provided over 6,000 home-delivered meals to those in need by nearly 1,300 volunteers. This past Thanksgiving, Catholic Charities successfully delivered 3200 meals with the help of 500 volunteers.

Volunteers are needed at both the sit-down dinner located at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester, and meal delivery from St. Peter's Catholic Elementary School. Sit-down dinner volunteers should arrive between 11:30 a.m. and noon, and

can register at this link: <https://www.ccworc.org/cathedralregistration/>. Meal delivery volunteers begin arriving at 7:30 am to receive the meals and delivery route. Meal delivery volunteers should register at this link: <https://www.ccworc.org/bishopsdinernvolunteer/>. Meals will be picked up drive-through style at the gym at St. Peters Catholic Elementary School, entrance on 10 Hammond St., Worcester.

If you would like to request a meal, call 508-798-0191 or go to the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/222854846678170>.

Most Rev. Bishop Robert J. McManus invites anyone and their family to join him at St.

Paul's Cathedral for a Thanksgiving dinner. Catholic Charities provides bus routes to and from St. Paul's Cathedral and will pick up individuals at: Lincoln Village, Booth Apartments, Seabury Heights, Green Hill Towers, Belmont Apartments, Green Island NOC, Greenwood Gardens, Canterbury Towers, Elm Park Towers, Pleasant Towers, Murray Avenue Apartments, Marble Apartments, and Webster Square Towers

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Foundation and more to come!

About Catholic Charities Worcester County

Founded in 1951 by the first Bishop of Worcester, Most Reverend John J. Wright, Catholic Charities Worcester County offers 21 programs and services across 62 cities and towns located in Worcester County and adjoining counties. The programs are designed to strengthen vulnerable families and individuals, regardless of racial, ethnic, cultural or religious origins, ability to pay, or mental, physical or developmental challenges. For more information about Catholic Charities Worcester County, please visit www.ccworc.org.

QCC selected by Amazon as education partner for career choice program

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College announced it has been selected as an education partner for Amazon's Career Choice program, providing Amazon's hourly employees access to QCC's programs which include over 120 associate degrees and certificates.

"QCC offers students access to higher education through a myriad of partnerships and pathways designed to facilitate student success," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "Our educational partnership with Amazon is a new and exciting way to engage more people in the powerful, life-changing impact of higher education."

Amazon employees attending QCC will receive high-quality

education and hands-on training to upskill in an existing career or prepare them to enter a career in one of today's high-demand industries. To bolster students' ability to be successful, QCC offers a wide range of academic resources and support services such as individualized academic advising, tutoring, mentoring, career coaching, and counseling. Courses are offered days, nights, and weekends in multiple modalities such as in-person, fully online, and a combination of in-person and online.

Amazon's Career Choice program is an education benefit that empowers employees to learn new skills for career success at Amazon or elsewhere. The program meets individual learners where

they are on their education journey through a variety of education and upskilling opportunities including pre-paid college tuition, industry certifications designed to lead to in-demand jobs, and foundational skills such as English language proficiency, high school diplomas, and GEDs. In the U.S., the company is investing \$1.2 billion to upskill more than 300,000 employees by 2025, to help move them into higher-paying, in-demand jobs.

Amazon's Career Choice program has a rigorous selection process for third-party partner educators, choosing partners that are focused on helping employees through their education programs, assisting them with job placements, and overall offering educa-

tion that leads to career success.

"We're looking forward to Quinsigamond Community College coming on board as an education partner for Career Choice, adding to the hundreds of best-in-class offerings available to our employees," said Tammy Thieman, Global Program Lead of Amazon's Career Choice program. "We're committed to empowering our employees by providing them access to the education and training they need to grow their careers, whether that's with us or elsewhere. We have intentionally created a partner network

of third-party educators and employers committed to providing excellent education, job placement resources, and continuous improvements to the experience. Today, over 90,000 Amazon employees around the world have already participated in Career Choice and we've seen first-hand how it can

transform their lives."

For more information on Amazon's Career Choice, visit: <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/career-choice>.

For more information on QCC, visit: <https://www.qcc.edu/amazon-career-choice>.

Country Bank announces promotions

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce recent promotions.

Lisa DiMarzio and Scott Emerson have been promoted to First Vice Presidents. DiMarzio oversees the bank's Compliance and Community Reinvestment Area. She has worked in various positions as a long-tenured team member with 36 years at Country Bank. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Anna Maria College. In addition, she is a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies and the American Bankers Association - Stonier Graduate School of Banking, where she also earned a Wharton Leadership Certification.

Scott Emerson has more than 20 years of experience in the technology industry and has been an essential part of the Innovation and Technology team at Country Bank for the last 17 years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from UMass Amherst and has completed several technology-related certifications throughout the course of his career.

Dianna Lussier, who oversees the Risk Management area, has been promoted to Vice President. Lussier has been with Country Bank for 18 years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Worcester State University with a concentration in Finance and Accounting. Dianna is also a graduate of The Massachusetts Bankers New England School for Financial Studies. She is currently attending the American Bankers Association - Stonier Graduate School of Banking and completing her Wharton Leadership Certification.

Jason Bourbeau was promoted to Technology Architecture Officer. He has been with Country Bank for eight years, earned an Associate's Degree in Computer Systems Engineering from Springfield Technical Community College, and is certified as a Cisco Network Professional.

"We are excited to announce these promotions, not just in recognition of these team members' contributions to the bank's success but also because each individual's history with the bank demonstrates the various career paths available in community banking. We are committed to helping each team member identify their career goals and work with them to reach those objectives. Their actions contribute to the bank's overall success, and we're pleased to be able to promote these individuals for their dedication to the organization," said Miriam Siegel, First Senior Vice President, Chief Culture and Development Officer of Country Bank.

Kaylie Silva elected to Lasell University Student Government Association

NEWTON — Kaylie Silva of Douglas was elected to Lasell University's Student Government Association (SGA) this fall.

Silva was elected as an SGA senator. Senators attend weekly Student Government meetings and participate in at least one cross-campus committee, focusing on student life, academics, finance, diversity and inclusion, and more. Senators are responsible for representing the experiences of their fellow students to Lasell administrators, and work to keep their peers informed of all Student Government activities.

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications, at (617) 243-2386, or smocle@lasell.edu

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Fattman, Muradian announce \$25,000 grant for BV Hub for Workforce Development

REGION — State Sen. Ryan Fattman (R — Sutton) and State Rep. David Muradian (R — Grafton) announced a \$25,000 grant for the Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development. The grant was administered through the Executive Office of Workforce Development (EOLWD) through the Apprenticeship Expansion, Construction Diversity, and Innovation Fund. The grant will train five apprentices through the Hub.

The Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development has a placement commitment from Primetals Technologies in Sutton, and will be working with Lampin Corporation to place employees through this program as well. As part of EOLWD, the Division of Apprentice Standards administers this initiative to expand Registered Apprenticeship to priority industries, to diversify the existing apprenticeship workforce, and to enhance appren-

ticeship programs in Massachusetts as part of the Commonwealth's Apprenticeship Expansion Plan. Applications to this fund are accepted and reviewed at least bi-annually. EOLWD has awarded \$2.7 million thus far in FY22 to 19 organizations throughout the Commonwealth. "The Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development is a champion of growing and teaching the workforce of the Blackstone Valley," said Senator Fattman. "They

have worked hard to receive this competitive grant, and I know the funds will be used to have a tremendous impact on our region." "The Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development is a vital organization that continues to make strides throughout the Commonwealth, especially within the Blackstone Valley corridor," stated Muradian. "I was so excited to hear that the Hub was selected as a grant recipient, and I look forward to seeing

the amazing work these five future apprentices learn!" "The Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development is very pleased to continue our close collaboration with the Executive Office for Workforce Development to provide apprenticeship programs that meet the need for upskilling employees at local manufacturers to ensure their competitiveness," said Bob Evans, Operations Director for the Blackstone Valley Hub for

Workforce Development. Jared Wheelock, Manufacturing Technology Manager for Primetals Technologies said, "Manufacturing entities around the world are facing an employee skills gap, and here in Sutton, Primetals Technologies is no different. We lean heavily on apprenticeship programs offered at the Blackstone Valley Hub to build up the workforce skills necessary to operate a top tier manufacturing facility here in central Mass."

Registration open for Milford Regional's Winter Wellness programs

MILFORD — Milford Regional Medical Center is once again sponsoring a variety of wellness programs for the public this winter season. Registration is now open for the winter session programs, which are being held virtually and live streamed for partic-

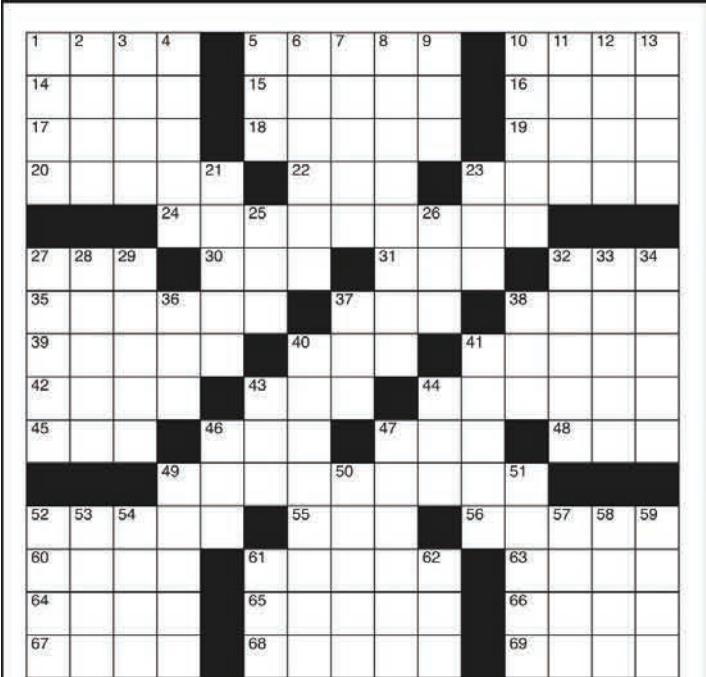
ipants to enjoy from the comfort of their own homes. The winter session is offering up eight different weekly classes, which are led by certified instructors and will begin the first week of January. All classes run

approximately one hour and take place in the evenings with the exception of the Saturday class, which begins at 9:30 a.m. Each session lasts ten weeks. Classes and instructors include Mondays: Therapeutic Qi Gong

with George Vella and Zumba Toning® with Lisa Kohne; Tuesdays: Ease into Fitness with Sheri Richardson and Pilates Barre Fusion with Kathy Colwell; Wednesdays: Core & More with Patty Barron; Thursdays: Cardio, Core & Conditioning with

Sheri Richardson and Mindfully Mixed Yoga with Cindi Scrimgeour; and Saturdays: Shape Up! with Lisa Kohne. For detailed descriptions of each class or to register, visit the hospital's website (milfordregional.org) and click on

"Classes and Events." Classes are \$50 per session. Email msanford@milreg.org or call 508-422-2827 with any questions.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop up

5. Ones who utilize

10. Sings with closed lips

14. South American hummingbird

15. Serves as a coxswain

16. Liquor distilled from coconut or rice

17. Spur

18. Senile

19. Tanzanian people

20. Cruel

22. Boxing's "GOAT"

23. Yokels

24. London soccer team

27. Chinese chess piece

30. Supervises flying

31. 007's creator

32. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)

35. A spider makes one

37. Liquefied natural gas

38. Opaque gem

39. Brazilian palm
40. Periodical (slang)

41. You might step on one

42. Marvin and Horsley are two

43. Partner to cheese

44. Unpleasant smell

45. Field force unit (abbr.)

46. Fashion accessory

47. Cool!

48. Time zone

49. Songs to one's lover

52. German river

55. Go bad

56. Sword

60. Very eager

61. Leaf bug

63. Italian seaport

64. Napoleon Dynamite's uncle

65. Member of Jamaican religion

66. Large wading bird

67. Carries out

68. Eternal rest

69. It holds up your headwords

CLUES DOWN

1. Not low

2. Small water buffalo

3. A mark left behind

4. Archaic form of have

5. Fiddler crabs

6. Popular Hyundai sedan

7. Deport

8. Making over

9. Midway between south and southeast

10. Arabic masculine name

11. Type of acid

12. Popular 1980s Cher film

13. Outdoor enthusiasts' tools

21. Chinese city

23. "Star Wars" character Solo

25. The bill in a restaurant

26. Old, ugly witch

27. Burn with a hot liquid

28. To claim or demand

29. "A Doll's House" playwright

32. Involuntary muscular contraction

33. Pea stems (British)
34. Double or multiple fold

36. No longer is

37. Lakers' crosstown rivals (abbr.)

38. S. American plant cultivated in Peru

40. Cloth or fabric

41. Flanks

43. Disfigure

44. Angry

46. Baltic coast peninsula

47. Large, flightless birds

49. Plants of the lily family

50. Medieval Norwegian language

51. Polio vaccine developer

52. Not soft

53. Exchange rate

54. Voice (Italian)

57. Baseball's Ruth

58. Famed guitarist Clapton

59. Take a chance

61. Wife

62. Elaborate handshake



Cornerstone Bank offers new home heating assistance loan program

WORCESTER — With temperatures dropping and home heating costs on the rise, Cornerstone Bank has committed \$100,000 in funding to a new home heating assistance loan program designed for households who have been hit the hardest due to rising inflation. "Inflation and the rising costs of fuel are combining to make the coming winter season especially challenging for many households in our community," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "We developed this special loan program to help ease the burden by allowing residents to spread out their fuel costs over a longer period instead of having to pay all at once." The home heating assistance loan program is specifically for low- to moderate-income households. The loan amount is up to \$1,000, with terms up to 10 months at a fixed low interest rate of 3 percent. Applicants who don't qualify for the home heating assistance loan may be eligible for a standard unsecured consumer loan. Local residents can apply for the home heating assistance loan through Feb. 28 at any of Cornerstone Bank's branches throughout Central Massachusetts or online at bit.ly/3GYTZQc.

Free Community Christmas Dinner at BVUMC

WHITINSVILLE — Parishioners and volunteers from the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church would like to cordially invite the community to a traditional turkey dinner, including the usual holiday meal favorites; potatoes, vegetables, squash, stuffing and cranberry sauce. This year's meal will be served on Sunday, Dec. 25, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Faith Hall at 61 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. Parking is available behind the church accessible from Church Street. The dinner is open to everyone free of charge. Please come join us for a joyous Christmas celebration that will include holiday fun, food, and fellowship with many from the community. For more information, call the church office at 508-234-2275.

Country Bank announces "Season of Difference" campaign with \$125,000 in support for local communities

REGION — The winter holidays are going to be a lot brighter for a lot of people, thanks to Country Bank's annual Season of Difference campaign, during which the bank has pledged 28 days of making a difference in the communities they serve. The bank's team members (aka, Difference Makers) will deliver \$80,000 in donations to local food pantries, as well as \$5,000 each to the Friends of the Homeless, Salvation Army and the USO. The campaign kick-off is on Saturday, Nov. 26—Small Business Saturday—with Difference Makers purchasing gifts cards from local businesses and distributing them throughout their banking centers on Tuesday, Nov. 29. In addition, the bank's team members will be supporting holiday sponsorships and events, volunteering at nonprofits, providing gifts for 300 seniors in nursing homes, 400 gifts for children, and 300 gifts to homeless shelters, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, and more. "As a community partner, we care deeply about our communities, and we want to make a meaningful difference where it is most needed this holiday season," said Paul Scully, President, and CEO of Country Bank. "As we reflect on the past year with gratitude for the bank's strength and ability to support so many in need, we are also humbled to witness so many great acts of kindness and support throughout our communities from the people and businesses who make this region the remarkable place it is to live and work." To find out what the bank is doing each day of the campaign, follow the bank's social channels or visit www.country-bank.com/seasonofdifference.

REAL ESTATE

BLACKSTONE

\$699,000, 144 Lincoln St, Millville Investment LLC, to Diaz-Alvarez, Rafael, and Diaz-Alvarez, Lisa R.
\$399,000, 51 County St, TMC Keywest LLC, to Carlson, Jessica, and Amorim, Maureen.
\$380,000, 270 Main St, Ansell, John C, and Ansell, Jennifer A, to Ciak, Kali C, and Primeaux, Jacob C.
\$340,000, 40 Valley St, Zagame, Olivia C, and Peters, James E, to Merryfield, Barbara L.
\$135,000, 41 Carter Ave, Irvine 3rd, Eugene C, and M& T Bank, to Orlandi, Bruno.
\$58,000, 4 Tee Jay Ln, Aldrich Brooke Farm LLC, to Traghella, Stephen, and Ilkowitz, Ashley.

DOUGLAS

\$100,000, 70 Birch St, Tebo, Herbert H, and Tebo, Jeanmarie, to DMW LLC.

NORTHBRIDGE
\$556,050, 20 Crestwood Cir #75, Stone Hill Partners LLC, to Brothers, Diane M.

UXBRIDGE

\$442,662, 750 Douglas St, Schulz, Alexis R, and Schulz, Patrick M, to Felch, Shane.
\$405,000, 5 Peter St #A, Arnold, Jennifer, and Arnold, Glenn, to Nordstrom, Jodi, and Handfield Jr, Kenneth E.

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OBITUARY

William J. McGee, 86



UXBRIDGE – William J. McGee, 86, of Uxbridge passed away Fri. Nov. 18, 2022 in Milford Regional Medical Center, Milford. He was the husband of Jean M. (Izzo) McGee.

Mr. McGee was born in Marlboro in 1936, the son of the late William F. and Teresa (Glancy) McGee and was a graduate of Emerson College, Boston.

He was a Korean War veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Cassin Young. In later years, he volunteered as an interpreter aboard the same ship for the U.S. Park Service.

Bill lived his entire life as a truly kind and spiritual person with a touch of humor. For many years, he donated his platelets to hospitals in Worcester and Boston until having health issues. As a stroke survivor, he made the best of his affected years. He volunteered for 11 years in the Taft and Whittin public schools in Uxbridge. Those years in the schools gave him many fond memories.

He also led a prayerful life. Prayer was a private and intimate time to which he was devoted. Along with

his wife, he was a longtime member of Valley Chapel in Uxbridge. Every day, Bill would use the gift of prayer, while sitting in his recliner at home, and would pray for his many friends and for many people he did not know throughout the world.

Mr. McGee loved a good joke and was a great joke teller. He also had the ability to weave a true story into a knee-slapping humorous event.

In addition to his wife Jean of 60 years, he is survived by a daughter Ellen Conserva and her husband Rev. Michael Conserva of CT and a son Thomas A. and his wife Jennifer McGee of Uxbridge; a daughter-in-law, Tammy McGee of Bellingham; 9 grandchildren; 2 great-granddaughters and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son Daniel McGee who died in 2020.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sat. Nov. 26, 2022 at 11 AM in Valley Chapel, 14 Hunter Road, Uxbridge.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. www.bumafuneralhome.com



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LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO22C0577CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Debra Lynn Cox**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult
has been filed by **Debra Lynn Cox of Uxbridge MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Debra Lynn Pontes

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/127/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 29, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

December 9, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street,
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-220
Docket No. WO22P3885EA
Estate of:
Thomas M. Phillips
Date Of Death: 9/16/2022
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner **Geraldine Krupika of Sturbridge MA**
Geraldine Krupika of Sturbridge MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate,

including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
December 9, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE

The Northbridge Board of Health, at a meeting held November 21, 2022, voted to amend their current regulations governing food establishments. These new regulations clarify existing requirements and incorporate regulations governing frozen dessert machines and grease interceptors into the Food Regulations. These new regulations shall become effective on January 1, 2023. Copies of the new regulations are available in the Board of Health office, Aldrich School Town Hall Annex, 14 Hill Street, Whitinsville, MA.

Lani Criasia, Chair
Northbridge Board of Health
December 9, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO22P4022EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Daniel J. Nolan
Date of Death: 10/22/2022**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by

Janet W. Nolan of Swampscott MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Janet W. Nolan of Swampscott MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/06/2023**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written ap-

pearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 28, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

December 9, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO22P3589EA
Estate of:
Edward J. Pawlowski Jr.
Also Known As:
Edward J. Pawlowski
Date Of Death: August 29, 2022
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner **Gary P. Mantha of Lexington MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Gary P. Mantha of Lexington MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and

Hi! My name is Hailey and I love horses! Below is a letter I have written to help you get to know me.

Hi, My name is Hailey and I am a sociable, funny, cool, kind, sweet, and outgoing person. I am someone who likes to stay on topic, listen to others, and am a good planner. I consider myself a brave person and a hard worker.

I have several family members who I am close with including my aunt and grandmother. I am particularly close with my aunt who I speak with about funny things, my emotions, and my hopes. Along with my many strengths I also have many talents and interests. I like to ride horses, play hockey, video games, and board games, and go swimming. I also like to cook and bake and draw anime.

I'm looking for a family that will love me and have fun with me! I would like to do many activities with my family including horseback riding, arts and crafts, movie nights, and cooking/baking.



Hailey

Age 15

I am also learning to play the piano. I would like to do many activities with my family by doing chores, playing with any siblings, and making everyone laugh. I would also love a visiting resource.

I hope to speak with you soon!

Sincerely, Hailey

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/5454>

Can I Adopt?

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at (617) 964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. Start the process today and give a waiting child a permanent place to call home.



Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
December 9, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO22P3990EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Kenneth Theodore Rothrock
Date of Death: 08/25/2022**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by

Dominique Rothrock of Alexandria VA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that

Dominique Rothrock of Alexandria VA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/20/2022**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 23, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

December 9, 2022

**DOUGLAS
ADULT SENIOR
CENTER**

331 Main St.
(508) 476-2283
Hours of operation: Monday through
Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-
noon

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily
activities are free of charge.
Monday: Painting class 10am to
12:30pm, Balance & Strength Exercise
10am, Mat yoga 2 pm
Tuesday: Cribbage 9:30am, Zumba
9:30am, Bingo 12:00 pm, Technology
Class 1pm, Jenga or Connect4 2pm
(bring a friend, and play a game!)
Wednesday: Balance & Strength 10am,
MahJong 1pm
Thursday: Chair Yoga 9:30am, Wii
Games 11am, Hand and Foot card game
1 pm
Friday: Balance & Strength 10am

DECEMBER EVENTS:

The center will be closed on
Monday December 26th and Monday
January 2nd. Happy holidays!

Blood Pressure Clinic on
Thursday 12/8 & Monday 12/19 is
expanding to more than just blood
pressure. This clinic will now be called
Wellness Clinic with Nurse Ann. She
will check your weight, blood sugar,
blood pressure and heart rate. She will
also talk with you about any health
concerns you have and go over your
medication list with you. Appointments
are required between the hours of 10:00
and 11:30 am, walk ins will be welcome
from 11:30 to 12:00.

Monday 12/1 @ 11:30 we will be
“Ornament Making” at the center. There
will be refreshments served. There is no
charge for this event. RSVP before 11/23
“Gingerbread House
Decorating” on 12/2 @ 10:00 am. The
sunshine club sponsors this event each
year and it is always fun. There is no
charge for this event. Sign up, come
down and show off your design skills.
Limited seating available, RSVP before
11/28

“Wine bottle decorating” on
Wednesday 12/7 @ 11:30 am. We will
supply the wine bottle, paint, and a cork
that will light up your bottle. These
could make someone a great gift! RSVP
before 12/1

“Lunch & Pictionary” will
be on Thursday 12/8 @ 11:30 am. The
Sunshine Club invites you lunch and a
fun afternoon of game playing. Lunch
is \$5.00 p/p. RSVP before 12/1

“Holiday Party” on Thursday
12/15 @ 12:00 pm. Come in enjoy a nice
ham luncheon and spread some holiday
cheer with friends. Stephen George will
be returning to the center to provide a
fun afternoon of songs and carols. RSVP
before 12/8

“Picture & video transforma-
tion” on Wednesday 12/28 @ 11:30 am.
Come in and learn how about how to put
your pictures or old videos onto a newer
digital format for viewing.

Please call the center to sign up for
programs, 508-476-2283

*Community Breakfast
seeks donations*

WHITINSVILLE — For the past eight years, St. Patrick’s
Church, Whitinsville has offered hot breakfasts at no charge
through the John 21 Community Breakfast ministry, which
has now served over 44,000 free meals on Saturday morn-
ings. Anyone can request a meal, including guests from
neighboring towns.
Currently, 70 meals are being prepared each week. Due
to the recent economic situation, there has been a solid
increase in requests for breakfasts, which are currently
offered as pickup only on Saturdays from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. A
dedicated volunteer also makes deliveries to local shut ins.

In order to sustain this program, donations are sought
from our community. This program has endured through
support from fellow Churches, generous contributions from
caring individual supporters/local companies, and product/
food donations from businesses. Please consider supporting
the John 21 Community Breakfast during this season of giv-
ing. Contributions are eligible for tax deductions.
This campaign will run from Nov. 23 through Dec. 30. One
hundred percent of the contributions are used for supplies
and to sustain this important ministry.
Contributions can be made mailing a check payable to
John 21 Community Breakfast to St. Patrick’s Church, 7
East St., Whitinsville, MA 01588 or electronically through
the Web site, <https://www.mystpatrickss.com/httpsgiving-parishsoftcomappgivingps-1443>.
If you have any questions or to volunteer, please call
Shelly Mombourquette, Program Coordinator at 508-234-
5656 or email shelly@mystpatrickss.com.

MILLBURY SENIOR CENTER

11 – 12 P.M.
All are welcome to meet and discuss
issues of importance or looking for
assistance
Any questions please call 508-865-9154

**SENIOR CENTER EXERCISE
CLASSES!!**
LIGHT EXERCISE CLASSES
Mondays and Fridays 9:30 A.M. – 10:15
A.M. (Free!)
TAI CHI
Tuesdays 9:30 - 10:30 A.M. (class is \$3)
YOGA
Thursdays 9 – 10 A.M. (Class is \$3)

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES!
WII BOWLING
Mondays at 12:30 P.M.
MAHJONG
Mondays at 12:45 P.M.
CRIBBAGE
Monday through Friday 8:30 A.M.
Tuesdays at 1:00 P.M.
BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC
Every Tuesday from 9 A.M. - 10 A.M.
SOCIAL BINGO
Wednesdays at 1 P.M.
Bring your pennies!
COLORING
Thursdays at 10 A.M.
DULL MENS CLUB
Thursdays at 10 – 11 A.M.
No reservations required for any of
our activities or exercise classes!

Lunches are served Monday through
Friday 12 P.M. at the Senior Center
The menu is available on the town
website, www.townofmillbury.org
Or our Millbury Senior Center
Facebook page.
A 48 hour reservation is required.
Call the center at 508-865-9154

Friends of the Millbury Senior Center
Transportation

Transportation is provided for
Millbury Senior Residents Monday
through Friday
Between 9 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.
We travel one town out in each direc-
tion including Sutton, Grafton, Auburn
and Worcester
A 48 hour notice is required for sched-
uling rides (business days)
Rides are free until January 1st
To schedule transportation call the
center at
508-865-9247

“MEMORY CAFÉ”
Please join us on
Tuesday, December 13th at 2 - 3:30 P.M.
Christmas with Heather Rae
Enjoy live Holiday music!
Refreshments will be served
A Memory Café is a monthly gath-
ering for people with memory loss/
challenges
and their care partners. It is a time to
socialize, make new friends, and have a
good time.
We are also looking for volunteers to
assist with this program!
Our Outreach worker, Julie Fitzgerald,
is happy to answer
any questions, call to RSVP 508-865-
9154!

SNAP APPLICATIONS (Food
Stamps)
Our appointments are on Tuesdays &
Thursdays 10 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Call for an appointment & required
documentation
508-865-9154
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nity provider
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NORTHBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER

Women’s Discussion Group will meet
on Wednesday, December 14th @ 1:00pm.

Book Club at Plummer Place will meet
Wednesday, December 21st @ 10:30am.
Call Michelle for the current book we
are reading.

Intergenerational “Storytime & Crafts
with Miss Amy”, Thursday, December
22nd @ 10:00am. If you are a grand-
parent with a grandchild between the
ages of three and five, join us for this
fun morning. Amy Cowen has prepared
crafts and stories for the holidays for
you and your grandchild to enjoy. Sign
up at the front office.

Katelynn Wackell, Care Manager at
Tri-Valley, will be at Plummer Place the
third Thursday of every month from
1-2:00pm. Katelynn will provide pub-
lic benefit resources and options. This
includes assistance with applications

for SNAP, CHAMP, MRC, RAFT and
MassHealth. She can also help with
housing including subsidized housing
applications, tenancy preservation,
rental assistance, and congregate hous-
ing. Call the Center to make an appoint-
ment with Katelynn.

Tap Class at Plummer Place, every
Wednesday from 2:30-3:30 with instruc-
tor Ed Burch. Come join this high en-
ergy, fun exercise class-no experience nec-
essary! Call Michelle for more infor-
mation.

Joy of Movement class, Thursdays
from 10-11:00am. If you enjoy dance,
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Fundraiser to support Nursing Students for SkillsUSA Competition

CHARLTON — Members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2023 are hosting a raffle to benefit competitors to the 2023 SkillsUSA district conference.

The raffle item, donated by Gearlyn Wetherbee of Charlton is Victoria's Secret gift package valued at \$120.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Those who purchase raffle tickets are supporting members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2023 competitors in the five categories of Medical Math, Medical Terminology, First Aid/CPR, Practical Nursing, and Health Knowledge Bowl. Tickets may be purchased from the fundraising liaison, Theresa Boakye of Worcester. Boakye, originally from Berekum, Ghana may be reached through the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy office, 508-248-5971, ext. 1674.

Boakye said, "The outpouring of support from the class has just been incredible."

She added that all PN SkillsUSA competitors will benefit from this fundraiser.

The SkillsUSA district competition is scheduled for March 2023. The PN Class of 2023 is planning a spring fundraiser as well. Last year seven Bay Path Practical Nursing students competed at the National SkillsUSA Conference from June 20-24 in Atlanta, Georgia after winning gold medals at the state level.

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 in mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. Visit www.baypath.net





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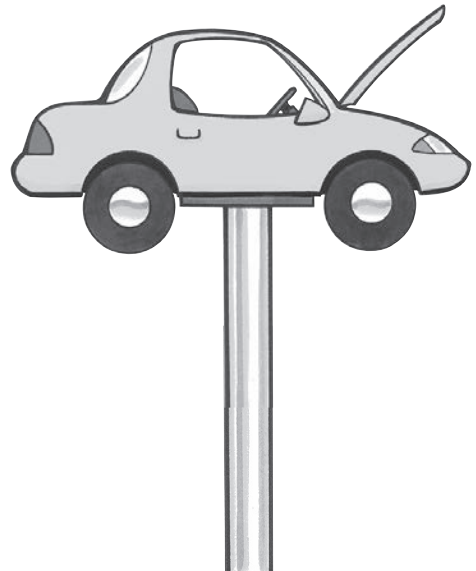
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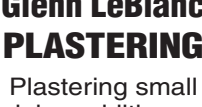
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Holiday traditions

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 First World 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, who since 1918 have been sending the city of Boston an enormous Christmas tree as a thank you for supporting them during the Halifax explosion. Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome, proclaimed December 25 as the official day to celebrate the birth of Jesus 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.

BritishillustratorJohnCallcottHorsley invented the first Christmas card in 1843. In England from 1649-1660, Puritan head of state Oliver Cromwell outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols. 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 goodandevilspiritswereactiveduringthe 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 as well. 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 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 POWs 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? 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. Environmentalist Teddy Roosevelt 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 lifetime.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We need more Mary Baileys

To the Editor:
What I believe. Feel free to disagree. It's time to be celebrate Christmas.
Have you taken a moment to consider how every time we say "Christmas," we also say "Christ?" We do not need to insist on keeping "Christ" in Christmas. He is already there every time someone utters the word.

The Woke World has tried hard to ban Christmas, insisting that everyone say "Happy Holidays" or "Happy Winter Solstice." But try as they might, the Woke World Grinches have failed to steal Christmas. "Merry Christmas!"

And at the heart of every Merry Christmas is good old Mom. The Woke World Grinches are trying to ban "Mom" too, but they cannot get rid of Mary Bailey.

Mary Bailey, you say? Never heard of her.

Then, you have never seen the 1946 film, "It's A Wonderful Life." We all know George Bailey who saved Bedford Falls from becoming a town full of gin joints, pot shops, and ruined people. Yes, George is the hero who saved his brother, Harry, from drowning in an icy pond so Harry could grow up to become an all American hero: a World War II Navy combat pilot who shoots down 15 bombers to save a U.S. transport ship full of thousands of soldiers and sailors. Yay!

We know that it was the actor Jimmy Stewart (who plays George Bailey) who was the real Harry. Months before Pearl Harbor, Stewart had walked away from top Hollywood stardom to enlist as a private in the Army Air Corps. Stewart served five years on active duty as a pilot and led some of the most dangerous bombing missions over Nazi-occupied Europe before making this film. Yet he was humble enough to take the role of George in the film, the "4F loser" who keeps the home fires burning while the world was at war.

But Mary Bailey - Mrs. George Bailey - is indispensable to the film, to Christmas, and to us, too. Mary loves George, raises their four children, saves the old Granville House and, in the process, saves George and the town. Mary gives us a "Mom model" of love, hope, self-sacrifice and discipline. A rarity nowadays.

Mary gives up their honeymoon money to save the Bailey Building and

Loan bank. She does not envy her friends with their big cars, expensive jewels and clothes, and big salaries. [If only she had left Bedford Falls to become a fancy TV news anchor in New York City! For that, you have to watch the Hallmark Channel Christmas movies. And what does the fancy TV news anchor decide? She decides to go home and take over the bakery or the Christmas tree farm for Mom and Dad.] I digress.

The "Wonderful Life" film begins as Mary's prayer wafts up to Heaven. In response, God dispatches Clarence the Angel on a Rescue Mission. When the crisis occurs in Bedford Falls, Mary swings into action rallying the community. You'll have to watch the film (again) to find out what happens.

There were many Mary Baileys in America. They worked, they saved, they married, they raised children. They grew vegetables in the backyard. "Farm to Table" is as old as all the generations stretching behind Mary and George Bailey. To read a fine example of this work ethic, read The Orchard by Adele Crockett Robertson (how a Radcliffe College graduate left her fancy museum job to try to save the family orchard in the 1930's - true story). Do you think a Radcliffe College grad could do this today? Sadly, me neither.

Are there many Mary Baileys today in America? I like to think there are, but there are fewer of them. It takes courage, hard work, self-sacrifice, and confidence in your essential worth. Your God-given essential worth - no matter whether you achieve great or small things. And sometimes you may find that those small things are truly great things in the eyes of the only one who counts: God.

So, let us encourage the Mary Baileys of today to soldier on. We are cheering for you. Work hard. Get married. Raise those kids. Trim the tree and wrap the presents. And if you are very blessed, you may be married to a man whose own Mary-Bailey-Mom taught him to cook the turkey, mash the potatoes, and make the gravy like my Learned Friend does. Merry Christmas!

Signed,

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

Learning as you go

When my father, his publisher, and I set out to build a Web platform for independent filmmakers, I didn't know what I was getting myself into. Immediately, I was required to learn to do things I had never done before.

It was the first time I managed a startup. My background before this was almost strictly in the arts.

The thoughts ran through my head, "I've never built a web platform before, I don't have the qualifications, and I don't know how to code!"

I voiced my concern to my father, and he enthusiastically replied, "You don't need to know exactly what you're doing in order to start doing it. Just Google what you don't know, and we'll get it done."

Before I could argue, I realized he was right. There was too much to learn, too much to do; I'd have to learn as I went.

I chuckled to him, "as long as I don't have to learn to write computer code, we'll get it done." At this point in my life, the only thing I knew how to do on a computer was to send an email. He said, "Don't worry, we will hire someone to code; you won't have to learn that."

The biggest hurdle we needed to overcome was fundraising. To raise the money we needed, we felt it was best to write a white paper for investors describing the type of online platform we wanted to build, what kind of problems it would solve, and our customer base.

There was only one problem; I'd never written a white paper before. As I contemplated what to do, I remembered my dad's advice and thought, "I'll find the answers along the way."

I sat down at the computer and started typing while also googling how to write a white paper. After much work, I developed a top-notch investor white paper with my dad and his publisher's help.

There were seemingly infinite things I needed to learn how to do; financial projections, a pitch deck, a business model, a go-to-market strategy, and much more.

Google became my best friend.

I was learning, growing, and making progress; the best part was that I didn't have to learn to code!

A few months later, when all was running smoothly and according to plan, we lost our developer! Quickly, I realized that I was going to have to learn to code.

In many ways, this was my worst nightmare. Still, after enrolling, I daydreamed that after graduation, I'd be an expert computer programmer, knowing everything there was to know about computer languages.

On my first day of school, I was surprised to learn that instead of teaching me everything there was to know about writing code, they would teach me just enough so that I knew how to teach myself.

The field of computer programming is so vast that my school's only objective was to teach me enough so that I knew how to find the answers I needed on my own. In other words, they wanted me to start coding, even though I didn't know everything I needed to know.

Using Google efficiently is a core job skill in computer programming, but it's not just for programmers. With the internet, we all can learn as we go, looking up whatever we need to know at a moment's notice.

Some of you are still evaluating whether or not you should move forward with your dreams and goals because you don't feel that you have the proper schooling, connections, or money to make it happen.

There are probably people out there who are not as bright as you and not as talented as you but are making things happen because they started doing what they could and figured the rest out along the way.

Jump in and get started; don't be afraid. You'll always be learning. You don't have to know everything about what you want to do to start moving in that direction. Be excited to learn, grow, and maybe, just maybe, you won't have to learn to code!

Advice can help when making charitable gifts



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Now that it's the holiday season, gifts are probably on your mind – and you might intend for some of those gifts to go to charities. Although your intentions are good, you could be shortchanging both your recipients and yourself with your method of giving. But with some guidance, you can make choices that work well for you and those charitable groups you support.

Of course, you could simply give money to these groups. However, by donating other types of assets, can you increase the value of your gift and gain greater tax benefits, too?

It's certainly possible, but your ability to gain any tax advantages depends somewhat on whether or not you can itemize deductions on your tax return. Due to legislation passed a few years ago that significantly increased the standard deduction, many people may no longer be itemizing. But if you still itemize, you can generally deduct up to 60 percent of your adjusted gross income for cash donations to IRS-qualified charities.

Another contribution strategy involves donating other assets, such as stocks. You could donate stocks directly to a charitable group, but you might gain more benefits by making an irrevocable contribution to a donor-advised fund (DAF). Again, assuming you can itemize, you can deduct the full fair-market value of the asset, up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income, and your contributions can be invested in mutual funds or similar vehicles. The contributions have the opportunity for growth, and distributions to the charity are tax-free. You can then decide, on your own timetable, which IRS-qualified charitable groups you would like to receive the money. Furthermore, if you donate stocks that have risen in value, you won't incur potential capital gains taxes that you would have when you eventually sold the stocks. These taxes can be considerable, especially if you've held the stocks for a long time. (You'll want to consult with your tax advisor on how charitable gifts can affect your taxes, especially if you're thinking of using a donor-advised fund.)

These charitable donation methods are not secrets, and they are available to many people – you don't have to be wealthy to employ them. Yet, here's an interesting statistic:

Those who work with a financial advisor on charitable strategies are more than three times as likely to donate non-cash assets such as stocks than those who contribute to charities but don't work with an advisor, according to an August 2022 survey from financial services firm Edward Jones and Morning Consult, a global data intelligence company. These findings suggest that many more people could be taking advantage of tax-smart charitable giving moves – if only they had some help or guidance.

Also, by getting some professional financial assistance, you may find it easier to implement your charitable giving decisions within your overall financial strategy, which is designed to help you meet all your important long-term goals, such as achieving a comfortable retirement.

Your instinct to help support charitable groups is a worthy one – and by getting some help, you can turn this impulse into actions that may work to everyone's benefit.

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his article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

Shotgun season opens

The opening of the shotgun deer season in Mass. had a low turnout of hunters locally, although the Douglas state forest had cars lined up on Route 16 on Monday and this past Saturday. Some impressive bucks were weighed in at the Webster check station last week, and had 113 deer checked in at Webster as of this past Saturday. Listening to deer stories from hunters this year make you



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tree stand in Uxbridge for only five minutes. It seems the deer may have followed him to his tree stand and watched him climb into it. He barely had time to sit down before he spotted the big buck, and dropped him with a single shot from his shotgun. Another hunter harvested a nice buck while ground

laugh, and some almost make you cry from laughter. My son, Ralph, Jr., harvested a nice eight pointer after sitting in his tree stand in Uxbridge for only five minutes. It seems the deer may have followed him to his tree stand and watched him climb into it. He barely had time to sit down before he spotted the big buck, and dropped him with a single shot from his shotgun. Another hunter harvested a nice buck while ground

runs through to Dec. 31. A little bit of snow is sure to bring the deer harvest up before the season ends. There have been reports of multiple deer spotted close to homes during the shotgun season. Hopefully, they will split up and go looking for better feeding areas, but do not plan on them leaving. With the acorn crop very spotty this year, deer will continue to feed on grass, and when the snow covers the grass they will start to feed on many ornamental bushes that homeowners have paid substantial sums of money to plant. Fruit trees can also become a meal for deer, with

farmers suffering the most damage. Residents should not be feeding deer just to watch them in their backyards. It is sure nice to watch deer in your backyard during the winter months, but it could also cost you big money when they start to feed on your bushes and trees. With the Christmas season just around the corner, many friends and family members are often undecided what to get the sportsmen for Christmas. The best thing is a gift card at their favorite sporting goods store; cash is also the best way to go. The Eastern States

Expo will be held on Feb. 24-26 at the Big E in Springfield, Mass. this year. The Boxborough, Mass. New England Fishing Expo will open their doors on Jan. 27. Capt. Mel True will hold his annual Tried & True Fishing show at Whites of Westport, 66 state Rd., Westport, Mass., on Feb. 4 & 5. Check his planned show at his Web site fishing charters for more information. Be sure to put the dates on your calendar. Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Ode to Soups!

Soup, whether it's simple or fancy, is steeped in memories, and many a long, cold New England winter has been cheered by bowls of soup that warm both body and soul. While fast food and quick fix suppers often win out over slow simmering stews and soups for busy weeknight meals, soups still have a place in today's suppertime scramble. Soups are not only deliciously filling, they're typically made with fresh, healthy ingredients. Add in the money saving factor, the convenience of one pot cooking and the opportunity for unbridled culinary creativeness, and it's easy to see why America is rekindling its love affair with soups and stews.

Read on for a dose of inspiration to cook up a pot of soup this season!

Heirloom Soups: A generation or so ago soup suppers were not uncommon. Many of these diverse dishes reflected the ethnic background of the family at the dinner table. A hearty bowl of Pasta Fagioli and crusty bread was a familiar supper in Italian neighborhoods, as Jewish families enjoyed chicken matzo ball soup with braided challah, and those of French Canadian decent baked Johnny cake to go with a pot of green pea soup. Today, many of these family recipes have been passed down to new generations. While the recipes may be tweaked by enthusiastic TikTok inspired cooks, the tradition of preparing a soup supper, whether it's made from chicken or beans, remains the same. As most cooks will attest, something magical happens when a big pot of water begins filling up with ingredients. Kids stop their homework to peek into the pot; spouses sneak in for a quick taste; and like the classic French fable "Stone Soup," a dash of this and a handful of that contributed by family members add up to not only scrumptious soup, but precious memories as well.

Tip: why not start a "soup tradition" by preparing a pot of soup to honor an ethnic tradition once a month.

Inspirational Ingredients: In some cultures it is believed a cook's mood, good or bad, can ultimately affect the taste and enjoyment of the meal he or she has prepared. Some claim this to be particularly relevant to soups, simply due to the many chopping and cutting tasks required for soup and stew preparation. "Spiritual cooking" has become a buzz word in the culinary world as mindfulness and love, as well as chanting and prayer are being integrated into cooking chores in the belief it will heighten both flavor and awareness.

Tip: Make it a habit to de-stress before cooking, take a few deep breaths, smile and think positive thoughts as you prep and cook in the kitchen.



TAKE
THE
HINT
.....
KAREN
TRAINOR

Food for Thought - Fun Soup Facts:

*The earliest evidence of humans eating soup was 6000 BC. The main ingredient was hippopotamus.

*The ladies of the French court of Louis XI subsisted mainly on soup because they believed that chewing would cause them to develop facial wrinkles.

*The story goes that in the late 1700s, French royal chefs created a clear broth (called consommé) because the king wanted to see his reflection in his bowl.

*Soup is a breakfast food in Japan. The day is often started with a bowl of fish broth with rice.

*There is an old Yiddish saying, "Troubles are easier to take with soup than without."

*Frank Sinatra's contracts often specified that chicken and rice soup be in his dressing room prior to performances.

*Andy Warhol said he painted soup cans because he had soup for lunch every day for 20 years.

Crock Pot Tomato Soup
Whole tomatoes and basil bring freshness to this classic, healthy soup. Best of all, it cooks while you're at work (or busy doing other things)!

Ingredients: 8 medium tomatoes; 1medium onion, chopped; 2 carrots, peeled and thinly sliced; 1 garlic clove, crushed; 1tablespoon brown sugar; 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil; 1 tablespoon chopped parsley; 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce; 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1/8 teaspoon pepper; 3 cups chicken broth or bouillon.

Directions: Drop tomatoes in a pan of boiling water for 15 to 20 seconds; immediately rinse with cold water. Remove skins. Cut in half crosswise; squeeze out and discard seeds. Combine in slow-cooker with onions, carrots, garlic, brown sugar, basil, parsley, Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper and broth (or bouillon). Cover and cook on low 5 to 6 hours or until vegetables are very soft. Puree in blender or food processor fitted with metal blade.

Easy Tomato Soup
I make this at least once a month, because it is super easy and always delicious!

Side note: Once you make this, you many never buy tomato soup in a can again.

Ingredients: One medium onion; one stick of butter; two 28 ounce cans of diced, crushed, or whole tomatoes; half can of water; spices: salt; pepper; tur-

meric and cayenne (optional).

Directions: In a medium pan, melt the butter with an onion cut into quarters. When butter melts, add two cans of tomatoes and some water if it looks like it needs thinning. Cook until it starts to boil, then simmer slowly for 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Using an immersion blender, puree the soup to desired consistency. Add salt, pepper, and turmeric and cayenne to taste.

Giada De Laurentiis' Italian Wedding Soup
This homemade recipe comes from the kitchen of the famous food network cook.

Meatball Ingredients:1 small onion, grated; 1/3 cup chopped fresh Italian parsley; 1 large egg; 1 teaspoon minced garlic; 1 teaspoon salt; 1 slice fresh white bread, crust trimmed, bread torn into small pieces; 1/2 cup grated Parmesan; 8 ounces ground beef; 8 ounces ground pork; Freshly ground black pepper
Soup Ingredients: 12 cups low-sodium chicken broth; 1 pound curly endive, coarsely chopped (1 pound of escarole would be a good substitution); 2 large eggs; 2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan, plus extra for garnish; Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Meatball Directions: To make the meatballs: Stir the first 6 ingredients in a large bowl to blend. Stir in the cheese, beef and pork. Using 1 1/2 teaspoons for each, shape the meat mixture into 1-inch-diameter meatballs. Place on a baking sheet.
Soup Directions: Bring the broth to a boil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the meatballs and curly endive and simmer until the meatballs are cooked through and the curly endive is tender; about 8 minutes. Whisk the eggs and cheese in a medium bowl to blend. Stir the soup in a circular motion. Gradually drizzle the egg mixture into the moving broth, stirring gently with a fork to form thin strands of egg, about one minute. Season the soup to taste with salt and pepper. Ladle the soup into bowls and serve. Finish soup with parmesan cheese if desired.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown 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.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

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Courtesy

BAY PATH CELEBRATES ATHLETIC SUCCESS AND SCHOOL PRIDE

Prior to the Thanksgiving break, Bay Path held a school-wide pep rally to recognize and celebrate the success of its athletic teams. Athletic team senior captains were introduced by their coaches, and the school's cheerleading team performed various routines for the crowd. The Bay Path team reached the state vocational schools championship game this year, winning the game against Monty Tech. Here, organizer of the pep rally, Athletic Director Matt Rickson, is shown leading the school in a football chant.

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Growing easy-care aloe vera, nature’s burn ointment

Grow your own burn ointment by adding Aloe vera to your indoor plant collection. This succulent has been used for centuries to treat superficial burns, cuts, sunburns, and more.

The gel inside the leaves is the medicinal part of the plant. Just cut away the outer part of the leaf and use just the gel on the problem areas. Make sure to remove the latex plant sap located between the outer layer (skin) of the leaf and the gel that can cause skin irritation. It is always best to test a small area of your skin first.

You may have read about Aloe vera being used in beverages and desserts. Properly prepare the aloe before consuming. Make sure to remove the latex and use only the gel to avoid cramps, diarrhea, and stomach upset. Keep Aloe vera plants out of the reach of children, cats, and dogs.

Plant Aloe vera in a container with drainage holes. Consider using a clay pot that allows the soil to thoroughly dry between watering and prevent larger often top-heavy plants from tipping over. Use a pot as wide as it is deep whenever possible to accommodate the spreading nature of this plant.

Cover the drainage hole with a coffee filter or piece of paper towel. This prevents the potting mix from leaking out the drainage holes after planting. Use a well-drained cacti and succulent potting mix.

Grow this plant in a sunny window along with your other cacti and succu-

lents. South and unobstructed east or west-facing windows are usually the best. Set it under artificial lights if a brightly lit location is not available.

Water thoroughly whenever the top third of the soil is dry. Avoid applying water over the center of the plant where it can collect between the leaves and lead to rot. Pour off excess water that collects in the saucer.

Prevent early death of your plant by avoiding waterlogged soil. Watering too often or allowing the pot to sit in excess water can lead to root rot and the death of the plant. You will need to water less often in winter when days are shorter; light intensity is lower and plant growth is limited.

Keep plants away from cold drafts and temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit that can damage the plants. Northern gardeners may need to move the plants back a bit from the window in winter as outside temperatures drop.

Clean leaves occasionally with a damp rag. This removes any dust that may collect on the leaves and helps reduce the risk of insect pests such as mealy bugs and aphids. These plants are sensitive to many chemicals so check the label and test a leaf before treating the whole plant if additional treatment is needed.

Watch for small plants to form at the base of the original plant. You can use these offsets, often called plantlets



Melinda Myers

Aloe vera plants grow best in sunny windows away from cold drafts.

or pups, to start new plants to grow or share with others. Use a sharp knife to separate the small plants, roots and all, from the parent plant. Repot the offsets in small containers just an inch or two larger than the remaining root system.

Enjoy the beauty and medicinal benefits of this easy-care plant. Then consider gifting a few to your favorite gardeners and cooks.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video and DVD series* and the nationally syndicated *Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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WEBSTER - 18 THIRD STREET

2 Family - Needs work! 1st Flr has 4 Rooms - 2 Bedrooms. 2nd & 3rd Flr - 6 Rooms, 2 Bedrooms 2nd Flr & 2 Bedrooms on 3rd Flr! 32,560/-sf. .75 Acre -. Property being sold "As-is".

CLOSING SOON

\$259,000.

WEBSTER LAKE - PATTISON RD

LAND - Terrific opportunity 14,798 Sq. Ft. of LAND. CONSERVATION APPROVAL for proposed Building, MASS DEP# 313-1167. 248+/- Road Frontage, 279+/- Water Frontage. Town Water & Sewer accessible.

\$250,000.

THOMPSON - 266 POMPEO ROAD

Unique, spacious raised ranch, TRI-LEVEL on 1.96 ACRES! 11 spacious rooms! 2800+/- Sf above grade living area. 3 bedrooms & 2 baths. Primary Bedroom Suite w/Hardwoods, full bath, walk -in closet & Private exterior balcony! Upgraded cherry cabinets, granite countertops, SS Appliances, so much more! A MUST SEE!

NEW PRICE \$525,000.

WEBSTER - 17 BRODEUR AVENUE

Land only 21757 +/- sf. w/foundation, Town Water & Sewer, City Gas in street

\$140,000.

Option 1 - Custom Build your HOME!
Option 2 - Build a 3 Family!
Option 3 - Build a 2 Family!

WEBSTER - NEW ENGLAND COMMONS

3 Concord Court UNIT B ADULT 55+ COMMUNITY! Rare resale opportunity! 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, & 1,367 sq/ft of living space! Hardwood floors. Spacious cabinet packed kitchen w/ peninsula! Master bedroom w/iray ceiling, large unfinished basement! Front farmers porch! Attached garage. Community center that is free to use for large family gatherings!

\$329,900.

DUDLEY - 18 WARSAW AVE

3 bedroom ranch has gleaming hardwood floors, Corian countertops. 3 season porch. Many updates! New shingle roof, Buderus boiler, Roth Tank + New Hot Water Heater. Central Airt Heated lower level.

\$279,900.

PUTNAM - 96 ELVIRA HGTS

Exceptional opportunity! Conveniently located 5 room, 2 bedroom, 2 bath ranch! Downsized? Must see! Hardwoods, Applianced dine-in kitchen w/skylight! Fireplaced living rm. Bay window! Private bath/whirlpool tub! Central-air! Two car garage!

\$287,900

LAND: WEBSTER/OXFORD/PUTNAM

WEBSTER LAKE LAND - 22 SOUTH POINT RD Architectural Plans included! **\$315,000.**

OXFORD - LAND - General Business Zoned! Marijuana OVERLAY DISTRICT! LAND with 4,095 SF Metal Building! 124 SOUTHBRIDGE RD (RTE 20). Town Sewer Project Plans are Approved. 22,884 sq. ft. Level Lot. 140 ft of road frontage. **EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES!** **\$795,000.**

OXFORD - LAND - RTE 20 General Business Zoned! Marijuana OVERLAY DISTRICT! Vacant LAND, Level & cleared. 39,549 SF **\$419,000.**

PUTNAM - LAND Zoned General Business .29 acre 103' frontage. Water, Sewer, & city gas available. 2 street entrances. **\$125,000**

OXFORD - 2 Merriam Rd 80+/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton. **ON DEPOSIT \$329,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake 13 Loveland Rd

Eastern Exposure & Amazing Sunrises! Beautiful shoreline, 3 bedroom Cape features eat in kitchen w/island, fireplace living & dining room. 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms with 1 1/2 bath!

\$785,000

Webster Lake - 27 South Point Road

OOH! WHAT A VIEW!!! Middle & South Ponds! 80' +/- ft sandy beach! Expansion possibilities! 2 Bedrm, 2 1/2 Bath, Garage,

\$811,000.

Webster Lake 13 Bates Point Road

1st Time Offered! Impeccable Home! 6 Room, 3 bedroom 2-1/2 Baths. Master bedroom, Master Bath.! Level Lot to the Shoreline. Nicely Landscaped!

\$705,000

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DUDLEY

1600 Sq. Ft., Salt water pool, Nearly 1 acre lot, Water/sewer, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths

169 Klondike Road - \$500's

STURBRIDGE

Cape, Newly sided, New septic system, roof, flooring and kitchen with granite counter tops, 1st floor family room, Legal rental unit w/1 bedroom, bath & living room, Garage

21 River Road - \$375,000

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Women's Foundation of Boston awards Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts \$25,000

REGION — Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) is thrilled to announce that it has received a \$25,000 Catalyst Grant from the Women's Foundation of Boston (WFBoston). The grant will fund new donor technology software.

GSCWM is one of 11 nonprofits that exclusively serves women and girls awarded the supplemental Catalyst Grant.

According to Christina Gordon, Co-Founder and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Boston, "This supplemental alternative grant offering allows us to deepen our impact and support a greater number of effective women-and-girl-serving nonprofits. As with our annual multi-year grants, the rigorous process for choosing recipients of our Catalyst Grants is based on mission-alignment and proven outcomes."

The grant will fund new technology software to improve fundraising efficiency, donor engagement and volunteer awareness.

"This funding will allow us to upgrade our communication with our amazing donors and we are incredibly grateful to the Women's Foundation of Boston," said Pattie Hallberg, GSCWM CEO.

To join, volunteer, donate or reconnect, contact GSCWM at info@gscwm.org or visit www.gscwm.org.

About Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 5,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

Nichols College supports veteran cause with 22 laps

DUDLEY — Nichols College President Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M., presented donations totaling more than \$1,600 to Bill Moore, founder, CEO and president of Project New Hope Inc., representing funds raised from the college's annual Sweat for Vets 22 Laps event held on Nov. 10.

The charity event, which is sponsored by the Veteran and Military Services group at Nichols, has been a campus tradition since 2019. Participants, comprising students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members, take a 22-lap run or walk around the track on Vendetti Field. They and others are encouraged to donate \$22 to the cause.

The significance of the 22 laps is that, according to the Veteran Administration, 22 veterans are lost to suicide each day.

Founded in 2011, Project New Hope Inc. is a Worcester-based nonprofit organization that provides services and resources to veterans, service members and their families, such as therapeutic retreats, food and baby care pantries, and other humanitarian programs.



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East Brookfield: Beautifully maintained raised ranch in a wonderful location in a quaint New England town of about 1300 residents! Owner's pride shines inside and out of this immaculate home & they have loved it for more than 40 years! Finished W/O lower level features a large family room w/ pellet stove, office/BR, laundry & utility room. Spacious upper level has a large living room, sparkling kitchen w/ quartz countertops, formal dining room (or 3rd BR) and 2 more generous sized BRs and a beautifully updated BA! Enjoy morning coffee on the screened porch then head out to the deck to relax! Great yard w/ 2 story, detached barn... perfect for the hobbyist & big kid toy storage, workshop & so much more! Bring your boat! Lake Lashaway boat ramp is right down the street! Nice beach for East Brookfield & North Brookfield residents only on a 250+ full recreational lake too! Less than 15 min. to MA pike & quick access to other major routes! Move in and do nothing! **\$345,000**

East Brookfield: First time on the market! One owner, one of a kind Cape on Lake Lashaway...Bring your boat! Over 250 full recreational acres to enjoy all 4 seasons! 50 feet of water frontage! Great location tucked away on a quiet spot just off Main Street. Generous sized rooms and lots of old-fashioned charm! Plenty of entertaining space! This home does need some updating but you will enjoy putting your own stamp to it. Finish basement for even more space. Spacious living room features a bar & propane fireplace which will be the spot for gathering at the holidays. Big place for your dining room table AND a quaint nook in the kitchen for quick bites! Beautiful and expansive yard, but also features privacy which is unheard of for lake property! Walk to breakfast or drive your boat up to the dock @ 308 Lakeside restaurant! East Brookfield pop. is (est) 2000 people, yet less than 15 min. to MA pike & quick access to major routes. **\$500,000**

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Vinny

Vinny, Krystina, and I will miss you all.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

continued from page A1

Courtemanche, Drafting & Design Technology; Kyle Forget, Engineering & Robotics; Kenneth Horne, Drafting & Design Technology; Megan Roe, Multimedia Communications; Brett Staples, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Julia White, Cosmetology.

Grafton Jordyn Carroll, Health Services; Juliana Errara, Health Services; Hailey Lutjelsche, Engineering & Robotics; Noah Mariano, Engineering & Robotics; Owen Mathieu, HVAC/R; and Henry Warfield, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

Hopedale Kaden Crawford, Information Technology; Hayle Orta, Health Services; Jay Patel, Information Technology; Edward Podlejski, Information

Technology; and Jackson Staheli, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

Mendon Amanda Pajak, Multimedia Communications; Naomi Tsuda, Culinary Arts; and Natalia Vazquez, Engineering & Robotics.

Milford Jack Abbiuso, Information Technology; Jaclyn Bader, Engineering & Robotics; Zachary Barnes, Information Technology; Logan Betti, Information Technology; Jason Cardente, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Colin Chambless, Engineering & Robotics; Dilon Costa, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Thays De Assis, Drafting & Design Technology; Mayra Desousa, Health Services; Jhohann Edmonds, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Marcella Ferreira, Construction Technology; Kevin Flores, Drafting &

Design Technology; Lauren Gobbi, Dental Assisting; Ana Guaman, Construction Technology; Heather Jarek, Multimedia Communications; Rillary Madruga Ferreira, Engineering & Robotics; Alexander Mairs, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Ashley McIsaac, HVAC/R; Arianna Morese, Multimedia Communications; and Joshua Schorn, Culinary Arts.

Millbury Samuel Bazydlo, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Mia Boucher, Engineering & Robotics; Troy Cami, Health Services; David Perry, Plumbing; Jayden Roderigues, Drafting & Design Technology; and Gianna Solomon, Culinary Arts.

Millville Benjamin Craven, Plumbing; and Joshua Platt, Information Technology.

Northbridge Vanessa Calles, Drafting & Design Technology; Paige Chausse, Dental Assisting; Jackson Doan, Drafting & Design Technology; Jenna Dolber, Multimedia Communications; Riley Driver, Electrical; Sam Grilli, Drafting & Design Technology; Joseph Hutchinson, Drafting & Design Technology; Carleigh Koopman, Dental Assisting; Noah Malkasian, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Ethan Ross, Culinary Arts; Nicholas Vaughan, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Emily Wildfeuer, Drafting & Design Technology.

Sutton Scott Glode, Electrical; Samuel Judson, Drafting & Design Technology; Haley Kirouac, Engineering & Robotics; Adrian Lowell, Information Technology; Aidan

Mcgrail, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Colin Medeiros, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

Upton Julia Bern, Construction Technology; Sarah Flynn, Engineering & Robotics; Anna Giracca, Painting & Design Technology; Sidney Laden, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Bradley Lyon, Drafting & Design Technology; Jason Nguyen, Dental Assisting; Artem Plotkin, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Jessica Powers, Culinary Arts; Amelia Rouleau, Construction Technology; Katelyn Steele, Engineering & Robotics; and Caitlin Walsh, HVAC/R.

Uxbridge Katelin Carlson, Health Services; William Crosby, Painting & Design Technology; Isabella Gannon, Advanced Manufacturing &

Fabrication; Riley Goyette, Engineering & Robotics; Maxwell Guyton, Engineering & Robotics; Kioni Sankofa, Painting & Design Technology; and Sarah Snyder, Painting & Design Technology. About Blackstone Valley Regional Technical Vocational High School (BVT) Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

NAME

continued from page A1

identify proposed names, and be part of a new state government initiative, and we encourage all statewide schools to participate.”

A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees will choose two elementary school classroom winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts; the towns in and near the Blackstone Valley appear to be in District 3, according to a highway district map. The winning submissions will be evaluated based on two grade-level categories: kindergarten through fourth-grade; and fifth-grade through eighth-grade.

“This contest is a fun way to celebrate winter and recognize the hard work that is performed by hundreds of employees and vendors statewide who work around the clock during major weather events,” said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. “We

want to raise awareness of this work and to give kids and residents a sense of connection to the Highway Division and the public servants working to keep residents safe and the economy moving during snowstorms.”

Applications can be submitted through an online portal at mass.gov. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted per school, according to contest details. The contest winners are anticipated to be announced on Friday, Jan. 6, and will be invited to participate in a scheduled snowplow unveiling event.

Each winning classroom will receive a \$100 gift card for school supplies, contest details read; each winning name will be affixed to a snowplow.

For more information on the contest, visit mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2022-23.

Questions regarding the contest can be emailed to MassDOTSnowplowContest@dot.state.ma.us.

ARRESTS

continued from page A1

added that Officer Tyler Mitchell, Sergeant Brian Collins, and Detective Jeffrey White arrested Spencer Thomas of 2134 Providence Rd., Northbridge.

Police said that Thomas was placed under arrest for the following charges: Possess. Firearm without FID; and Possess. Ammunition without FID.

In other news, the Northbridge Police Department also announced that is now has collection boxes in the sta-

tion for “new, unwrapped toys or gift cards to be dropped off.” Department members recently participated in a toy collection event at the end of November that kicked off the Toys for Kids and Teens 2022 Toy Campaign. This year, the Northbridge, Uxbridge, and Grafton police departments participated in that event, the Toys for Kids and Teens group announced.

“Their goal [was] to collect as many toys as they can,” the group shared.

For more information, visit toysforkidsandteens.org.

DECOR

continued from page A1

grow up to 60 feet long and up to six inches in diameter.

“It can also grow along the ground spreading orange-colored roots,” MassWildlife released.

Oriental bittersweet grows fast, according to wildlife experts, and wraps around nearby shrubs or trees.

“Oriental bittersweet can even kill mature trees,” the state agency released.

Native woody plants can also be shaded out, strangled, or uprooted; the plant can reproduce by seed or through root suckers, according to MassWildlife.

Multiflora Rose, on the other hand, was described as a “deciduous shrub with arching and scrambling stems” that may grow up to 15 feet tall.

“The stems are red to green with scattered, broad-based prickles. Each leaf has 5–11 elliptical leaflets with sharply serrated edges,” a press statement reads.

Multiflora rose grows in dense thickets and “quickly outcompetes other plants,” reports said.

“It can completely dominate abandoned fields or pastures. Each plant can produce half a million seeds and these may remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years,” MassWildlife released.

Residents should avoid cutting and moving these invasive plants to make wreaths or garland, officials said—this can spread the seeds even more.

“Birds may also feed on the fruits hung for decoration and further spread the digested but still-viable seeds.”

Both plants are “extremely difficult to control.”

“When cut, the remaining plant segment in the ground will re-sprout and grow quickly. It is illegal to import or sell bittersweet and Multiflora rose in any form (plants or cuttings) in Massachusetts,” MassWildlife added.

For more information, visit mass.gov.

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BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU



Courtesy

BAY PATH STUDENTS PROVIDED WITH COVID TESTS

At the Thanksgiving break, students at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School were offered At-Home Covid-19 Antigen Rapid Tests, provided by the State of Massachusetts. The testing program, which is not mandatory, was designed to have students take the tests within 24 hours of a return to school after the Thanksgiving holiday. Pictured are students at the school, some dressed in Spirit Week outfits, preparing tests for distribution: Pictured (left to right), are Alex Beshiri from Charlton, Caterina Schiappa from Charlton, Lillian Maglich of Webster, Brea Brunelle-Jacoby of Oxford, Skylar Johnson-Mello from Dudley, Catherine Pavone of Charlton, Amberlyn Brindle of Spencer, Adrian Vitkos of Spencer, Noah Cournoyer of Spencer, Zaydyn Streeter-Wornham of Oxford, Gus McGarry of Southbridge, Sophia Balestracci of Oxford, Zachary Cournoyer of Charlton, Janelle Ethier of Dudley, Jadyn Katz of Dudley, and Abigail Egan of Southbridge. Assisting in the preparation of the distribution of Covid test kits at the school is Mr. James Tripp Pockevicius, Bay Path's Director of Career and Technical Education.

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FCC Uxbridge to hold Christmas Candlelight service

UXBRIDGE — Services are held at 10 a.m. each Sunday morning at the First Congregational Church of Uxbridge. We're located behind the common at 8 Court St. We welcome everyone who is looking for a way to celebrate the season. Our services are also available on Zoom. Call 508-244-7849 to receive the link.

A special Christmas Candlelight service will be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24 in the Sanctuary with special readers and music. This service is always very inspirational and open to the whole community. Plan to join us, light a candle and get into the spirit of welcoming the birth of Christ with us.

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