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Thursday, December 8-Friday, December 9, 2022

Charlton girl sells crafts to benefit families in need

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The holiday season is a time of giving and generosity as much as it is a celebration of all we hold dear. For some, those elements of Christmas are intertwined, and they use this time of year to help those less fortunate enjoy the blessing they, themselves, appreciate every day.

That mentality is what drives a young 11-year-old girl from Charlton, Claire Albuquerque. For the last three years Claire has created her own Christmas ornaments, selling them at craft fairs and other events to raise money to provide gifts for children through Spencer Toys for Kids. Claire and her mother Marcy adopt a family each year providing the gifts on each child's list to help families that don't have enough disposable income to provide the traditional Christmas. Claire said she realized just how blessed she was in life and decided to try to give back and bring some love to those in need.

"I just like being creative and I decided to start this because I wanted to do something good. Sometimes there's not really that much hope in

Please Read CLAIRE, page A15



Eleven-year-old Claire Albuquerque of Charlton has made it an annual tradition to sell her crafts to help families in need during the

holidays.

DCRSD Special Education sees growth and improvement

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee hosted an update from Director of Pupil Personnel Services Robert Bergeron about the district's special education department in November where Bergeron detailed some of the enhancements the department has seen in his first year with the district.

Bergeron joined the district in October of 2021, and immediately saw the need for improvements on many levels. One program that kicked off in 2022 was the addition of three therapeutic classrooms which he said have quickly

Please Read SPECIAL ED, page A15

Quinebaug Quartet to perform holiday favorites at Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale will present a free community Christmas concert on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Church sanctuary. According to music director Andrew Kosiba, the concert will feature holiday favorites from the newly formed Quinebaug Quartet and the church's Chancel Choir. Admission is free of charge, but a free will offering will be taken during the concert.

Please Read QUARTET, page A14



Photos Gus Steeves

Left to right: Diner owner Josh Letendre, Town Manager Michael McCall, Town Councilor Dave Adams and Chamber of Commerce President Alix McNitt prepare to cut the ribbon formally opening Josh's Place at the Southbridge Airport last Thursday.



SOUTHBRIDGE — While it's on the very outskirts of town and nowhere near a highway, the airport diner has long been a magnet for travelers from all over the country.

Naturally, being where it is, most of them come by air, sometimes spe-

Please Read AIRPORT, page A15



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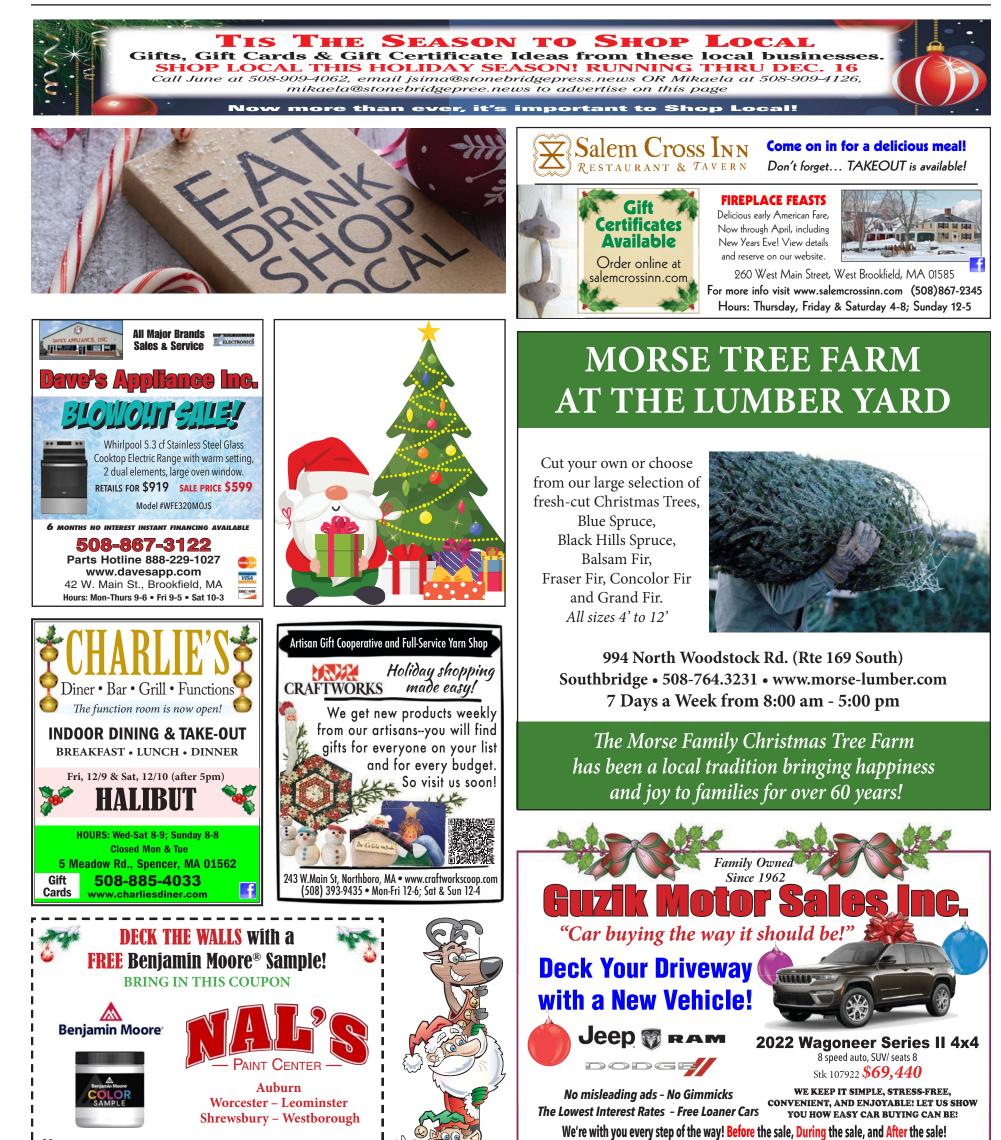
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"Expected exactly what I saw"

HEALTH DIRECTOR TALKS ABOUT HIS FIRST MONTHS

ON THE JOB

BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDEN

SOUTHBRIDGE — Now that he's been in Town Hall's easternmost office for a couple months, Health Director Daniel Wasiuk says he "expected exactly what I saw" when he took over job.

Specifically, he said he expected "the hot challenges of the community" to be housing, blight and various nuisances, things he'd seen during his research into Southbridge earlier this year. But he credits the "great team" he works with for making them "not unmanageable."

That doesn't mean it's not a lot of work. In fact, while he said the job description made him think he'd just be health director, the inspections side of things "takes up a lot of time."

"I've never seen a busier building department than he said. Wilbraham this one," resident Wasiuk has held health roles in four communities - Westhampton (on the Board of Health), Montague, EasthamptonandNorthampton (all as health director or inspector). According to Google, the first two are smaller than Southbridge, Easthampton

about the same, and Northampton is quite a bit larger.

He credits Building Inspector Mike Julian for his proficiency in identifying and pursuing various issues around the community. Julian is presently juggling the complex state testing process to get certified as a Building Commissioner, a role Wasiuk's predecessor Andv Pelletier also held.

To Wasiuk, the department has more than enough work to warrant separating it into two departments again. (They were separate until about 10 years ago.) But whether that happens or not, he feels the workload really requires finding some way to fund "increased hours and additional people," since most department members "multitask, but it can lead to inefficiency."

As it is now, he noted, his staff is "always playing catchup" with the high volume of walk-in permits and other concerns that come their way. He described them as "doing

a great job now," but he's concerned about how sustainable

that is, noting "I hate to burn out people." On the other hand, he said he feels the department gets "a lot of community support," so he's generally "very optimistic."

On the public health side, he'd like to have a department comprising himself, a fulltime administrator, a housing/nuisance inspector and a parttime food safety/pool/etc person. He also sees more ability to do disease surveillance with a public health nurse who is local. At present, Southbridge shares one based in Sutton with multiple communities. Having one locally, he said, would help enable more health clinics and better outreach, as well as giving him the chance to "strengthen programs here" that address blight and work with property owners. In the long term, Wasiuk sees working on communicable disease prevention and policy as a key issue, with a lot of lessons coming out of Covid-19's three years "where it was very challenging."

'We always know there will be [another] one," he said. " That was really a wakeup call. Everybody I knew in Western Mass was scrambling with limited support. It could have been made easier if the health departments collectively dedicated more time to policies and procedures regarding pandemics.'

Beyond that, an issue is Southbridge's track record of high asthma, teen pregnancy, and various pollution-related concerns, with Wasiuk noting he still needs to do some research into those areas "to narrow it down."

On the building side, Wasiuk sees a need for Julian, a fulltime administrator and a second inspector. (The town has CDBG grant funding for one, but hasn't been able to fill the role for more than a year.)

A key part of the job as he sees it is public education, and he said he's "always been a big fan of using the media" to

share health concerns. To him, that means multiple media, and he wants to expand the department's internet outreach. One thing that jumped out to him coming to Southbridge was that "more people watch the weekly meetings" here than in his previous communities, so he hopes to use that as a key avenue to reach people.

"I'm very fortunate to have an opportunity to continue my public health career her in Southbridge," he said. Seeing the staff's "energy and passion" when he interviewed "really supported my decision and made my decision for me."

On the personal level, the 51-year-old Wasiuk describes himself as an "outdoor enthusiast" - a fan of mountain biking, skiing and hiking, He said he was "excited just to find out about [Southbridge's] trails," noting he loves the feeling of discovery in new places. He's a single father of an 11-year-old daughter, and has a UMass science degree and background in food safety.

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

CDBG hearing looks at housing, recreation

BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Having taken citizen comments from a hearing a few weeks ago, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coordinator Peg Dean tried round two last week. Although the whole plan was once again up for grabs, this time, discussion focused mostly on the part that was only grazed last time plans to work on recreational land.

Before the forum got to that, though, Dean said the state had approved the prior hearing's desire to use housing rehab funds for low-income people all over town, rather than just in the most needy census tract area. But the town still needs to define how it will prioritize using that money, with Dean suggesting it could be either first-come-first-served or by

special need. Either way, she added, "it can be daunting [to applicants] because they need all financial data to apply."

Housing rehab is limited to \$35,000 per project (\$45,000 if it includes lead abatement), and must address safety or structural issues in houses built before 1978, she said. "They have to improve the condition of the home. It's not for aesthetics."

Such projects are funded by a forgivable 15-year loan, and the state encourages towns to set an age limit beyond which it's treated as a true grant. She said such loans are forgiven a certain amount annually, as long as the applicant or a direct family member still owns it. If they sell it or turn it into a commercial use, they pay off whatever remains of the loan.

Responding to a question from Councilor Jasmin Rivas, Dean said the town can require it to be owner-occupied, but also need to consider "Are we penalizing the tenants inside.? ... I have no problem with that. Anything we can do to encourage home ownership [is good]."

The intent, Dean added, is to discourage people from fixing up such properties, then just "flipping" them for a fast profit.

Councilor Mike Marketti said he knows of one senior who got caught by the sale aspect. When her husband died, she couldn't afford to maintain the home and had to sell it, thus ended up paying off some of the loan. To Rivas, that points to a need to "really message so they leave the house to someone in the family." (It could also be addressed by setting the age limit above.)

After that was addressed, Recreation Director Mike Brunelle summarized three

proposals for using CDBG funds on recreation issues: redoing drainage at West Street's soccer and other fields, drainage and resurfacing at Morris Street field; and updating the town-wide Open Space and Recreation Plan. In general, he said, "drainage is a huge issue" in several places, as are fences and various other features.

Evelyn Velez observed that several fields have gates that an ambulance can't enter if a player gets hurt. A few people recalled that McMahon used to have tennis courts and would like to see them return, with Marketti noting those at West Street "are a necessity." To him, McMahon "has been neglected for years and years."

The general concensus was to seek funding for the OSRP update, which can look at all town parks and related lands

"in context." Dean said she'll get quotes for what that will cost for the grant application, and wants to avoid what happened with McCann Field There the town used CDBG funds several years ago to get a specific plan that identified \$3 million in needs, but has

not been able to fund many of them.

The grant is due March 3, and this year's funding round actually covers two fiscal years, so Southbridge is eligible for \$1.35 million. Dean said the program has three objectives: assisting people of low-moderate income, addressing slum and blight, and fixing "urgent [problems], which is rarely ever allowed."

She noted she's still trying to determine of the state will allow Southbridge to treat both housing rehab and code compliance as one project. It has in previous years, but is now saying otherwise, and may require the town to fund its health inspector and/or code enforcement officer with other money. (At present, the code enforcement post is vacant; that person is essentially an assistant building inspector.)

Dean said she intends to clarify such issues and hold a third hearing to get comments on the final proposal before submitting it to the Town Council and state for approval

announces family Christmas party with Santa

Methodist Church

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

SOUTHBRIDGE The First Methodist Church of Southbridge invites the community to a big family Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Activities will include cookie decorating, crafts, games, scavenger hunt, with prizes for all, a Christmas pinata at 3:30 p.m., ongoing Christmas movies showing, raffle baskets and food (apple pie, chili, popcorn and drinks). Santa and his elf will be on hand for a photo op and all children will receive a present.

Also check out a one-of-a-kind nativity set, the little village of Bethlehem.

The admission and some activities are free (photos with Santa, pinata, movies, activity table, and presents) are free but most activities and food will require tickets (\$5 for 10 tickets, \$8 for 15). Cash, Venmo, and credit cards are accepted.

The First Methodist Church is located at 449 Main St. in Southbridge and can **LOCAL** be reached at 508-764-6501.

Holiday musical performances at **Charlton Public** Library

CHARLTON — Charlton Public Library will host the following Holiday musical performances. Free and open to all. Registration is not required. Cider and cookies will be provided!

Shepherd Hill Show Choir Tuesday, Dec. 13, 12:30-1:15 p.m. Dexter Hall

A CULE Yule Holiday Strum Along Thursday, Dec. 22, 6:30-7:15 p.m. Sibley Reading Area (main floor)

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton.





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Armchair travelers take to the open road

STURBRIDGE — Join the Armchair Travelers Book Group on Dec. 7 from 7-8 p.m. as they Take to the open road! No registration is required to attend, just drop by! Copies of "The Library of Legends" by Janie Chang will be available to pick up at the library. For additional information, please visit our Web site at sturbridgelibrary.com or call us at (508)-347-2512. This event is proudly sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

About the book: When Japanese bombs begin falling on the city of Nanking, Hu Lian and her classmates are ordered to flee. Lian and a convoy of students and faculty must walk a thousand miles to the safety of China's western provinces. Lian and her classmates have been entrusted with a 500-yearold collection of myths and folklore known as the Library of Legends. After one classmate is murdered and another arrested, Lian realizes she must escape from the convoy before a family secret puts her in danger. Lian makes her way to Shanghai, hoping to reunite with her mother. As the ancient books travel across China, they awaken immortals and guardian spirits to embark on an exodus of their own, one that changes the country's fate forever. Based on true events, rich in Chinese history and lore, "The Library of Legends" is both an illuminating exploration of China's recent past and an evocative tale of love, sacrifice, and the extraordinary power of storytelling.

Afternoon Book Group: The Giver of

Stars by Jojo Moyes

Sturbridge— Join us on December 13th anytime from 1:00-3:00 PM for a discussion of The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes. Copies are available and can be picked up anytime at the library. No registration is required for this event. For additional information please visit our website at sturbridgelibrary.com or call us at (508)-347-2512. This event is proudly sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

About the book: Alice Wright marries American Bennett Van Cleve, hoping to escape her life in England. But Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver

books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. The leader is Margery a self-sufficient woman and they will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky. What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity, and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives. Based on a true story rooted in America's past, The Giver of Stars is unparalleled in its scope and epic in its storytelling. Funny, heartbreaking, and enthralling, it is destined to become a modern classic--a richly rewarding novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond.

Charlton selectmen revisit **ARPA** priorities

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON The Charlton Board of Selectmen continues to ponder how to best use the remainder of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money at their disposal with several board members seeking ways to prioritize money to help with larger initiatives in the pipeline.

Town Administrator Andrew Golas provided an update on Charlton's ARPA money in November after assessing the town's annual capital plan. Golas revealed

that with numerous smaller capital projects set to be funded with the ARPA money Charlton has \$578.908 remaining in the coffers to be used before Dec. 31, 2024. In recent months the town has explored utilizing ARPA funds for a variety of capital improvement initiatives. However, at the November Board of Selectmen meeting several selectmen pondered reexamining the town's priorities to focus on larger scale must-have projects rather than smaller initiatives that the taxpayers could bare if they chose.

Selectmen David Singer and

Bill Borowski were the driving voices behind this concept. Borowski, who called himself a contrarian on the matter, said he would like to see the ARPA money used on fewer more expensive projects to offset the cost to taxpayers for required enhancements.

"I think we're spending too much money out of this that is not going to the school roofs or the soon to be potential fire substation," said Borowski, who noted that the middle school roofs, which were recently approved during a ballot election, are now a required investment by both Charlton and Dudley. "I think a lot of this other stuff, even though it's important, is, I don't even want to call it discretionary, but I would rather see this go up to different votes and knowing that we have to do the roofs at this point to put as much money as we can towards that."

Golas confirmed that the roofs were a viable use of the money. Borowski eventually voiced his opinion that \$1.5 million in ARPA funds should be saved for these larger projects. Selectman Singer agreed that the town could use the ARPA money to its advantage to solve current required upgrades while some smaller projects wait to see if the taxpayers are willing to support them on their own.

"We have an opportunity here to save some of these funds to apply toward expenses that are going to be non-optional to try to reduce any impact, hit, or effect on our taxpayers. Anything extra on here, the town meeting voters can say we want to, by taxa-tion, pay for this," said Singer. "This (money) still can be used to prevent us or lower what we would have to ask the taxpayers for to cover things that are not options."

While Selectman Borowski was prepared to make a motion to commit \$1.5 million in ARPA money to the school roofs alone, selectmen decided not to act on the recommendation. Instead, they did instruct the Town Administrator to reevaluate the ARPA plan, complimenting him on his work so far but acknowledging that they believe the funding might be better prioritized on more immediate, large-scale needs. Golas said he planned to bring an updated plan to the board during their Dec. 13 meeting

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• Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond

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Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford

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Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

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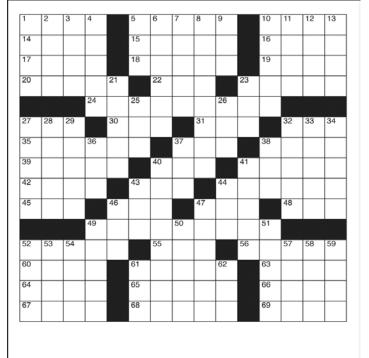
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Shepherd Hill Regional High School

Charlton Elementary School



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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 A spider makes one
 Liquefied natural gas 38. Opaque gem
 39. Brazilian palm

CLUES DOWN

- . Not low
- 2. Small water buffalo 3. A mark left behind
- Archaic form of have
- Fiddler crabs
- Popular Hyundai sedan
- 7. Deport
- 8. Making over 9. Midway between south and
- southeast
- 10. Arabic masculine name
- Type of acid
 Popular 1980s Cher film
 Outdoor enthusiasts' tools
- . Chinese city . "Star Wars" character Solo

- 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)

- 40. Periodical (slang)41. You might step on one42. Marvin and Horsley are two43. Partner to cheese44. Unstagenet small 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 eager61. Leaf bug63. Italian seaport 64. Napoleon Dynamite's uncle 65. Member of Jamaican religion 66. Large wading bird 67. Carries out
- 68. Eternal rest69. It holds up your headwords
- 34. Double or multiple fold Double or multiple fold
 No longer is
 Lakers' crosstown rivals (abbr.)
 A. American plant cultivated in Peru
 Cloth or fabric 41. Flanks 43. Disfigure 44. Angry
 46. Baltic coast peninsula
 47. Large, flightless birds
 49. Plants of the lily family
 50. Madicuel Margueira 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

- 36 Warren Road RT, and Burke, Jonathan, to Morgan, William E, and Bariteau, Aimee D.
- \$270,000, 16 N Main St, Nolette, Ronald, and Nolette, Ann M. to Hamelin. Todd. and Hamelin, Kayla H.
- \$220,000, 59 Sutcliffe Rd, Hufault, Christopher J, to Zhao, Sam.
- \$25,000, Palmer Rd, John, Serrenho. and Serrenho, Manuel, to Gregoire, Thomas.

CHARLTON

\$420,000, 78 Partridge Hill Rd, Mcavey, Michelle, to Faherty, Kenneth S, and Ward-Faherty, Melissa A. \$390,000, 30 Nashoba Rd, Giblin, William, and Giblin, Deborah L, to Read, Allison D, and Mcguire Jr, Richard. \$365,700, 72 City Depot Rd #A, Fafard, Tara, to Wisniewski, Bennett.

HOLLAND

\$405,000, 89 Union Rd, Wang, Lunshou, to Wettlaufer, Brandon, and Logan, Renee.

\$35,125, E Brimfield Rd, Howlett-Leite, Susan E, and Leite, George M, to Howlett, Craig L.

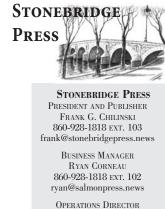
\$29,000, 23 Barry Dr, Ericson, Annemarie, and Ericson, Marc C, to Messino, Janice.

STURBRIDGE

\$455,000, 34 Willard Rd, Cloutier, Christine M, and Cloutier, Vanessa M, to Collette, Andrew J, and Long, Kerrie M.

\$402,000, 1 Ladd Rd, All Ideal Homes LLC, to Bowen, Ashley, and Bowen, Randy.

\$382,000, 268 Holland Rd, Stover FT, and Mattson, Helen K, to Mongeau, Marina.



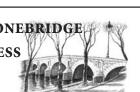
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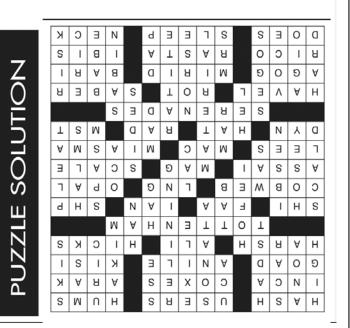
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Service 10:00am.

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 Phone 508-347-7297 Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org Services - Sunday 9:30 am Pastor Dan Purtell



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BEYOND THE PEWS REV. JOHN H.D. LUCY

I know a lot of parents, Christian and not, debate whether they should teach kids about Santa Claus. If you're a kid reading this, put down the newspaper and go ask your parents.

So, I love Santa Claus. I really do. Perhaps precisely because many would expect me and other pastors to denounce Santa in the name of the true meaning of Christmas. But I think Jolly Ole Saint Nick encapsulates the true meaning of Christmas. His name points to the reason.

The tradition of Santa Claus, as you may know, stems back to a real person, St. Nicholas, of whom any number of traditions and legends have been told. Which are true and which aren't doesn't matter to me, they all have the same basic moral: giving up personal wealth to give to those who have nothing, or are in desperate need of joy. Some recent movies and books, like "Klaus" (my favorite) and "The Christmas Chronicles," which my seminary friends and I read aloud to each other, help us remember the true foundation. St. Nick wanted to give to destitute kids and other joyless persons what he could, often making the gifts himself, and dropping off the gifts unannounced. That sounds like Christmas to me.

It is also true that some of us have



morphed the Santa tradition into a magical myth to excite kids who already have plenty. Tim Allen's "Santa Clause" movies, which I grew up on, prove the point: the family had money aplenty, the issue was how Santa could get to every house in one night, and no mention of God anywhere.

Yet that doesn't need to be the case. Along with a number of other churches in town and the surrounding area, CCUMC contributed in dropping off hundreds of Operation Christmas Child boxes to Greenville Baptist Church this year. Those boxes will go to kids around the world in need of Christmas joy, kids who otherwise might not have received anything. That's Santa Claus, in the name of God.

The wise men in Matthew's gospel

bring Jesus gifts, for he himself is a gift of joy. Gift giving, especially to those in need, is baked into Christmas. If we lose Santa Claus, St. Nick, and just go to worship Christmas Eve focused on ourselves, then that too would be missing the true meaning of Christmas. We need Santa to remind ourselves that the gift of Christ is not just for those of us who already believe, who already have, but is perhaps most of all to those who don't have.

Let's commit this Christmas to celebrate the season because of Christ so that we can teach the purpose of Santa Claus to our kids, teach them what Christmas is really about. Maybe one day they'll ask to be Santa Claus for others.

Community Connection and the * * * Friday's Child * * * harlton O Propane 508-248-9797 Hi! My name is Hailey and I love

News, really close to home StonebridgePress.com







horses! Below is a letter I have written to help you get to know me.

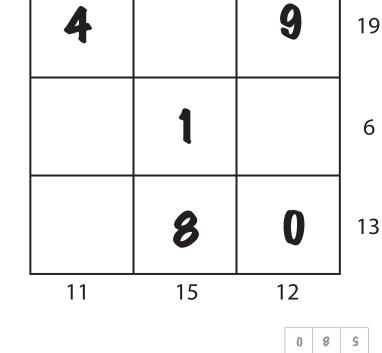
Hi, My name is Hailey and I am a sociable, funny, cool, kind, sweet, and outgoing person. I am someone who likes to stay on topic, listen to others, and am a good planner. I consider myself a brave person and a hard worker.

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.



Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

Math Blocks



Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to

determine the phrase.

LOOCAETCH HPCI



THIS DAY IN... DEC 6 **I**ISTOR

• 1790: THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS RELOCATES FROM NEW YORK TO PHILADELPHIA.

• 1917: FINLAND DE-CLARES INDEPENDENCE FROM THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.

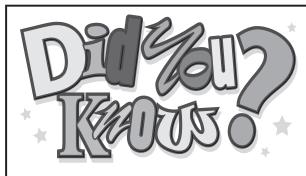
• 1999: THE RECORDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA SUES THE FILE-SHARING SERVICE NAPSTER OVER COPY-RIGHT ISSUES.



Answer: Chocolate chip



SPANISH: Galleta



"SESAME STREET" IS A POPULAR CHILDREN'S TELEVISION SHOW THAT





PARTS OF THE WORLD.

VISWER: COOKIES

KNOWN AS BISCUITS IN VARIOUS

ITALIAN: Dolcetto

FRENCH: Biscuit

GERMAN: Keks

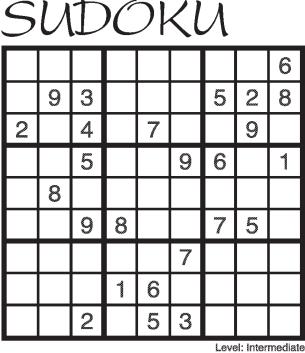




Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: GINGERBREAD COOKIE

A B C I	B * ~ 0 % * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		SU 9 2 8
Α.	 ve the code to discover words related to reading books. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = S) 2 6 9 17 8 19 20 Clue: Division in a book 	Answers: A. chapter	
В.	3 12 15 10 17 3 14 3 Clue: Summary	apter B. synopsis	Here's How Sudoku pu: 3x3 boxes. row, colum column and appear by more numb
	8 6 19 16 19 Clue: Topic or subject	C. theme	
	3 19 8 8 14 15 11 Clue: Location	D. setting	



Fun By The Numbers

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

w It Works:

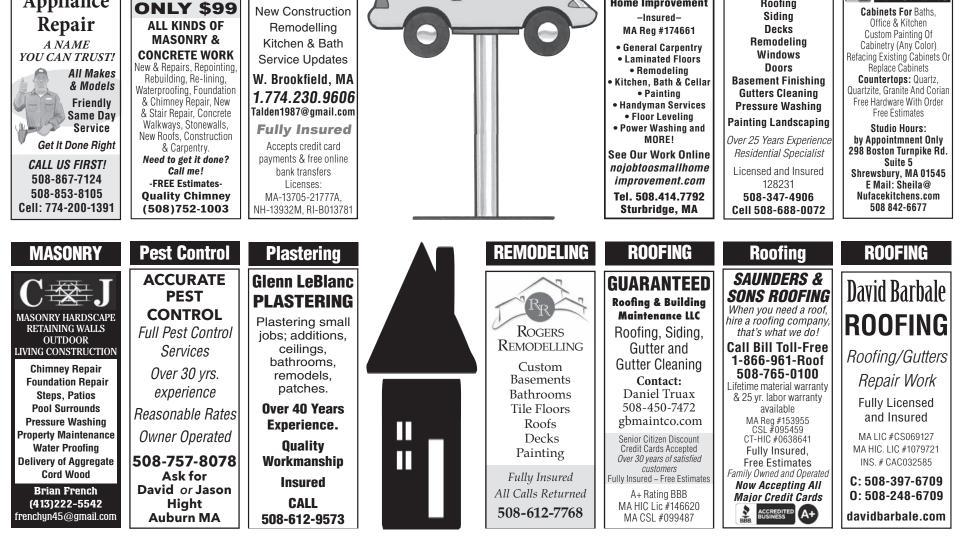
zzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each nn and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, d box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The pers you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

L	9	8	c	ç	6	2	wanda	Þ
ç	S	2	4	9	nnde	8	٢	6
4	mh	6	L	8	S	9	3	S
Ζ	G	٢	www	3	8	6	t	9
6	4	ε	G	2	9	L	8	quum
unuk	8	9	6	7	L	ç	2	ε
e	6	unde	8	L	ç	4	9	S
8	S	Ğ	9	mada	4	3	6	L
9	٢	4	S	6	3		ç	8
:AJWSNA								



This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

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John Shea's	CHIMNEY CLEANINGS	Electrical Contractors, Inc.	No Job Too Small	BONETTI'S Home Improvement	
	CLLAIMINGS	LICENSED ELECTRICIAN	Home Improvement	Boofing	KITCHENS



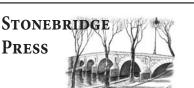


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> **FRANK G. CHILINSKI** PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE Editor

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 researchingChristmas, 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 decorat-ed 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

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.

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

OPINION



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

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

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

ENTS 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.

COLA is sweet for Social Security recipients

If you receive Social Security, you've probably already heard that your checks in 2023 will be bigger – considerably bigger, in fact. How can you make the best use of this extra money?

Here's what's happening: For 2023, there's an 8.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security benefits – the largest increase in 40 years. Also, the monthly Medicare Part B premiums are declining next year, to \$164.90/month from \$170.10/month, which will also modestly boost Social Security checks for those enrolled in Part B, as these premiums are automatically deducted.

Of course, the sizable COLA is due to the high inflation of 2022, as _______ the Social Security

Administration uses a formula based on increases in the

Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). So, it's cer-

tainly possible that you

will need some, or per-

haps all, of your larg-

er checks to pay for the

increased cost of goods



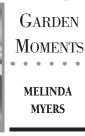
FINANCIAL

Focus TREVOR NIELSON

NIELSON and services. But if your cash flow is already relatively strong, you might want to consider these suggestions for

using your bigger checks: Reduce withdrawals from your investment portfolio. When you're retired, you will likely need to withdraw a certain amount from your portfolio each year to meet your expenses. A boost in your Social Security may enable you to withdraw less, at least for a year. This can be particularly advantageous when the markets are down, as you'd like to avoid, as much as possible, selling investments and withdrawing the money when investment prices are low. And the fewer investments you need to sell, the longer your portfolio may last during your retirement years.

Help build your cash reserves. When you're retired, it's a good idea to maintain about a year's worth of the amount you'll spend from your portfolio in cash, while also keeping three months' of your spending needs in an emergency fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Your higher Social Security checks could help you build these cash reserves. (Also, it's helpful to keep another three to five years' worth of spending from your portfolio in short-term, fixed-income investments, which now, due to higher interest rates, offer better income opportunities.) Contribute to a 529 plan. You could use some of your extra Social Security money to contribute to a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan for your grandchildren or other family members.



Turn To **EDIRORIAL** page **A10**

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. 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 succulents. 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

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

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 plat-

form 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.

Turn To MOORE page A9

Contribute to charitable organizations. You might want to use some of your Social Security money to expand your charitable giving. Your generosity will help worthy groups and possibly bring you some tax benefits, too.

While it's nice to have these possible options in 2023, you can't count on future COLA increases being as large. The jump in inflation in 2022 was due to several unusual factors, including pandemic-related government spending, supply shortages and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It's quite possible, perhaps even likely, that inflation will subside in 2023, which, in turn, would mean a smaller COLA bump in 2024.

Nonetheless, while you might not want to include large annual COLA increases as part of your long-term financial strategy, you may well choose to take advantage, in some of the ways described above, of the bigger Social Security checks you'll receive in 2023. When opportunity knocks, you may want to open the door.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.





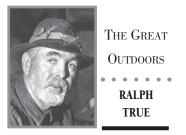
Shotgun season opens

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 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 hunting. The eight pointer walked right into his path, and never spotted him. He dropped the buck right in his tracks.

Listening to hunters that missed deer because of a gun malfunction, or a scope that for some reason had moved, had you laugh as they told their stories, with most excuses totally outrageous. Of course, could it have been the shooter making a bad shot?

When the shotgun season ends Dec. 10, deer hunters will have one last chance to harvest some venison for the freezer during the primitive arms



season which opens Dec. 12 and 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!

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 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 inte-

grated 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.

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 fresh-

Ode to Soups!

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; turmeric 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 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.

TAKE THE HINT **KAREN** TRAINOR

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

MOORE

continued from page A8

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

ness 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

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!

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,



and Activities Center and the Pasture Prime Players are pleased to announce the return of the "Grizzly Coffee House" on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. at "The Charlton Arts & Activities Center," 4 Dresser Hill Rd. in Charlton.

The coffee house is an open mic/

CHARLTON — The Charlton Arts jam session where local musicians are invited to join in for a fun filled afternoon of music and camaraderie. Performances will be held in the barn and admission is free. Musicians interested in performing should contact us at pasture.prime.players@gmail. com for more information.





Celebrating the trees

came again last weekend, as the annual Festival of Giving Trees drew large crowds to LaSalle Hall. Lots of brightness - lights, dance costumes and, of course, the trees themselves - provided

SOUTHBRIDGE — Festival time a nice contrast to the grey rain outside on Saturday. For several small children, it was so well-attended their best way to see anything was by riding someone else's shoulders.

Photos Gus Steeves



Two girls from Lee Irish Dance troupe display their talents in festive garb.



Friends chat framed by the trees.





the mechanical Grinch was moving behind her of war and chaos. than when he wasn't.



Jen Sheehan staffs one of the various raffle ennifer Sheehan created "Groovy Christmas," tables. She noted she sold more tickets when a colorful reminder of what matters in a time



Shaun and Cherie Moriarty decide which trees to put their tickets in.



Mrs Claus has her hands full with two energetic kids.

EDITORIAL

continued from page A8

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 Apples were 1901. 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.

Maggie the Clown



The whole family visit Santa.

Masons annual **Christmas Craft Fair** is back

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — Come one come all — the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge lady's auxiliary is hosting a Christmas craft fair located on Rt. 131 at 339 Ashland Avenue. in Southbridge, on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. This Christmas craft fair offers a great

opportunity to find all kinds of unique gifts and stocking stuffers for your home, family, and friends. Everything from Knitted hats, bags, sublimation tumblers, cupcakes, cookies, macrame, key chains, crochet toys, resin art, badge reels and lanyards.

Some vendors include, but not limited to, Little Hearts Custom Creations, Sweets by M&M, Crochet Addict, Missy



Photo Courtesy

Craft Fair from back in September 2021 in the parking lot of Quinebuag Masonic lodge in Southbridge. This indoor Christmas Craft Fair will have much, much, more.

Crafts and Norah's Fabric Creations. Come on down and look at all the crafts for sale and check out the Masonic pictures and symbols throughout the rooms. Members of Quinebaug Masonic

lodge are very proud of this annual event. If you would like more information or would like to set up a booth at this event, contact Norah Proper at 413-297-8374 for more information.

SPORTS

Bay Path returns to championship form, wins State Vocational title

MINUTEMEN DEFEAT MONTY TECH, 28-20, BEHIND 366 RUSHING YARDS



Kaiden Brochu of Bay Path runs the ball through the would-be tackle of a Monty Tech defender



Nick Ethier photos

From left, Bay Path head coach Cody Giampa and co-captains Casey Gallagher, Jonathan Nussey, Anthony Catino and Georgios Pirperis proudly pose with the State Vocational Large School Championship trophy following the Minutemen's 28-20 victory over Monty Tech on Thursday, Dec. 1 at Shepherd Hill Regional.



Defenders Gabriel Espinosa (20) and Casey Gallagher bring down Monty Tech ball carrier Logan Quinn.

Bay Path players can't contain their excitement in the final seconds of the Minutemen's 28-20 win against Monty Tech in the State Vocational Large School Championship game.



DUDLEY — The always proud Bay Path Regional football program is synonymous with winning. But the recent past has brought with it some mediocre seasons. That was until now, as the Minutemen captured the State Vocational Large School Championship on Thursday, Dec. 1 at Shepherd Hill Regional's Carmignani Field. The eight-team bracket saw Bay Path earn the No. 3 seed. The Minutemen then defeated No. 6 Greater New Bedford (47-21) and No. 7 Northeast Regional (28-6) — last year's champion and runner up — to set up the final against No. 4 Monty Tech. And, against the Bulldogs, the offensive line was superb. The hard-nosed linemen allowed for Bay Path to run for a staggering 366 yards which led to a 28-20 victory. "Bay Path's always been a winning program and it's good to see our kids get back to that. They're winners again. It hasn't been acceptable for us," head coach Cody Giampa said of the recent past on Muggett Hill. "This is the level this program should be at."

on downs and the offense needed two plays to score. Following a 72-yard gain by Kaiden Brochu, Casey Gallagher punched the ball into the end zone from 2 yards out. Quarterback Anthony Catino, who doubles as the place kicker, added the extra point.

Another defensive stop turned in by



Regarding the immense amount of rushing yards, Giampa put it simply.

"We're a physical team and we run the ball hard," he said. "They just want to run the ball, play aggressive defense, hurt people and win football games. The fact that they're doing that, it's awesome."

On the defensive front, stopping Monty Tech in general, and the Quinn brothers in particular — quarterback Logan and fullback Ryan — played a huge role in the victory.

"They've scored 40 points in almost every game they've played. They have really good players and the Quinn brothers are both unbelievable," said Giampa, and the Minutemen knew that first hand after defeating the Bulldogs back on Sept. 30 in a shootout, 43-36.

Bay Path jumped out to a 7-0 lead early when the defense forced a turnover

the Minutemen led to a 14-0 lead midway through the second quarter. There, Gallagher added his second touchdown of the game, this one from 3 yards and Catino added another extra point.

Logan Quinn had a 4-yard rushing score next to trim Monty Tech's deficit down to 14-6. But, with the Bulldogs trying to tie the score later in the quarter, Jonathan Nussey picked Logan Quinn off for the lone turnover of the contest. That led to Bay Path points 22 seconds before halftime, with Catino executing a 2-yard QB keeper into the end zone. Gallagher added the two-point rush and the Minutemen led 22-6.

After a scoreless third quarter, Monty Tech pulled themselves to within 10 points, 22-12, when Ryan Quinn scored from a yard out with 5:43 remaining.

Once again, showing their toughness and desire to become champions, Bay Path needed less than a minute to put another touchdown on the board. Brochu took an end-around to the right and scampered 61 yards to pay dirt, extending the lead to 28-12.

The Bulldogs made things interesting when Logan Quinn scored on a 3-yard touchdown and Ryan Quinn tacked on the two-point rush with 2:32 remaining, but the Minutemen finished it off when Brochu ran for nine yards and a first down in the final minute, hurdling over a defender in the process. With Monty Tech (9-4) out of timeouts, the game was essentially over.

"My coaches said that all we needed was a first down to win and I was willing to put my body out there for my team because I love all these kids, they're like family to me," said Brochu.

Brochu (15 carries, 210 yards) and Gallagher (20 carries, 137 yards) were the workhorses that gained the yards,

Bay Path's Casey Gallagher turns the corner and runs the ball past Monty Tech's Logan Quinn.

with linemen like center Georgios Pirperis providing the blocking.

"In the beginning of the season we were a little sloppy and every game we got better and better," said Pirperis. "Those kids were running. They hit the hole really hard."

Giampa was proud of the work both Brochu and Gallagher put in.

"Both of those kids have been animals for us all season," he said. "Brochu is one of the best players in the state. I would challenge anybody to find a better player than him. He just knows football, he's aggressive, he's physical and he's had close to 2,000 yards as a sophomore this year."

In regard to Gallagher, Giampa added, "Gallagher is a Bay Path football player. He's tough, he's hard-working, he's a welder, so he welds all week and then he comes to practice. He's not looking to juke people out, he's looking to run through people."

Bay Path, which finished 8-5, has won the State Vocational Championship for the first time since 2008. They also captured the Central Mass. Division 6 Super Bowl in 2011.

"I'm happy that we're the people to break it. I'm super, super excited. Playing football in December, it's the best feeling," said Pirperis.

"It means everything to the program," added Brochu. "Hopefully we can continue it going on next year and even the years after," added Brochu.

"These kids are champions. For a long time, putting on a Bay Path uniform meant you were going to be a winner and a champion, and we kind of got off of that a little before I came here," Giampa, the third-year head coach, concluded.

Ruth Wells Center exhibits artwork by Sam Cloutier

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is pleased to host the solo art exhibit of works by Sam Cloutier for the month of December. The opening reception is Friday, Dec. 9, from 6-9 p.m. This reception is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served as people peruse the galleries filled with art created by this talented young artist. The exhibit will continue throughout the month. Call 508-764-3341 to check open dates. The exhibit will showcase framed works, and clothing featuring original designs.

Emily Lifson earns professional hospitality certification at Lasell University

NEWTON — Emily Lifson, a Lasell University student from Charlton, earned a Certified Guest Services Professional (CGSP) certification and designation from the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute.

The CGSP designation is recognized worldwide as the highest acknowledgement of award-winning guest service for employees in the lodging industry.

Lifson earned the certification in their Hospitality Management course at Lasell.

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



Live music, cookie decorating & crafting, games, food, and more for all ages at Hitchcock Academy

BRIMFIELD — Christmas at Hitchcock returns on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1 to 6 p.m. The popular all ages event will include live music, cookie decorating & crafting, games, food, and more. The event is free of charge and there is no registration required. It will include both indoor and outdoor activities, so attendees should dress accordingly.

Live music will be performed from the building's balcony by Tony Valley, Palmer-based multi-instrumentalist with rock 'n' roll roots joined by multi-genre singer/songwriter Amanda Meli, country artist Cody Peck, 13 year old country/folk artist Jordyn Doyle, local Girl Scout carolers, and others. Listeners can keep warm in this outdoor holiday concert atmosphere by fire barrels dotted on Hitchcock's lawn as they sip from free pours of delicious hot chocolate and coffee generously provided by Sturbridge Coffee House. Maddie's Dogs Food Truck will be on site selling food as well.

Inside, attendees can decorate cookies, make Christmas crafts, write a letter to Santa, sign a card for a veteran, play "reindeer games" and enjoy story



LEGALS

time with one of Santa's elves. Vendors will also be selling local products such as honey, maple syrup, crafts, and other gift items.

Flourish Farm owner Linda Fuchs will guide visitors in making a holiday

swag from 1 to 4 p.m.

Renowned ice carver Mike Rondeau will be doing a live ice carving from 2 to 3 p.m. 4-H will be bringing a pony for attendees to greet and pet. Weatherpermitting, attendees will be encouraged to build a snowman on Hitchcock's lawn. A local 4-H group will bring a pony named Phoenix for a visit.

"Christmas at Hitchcock feels like a family Christmas party combined with a larger scale holiday event," says Executive Director Cindy Skowrya. "Our space is so much like a home, yet we have all the trimmings and trappings of an event with all the activities going on."

Attendees can also bring a donation to the organization's Toys for Tots collection, and donations to Hitchcock's annual Friends Campaign which aims to raise \$10,000 toward operating expenses through individual donations, are also warmly welcomed.

More information can be found leading up to the event as details are confirmed on Hitchcock's website at www. hitchcockacademy.org. The event is generously sponsored by Hitchcock Pool Water.

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. More information can be found at www.hitchcockacademy.org.

(SEAL)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 22 SM 003578 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Scott A Ford a/k/a Scott Ford, Heather I Ford a/k/a Heather Ford and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq):

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Residential Asset Securities Corporation, Home Equity Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-KS3

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 38 Newell Avenue, given by Scott A. Ford a/k/a Scott Ford and Heather I. Ford a/k/a Heather Ford to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems. Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for EquiFirst Corporation, dated January 31, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38312, Page 340, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 01/09/2023 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 11/23/2022. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder December 8, 2022

at this court before: **10:00 a.m**. on the return day of **12/27/2022**.

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.

Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court November 30, 2022 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate

Decemner 8, 2022

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on December 14, 2022, on the application of Cree Realty Trust, LLC net/262/Conservation-Commission Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission December 8, 2022

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Kathleen Lynch to Affordable Home Funding, dated April 22, 2008 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42928, Page 326, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated February 1, 2016, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54867, Page 206, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Affordable Home Funding to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., recorded on June 5, 2008, in Book No. 42928, at Page 342

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, recorded on and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC

The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO21P4106EA Estate of: Robert D Richardson Date of Death: 09/16/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Jody Richardson** of **Wales MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law, the allowance of a proposed distribution and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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

The applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family home, well, septic and driveway. Project Location: Lot 7 Harrington Road Charlton, MA

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote and in person means. Members of the public who wish to participate remotely, can access the meeting via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the below https://us02web.zoom. link us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjIMZGIhU-GRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3IWZz09 Copies of the Notice of Intent may be examined electronically by visiting this Website: <u>https://www.townofcharlton.</u> net/262/Conservation-Commission Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission December 8, 2022

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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Copies of the Notice of Intent may be examined electronically by visiting this Website: <u>https://www.townofcharlton.</u>

April 14, 2017, in Book No. 56983, at Page 4

Community Loan Servicing, LLC f/k/a Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, recorded on June 30, 2022, in Book No. 67836, at Page 124

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 9:00 AM on December 30, 2022, on the mortgaged premises located at 1 Hartwell Street, Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

THE LAND WITH THE BUILD-THEREON SITUATED ON INGS THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF HART-WELL STREET IN SOUTHBRIDGE, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHU-SETTS, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER THERE-OF AT A DRILL HOLE IN THE SIDE-WALK AT THE JUNCTION OF THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF HARTWELL STREET AND THE WESTERLY LINE OF EASTFORD ROAD, FORMER-LY ELM STREET; THENCE S. 42° 20' W. BY THE WESTERLY LINE OF EASTFORD ROAD, FORMERLY ELM STREET, 14.54 FEET TO A STAKE AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF ONE LIBUDA; THENCE N. 87° 55' W. BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF SAID LIBUDA, 107.82 FEET TO AN IRON PIN AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF VICTOR SALVIUOLO; THENCE N. 22° 45' E. BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF VICTOR SALVIUOLO, 44.16 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE ON THE SOUTH-ERLY LINE OF HARTWELL STREET; THENCE S. 71° 15' E. BY THE WEST-ERLY LINE OF HARTWELL STREET, 106 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGIN-NING.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 13647, Page 383.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 20794 December 8, 2022 December 15, 2022 December 22, 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. WO22P4033EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Francis J. Derby

Date of Death: 06/30/2022 To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Public Administration** has been filed by

Anthony J Salvidio, II of Worcester 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

Anthony J Salvidio, II of Worcester MA

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 12/27/2022. 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.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 28, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate December 9, 2022

OBITUARIES

Albert W. Salonis, Sr., 83

Charlton: Albert W. Salonis, Sr., 83, of Old Worcester Rd., passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 1st, in Overlook Masonic Health Care, Charlton, after an illness.



His beloved wife and best friend of 61 years, Irene V. (Tremblay) Salonis passed away in 2021. He leaves his son, Albert W. "Al" Salonis, Jr. and his wife Theresa E. Salonis of Dudley; his daughter,

Sherry A. Jovan and her husband John D. "Jack" Jovan, Jr of Southbridge; five grandchildren, John D. Jovan III of Southbridge, Erin I. Jovan of Clinton, Albert W. Salonis III and Joseph P. Salonis of Dudley and Krysta L. Nozzolillo of North Grosvenordale, CT; his two great grandchildren, Evelyn L. Jovan and Lucca Q. Nozzolillo; many nieces and nephews. Albert will be greatly missed by his caregiver and best buddy, Glenn that he lovingly nicknamed "Curly". Albert was predeceased by two brothers, John J. Salonis, Jr, Roger W. Salonis and a sister, Irene A. Beede.

Albert was born in Worcester the son of John J. and Irene (Shea) Salonis, Sr.

He worked for many years as a van driver for South Central Rehabilitation. Albert always showed up for his kids' and grandkids' school and sporting events; affectionately known as "Papa" always cheering and proudly telling everyone, "That's my granddaughter!!!"

"That's my grandson!!!". He loved fishing, camping, old cars, bird watching and especially his dogs. He also was an avid Red Sox fan, enjoyed a fine seafood meal and loved dancing with his beautiful wife Irene, as if they were floating across the dance floor. He was a consummate story teller and practical joker. All this said, his greatest joy was always found spending time with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. May he now rest in eternal peace with his beloved wife Irene.

The family would like to thank the caregivers on the 4th floor Skilled Nursing unit at The Overlook for their support, comfort and loving care which they showed not only to Albert, but also his entire family.

Albert's funeral Mass will be on Monday, Dec. 12th, at 11:00am in St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Southbridge, will be at the convenience of the family. Calling hours in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge will be held on Sunday, Dec. 11th, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. An additional calling hour will be held on Monday, Dec. 12th, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am in St. Joseph's Church, Charlton, prior to the Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Albert's name to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, c/o St. John Paul II Parish, 279 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Rita Louise Beaulieu (Baglioni), 93

Rita Louise Beaulieu (Baglioni), 93, of Mansfield Place, Essex Junction, Vermont, passed away on November 25, 2022, after a lengthy illness with heart and kidney disease, surrounded by her loving family.



Born to the late Virginio and Giovanna Baglioni (Costanzi) on June 6, 1929, in Southbridge, Massachusetts, Rita was named after Saint

In 1947, she graduated from Mary E.

Wells High School in Southbridge. She married her high school sweetheart, the love of her life, Dona A. Beaulieu, on February 28, 1948. Married for 64 years, he passed away on November 28, 2012, after a prolonged battle with Alzheimer's disease. They moved away from Southbridge in 1972 and lived in Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and then back to Vermont in 1981 where they built a home in Underhill.

Rita is survived by her six children and

Jonathan Beaulieu (Elizabeth). Rita was blessed with 18 grandchildren; Jeremy, Wesley and Dawn, Emily and Derek, Francesca, Alessandro "Alex" and Suzanne, Smylin and David, Cody and Jayla, Chelsea and Jon, Shawn and Hannah, Lane, Kate, and further blessed with eight great grandchildren; Isaiah, Aiden, Connor, Emily, Blaise, Emma, George and Keira and many nieces and nephews. Her legacy will live on in the love she had for all of them.

She is predeceased by her husband Dona A. Beaulieu, brothers Augusto and Fernando Baglioni, and her sisters, Elda Fantaroni and Anna Baglioni.

Visitation was at AW. Rich Funeral Home in Essex Junction, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Sunday, December 4, 2022. A mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center on December 5, 2022, at 11:00 am, officiated by Reverend Richard Calapan.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to UVM Health Network Home Health & Hospice, 1110 Prim Road, Colchester, VT 05446, and Alzheimer's Association-Vermont Chapter, 75 Talcott

Barbara V. (Coutermarsh) Smolenski, 90

Charlton-Barbara V. April (Coutermarsh) Smolenski 1932-November 202222.24, Beloved wife, mother,

> mother, Barbara Smolenski

grandaunt. You demonstrated your love in so many ways... no one could ever take your place. (Coutermarsh) She of Charlton, MA. passed Joseph away peacefully with her daughter Heather holding her hand before Jesus' hand on Thanksgiving, 2022.

November 24th, She is survived by her daughters Heather McElroy and Holly Smolenski as well as grandchildren Maggie, Michael and Matthew McElroy, a cousin Shirley Coutermarsh of Vermont a niece, Dorothy Coutermarsh of Florida and nephews Edward and Christopher Coutermarsh of New Jersey. Barbara was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the daughter of Leon Coutermarsh of Springfield, Vt. And Dorothy (Gaboury) Coutermarsh of Webster, MA. She was predeceased by her husband Steven Smolenski in 2002, a son Stephen Smolenski in 2021, a sister Marjorie Tucci in 2018,a broth-George Coutermarsh in 2005, er and Godson Greg Tucci in 2013, Barbara was an avid antique dealer, being one of the original dealers to establish Sturbridge Antiques. For a time, she owned her own luncheonette, as well as an antique shop. Being a great cook, she baked fresh baguettes and croissants for Yankee Spirits, and bar tended at formerly owned Heritage Country Club in Charlton, Barbara collected sterling silver and Nantucket baskets. She enjoyed traveling with her friends to remote areas of NH and VT in search of antiques. She would often be spotted at flea markets and vard sales with her son Stephen. She also collected miniatures and going to shows. For a time she was a member of the Charlton Garden Club. was a member of St. h Church in Charlton. Her son, Stephen who predeceased her was born with Downs Syndrome and was the light of her world. She loved spending time with her grandchildren, spoiling them, and helping to entertain at her daughter Heather's home. Often cooking items at home and bringing them over. She always had a "themed" tablecloth for every occasion. Her favorite saying was, "Don't worry about it." She demonstrated her love for her family and friends in so many ways. She will be missed dearly. The family would like to Thank the many dedicated staff from the Overlook in Charlton for their compassionate care. Donations may be made to the Center of Hope in Southbridge, MA., The Alzheimers Association. or Calling Hour was Monday, December 5. 2022 from 10 AM-11AM (At the Church) with a Funeral Mass at 11 AM in St. JosephChurch, 10HPutnamRd.Ext., followed by burial in West Ridge Cemetery. The ROBERT J. MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175Old WORCESTER RD. is assisting the family with arrangements,



Vincent Joseph Cartagirone, 87

CHARLTON-Vincent Joseph Cartagirone, 87, of Charlton, passed away on November 16, 2022, at Harrington Hospital with his family by his side.

> Vincent was predeceased by his wife (Gauthier) Ruth Cartagirone in 1987.

> Vincent leaves his son John Cartagirone and his wife Gina of Charlton; his daughter Michelle Gendron

of Maine; his brother John Cartagirone and his wife Kathy of Maryland; his sisters Tina Caiola and her late husband Pete of Frankfurt, NY, Cathy Carpenter and her late husband Hank of Herkimer, NY, and Mary Myers of Mohawk NY; Grandchildren Vincent Cartagirone, Angela Cartagirone, and Julia Cartagirone who is currently serving in the Marine Corps. and many nieces and nephews He was predeceased by his sister

Vincent was born in Herkimer, NY son to the late Joseph Cartagirone, and Elvira (Piscione) Cartagirone.

Vincent served in the Air Force for 4 years as a basic airman. He received the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal during his time in the service. After the service Vincent worked as a truck driver for Vanco Concrete for several years before he retired.

Vincent was known as a family man. His grandchildren called him Nanoon. He loved his grandchildren they were his life. He would take them to their sporting events and loved spending time with them.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 AM, on Saturday, December 10, in St. Joseph Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton, MA

Belanger Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge, MA 01550 is directing arrangements.

their spouses: Donna Kelley (Patrick), Alfred "Fred" Beaulieu (Lynn), Natalie Aiuto (Francesco), Susan Lassiter (Craig), Ann Horning (George), and

Road STE 40, Williston, VT 05495

Please visit awrfh.com to read Rita's full obituary and to share your memo- Joanna Gregery. ries

An online guestbook and a video tribute are available at www. BelangerFuneralHome.com

Team Hoyt, Hoyt Foundation celebrates s election as a Shaw's Give Back Where it Counts program beneficiary

HOLLAND — The Hoyt Foundation has been selected as a beneficiary of the Shaw's Give Back Where it Counts Reusable Bag Program for the month of December.

The Shaw's Give Back Where it Counts Reusable Bag Program, which launched in March 2019, is areusable bag program that facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work.

Team Hoyt & The Hoyt Foundation were selected as the December benefi-



ciary of the program by store leadership at the Shaw's located 178 Main St., Sturbridge. The Hoyt Foundation will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$3 Give Back Where it Counts Reusable Bag is purchased at this location during December, unlessotherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to the bag.

"We are honored to be selected "said Russ Hoyt, President & CEO of The raised funds and awareness since 1977. In 1989 the Hoyt Family, parents Dick and Judy along with sons Rick, Rob and Russ, formed the Hoyt Foundation. The Foundation is now in a position to give back by supporting families to provide opportunities for inclusion for their child with a disability the way Dick and Judy did for Rick. Families with a child with a disability can request grants from \$5,000 to \$25,000 to help their child

Foundation is a nonprofit based in Holland. Founded in 1989, Team Hoyt & The Hoyt Foundation support individuals with disabilities. Learn more about The Hoyt Foundation by visiting teamhoyt.com.

For more information on the Shaw's Give Back Where it Counts Reusable Bag Program, visit shaws.2givelocal. com.



QUARTET

continued from page A1

The Quinebaug Quartet was founded by four New England based freelance musicians who spend much of their summers playing weddings. During one wedding in the summer of 2021, the four musicians discovered that they were a particularly fun and cohesive combination. They made the decision to continue playing together and the Quinebaug Quartet was born! Each player brings decades of experience playing solo, chamber, orchestral, church and operatic works throughout New England.

Laura Gulley plays both modern and historical violin and viola. She is a member of the Rhode Island Philharmonic and Boston Baroque and plays in the Proteus Quartet in residence at Rhode Island College. She teaches Suzuki violin, viola and chamber music at the Music School of the Rhode Island Philharmonic. Gulley has traveled, toured, and recorded with several baroque and Renaissance music ensembles and contemporary music groups. She loves playing music for operas and for theater productions, recording strings and sound effects for

songwriters, and performing music for dancers.

Violist Susan Kirchhausen is a graduate of Florida State University who went on to earn her master's degree in music education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Operating out of her Worcester studio, Kirchhausen has been a private music teacher in central Massachusetts since 1996. In addition to her busy teaching schedule, she maintains an active performance schedule as a freelance violist throughout New England and beyond. Before making her home in Worcester, Susan made her way up the East Coast playing with the Disney All-American College Orchestra and the Tallahassee, Greensboro, and Savannah Symphony Orchestras. She has worked with such artists as Ray Charles, The Moody Blues, Dave Brubeck, and Rosemary Clooney.

Aaron Packard is a violinist who teaches at the Joy of Music Program in Worcester, and at the Groton School in Groton. Performing music of many genres and periods, he is an avid improviser and proponent of new music, having worked closely with many contemporary composers such as Ellen Lindquist, Elizabeth Adams, Ted Hearne, Henryk Strindberg, and John Luther Adams to find and experiment with new sound ideas. He is a founding member of the Hartford-based Cuatro Puntos Ensemble (cuatropuntos.org), with whom he can be heard on many recordings on the Arkadash and Métier labels. He is also a member of the New England Repertory Orchestra, the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra, and the Worcester Symphony Orchestra.

Eleanor Blake is a cello soloist, orchestral player, chamber musician and teacher. Currently a member of The Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonic Plymouth Orchestra and The Cape Symphony, Blake has plaved under the baton of international conductors like James Levine, Bernard Haitink, and Raphael Frühbeck De Burgos, and has worked with international soloists like 'cellist Yo-Yo Ma, soprano Renée Fleming, and violinist Joshua Bell. Her full bio may be found at www. eleanorblakecellist.com.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives. Members of the communi-



Photo Courtesy

The Quinebaug Quartet (from top left) Laura Gulley, Susan Kirchhausen, Aaron Packard, and Eleanor Blake.

ty are welcome and invited to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The services are also live-streamed on the Church's Facebook @FederatedChurch page SturbridgeFiskdale. For addi-

tional information about The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale, please visit the Church Web site at sturfed.org or contact the Church office at (774) 304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.





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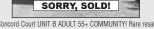
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PUTNAM - LAND Zoned General Business .29 acre 103 frontage. Water, Sewer, & city gas available. 2 street ent \$125,000 OXFORD - 2 Merriam Rd 80+/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton. ON DEPOSIT \$329,000

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AIRPORT

continued from page A1

cifically coming in just to have lunch. For the last couple years, that has been impossible, since the Red Baron Diner closed. Last week, Josh's Place filled the gap, formally opening to the public by giving away cookies and egg muffin sandwiches.

"It's great to have alternatives for people who come and go at the airport," said Town Manager Michael McCall, who noted he'd "worked a lot" with Josh Letendre, the diner's new owner. It took jumping "a few hurdles" to get here, including having to advertise the diner's availability a few times before Letendre jumped on it. (The property is owned by the town.)

Letendre said he's been in the restaurant business 25 years, including three in Boston. "Born and raised in Sturbridge," he liked this diner because of the beautiful view and its history, he added.

"I've done everything from mom and pop spots to fine dining, pretty much every style," he said. "I'm willing to bring back a good family dining spot for the community."

Airport Manager Ron Plouffe said this diner was actually built in 1958 in New Jersey, and is the only remaining one (of five) of this model. Years ago, his predecessor Charles Latour found it for sale in Pennsylvania, bought it and moved it here. Previously, he'd run a small diner tucked into the inside corner of the old quonset hut, which was wiped out by the 2011 tornado.

"The diner is vital to this operation," he said.

As far as Plouffe knows, Southbridge is one of the few general aviation airports in Massachusetts that has such an amenity, and it draw pilots from everywhere. A couple times a year, he gets a visitor who flies in from San Diego, takes a trip down to Treehouse Brewery, and flies home with a planeload of beer. Even more often, he'll get calls from a New England pilots group who flies in to meet, from around the region, sometimes to have a cookout. "Pilots love the fort they can

"Pilots love the fact they can just park their plane and go to the diner," he said.

"We're looking forward to a great relationship with Josh here at the airport," said Airport Commission Chair Rick Clemence. "I enjoy having more business in town."

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



As people file inside, the diner quickly becomes a cozy place, welcome for its shelter from the cold wind. Town Manager Michael McCall and Councilor Jasmin Rivas face the camera.

SPECIAL ED

continued from page A1

become an asset with potential to grow into a powerful tool for students who could have otherwise been left behind.

"We're keeping the numbers of students in those classrooms very low," Bergeron said of the classrooms. "To start building a program while servicing students is a daunting task, so I want to thank all the staff that are involved in those three classrooms. It is a lot of work, and it is difficult work, but in the end those children are really going to benefit. We are continuing to support the staff in building those programs and I'm just really excited to see where they go. They've already had a significant impact on the lives of children that otherwise wouldn't be able to go here.'

Upon his arrival last fall, Bergeron said one of the biggest issues was problems with compliance. He said the number of compliance issues was "unacceptable" but everyone has worked over the past year to improve and bring the program to new heights. Still, Bergeron said compliance supervision remains a priority to make sure the program doesn't go "backwards."

Other enhancements on Bergeron's list included the finalizing of guid-

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ance documents for staff, working with DESE on tier focused monitoring and updated policies and procedures, and the addition of new staff and programs to helping with reading and writing capabilities. The department has also embraced new technology in the form of Teachdown, an ILC curriculum support hardware now installed in all classrooms. Bergeron also stressed the importance of refocusing on special education educators and interventionists and supporters first, something he feels got lost in years past. "With the black and white teach

"With the black and white teaching model that was in place here for a few years some of those interventions weren't attended to as closely as they needed to be," Bergeron admitted.

With these new programs in place Bergeron said he hopes to see the special education department continue to grow and admitted there are several areas where they can work to improve. Among those are transportation admitting that he has heard the complaints from several parents. Caseload and resource allocation, data cleanup, flexibility, professional and support program development, and continued compliance monitoring were all areas Bergeron told school officials he'd like to continue to work and build on in the months and years to come.

CLAIRE continued from page **A1**

the world and I just want to spread love," said Claire. "One day, I just decid-

ed I wanted to help someone. I feel really lucky to have everything I have and to get my presents on Christmas and have so many people who love and care for me. Some kids don't get that, so I think it's very important that kids have that growing up. It's very important to feel loved, especially around the holidays."

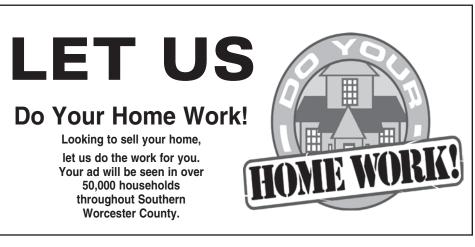
Claire's mother, Marcy, said her daughter's cause began when she decided to forgo making Christmas wishes while visiting Santa. Instead, she asked Santa to give her gifts to those less fortunate. Marcy said from that day on Claire had embraced the spirit of giving around the holidays.

'She recognized that there are so

many people in her life that love her and are so generous. She felt like she didn't need as much from Santa," said Marcy. "It's inspiring and I get emotional about it. She's very mature, very loving, and very kind,"

Last year, Claire raised around \$1,000 to help her assigned family. She says she doesn't set a goal for each year, but that she often raised enough to buy everything on the lists as well as some additional toys to donate to Toys for Tots. She appreciates the support she receives every year and calls it proof that "people are still good."

"I'm still growing up, so I don't really know what it's like not to get everything that I have," Claire said. "I think it's important to recognize that not everyone is as fortunate. If you didn't have what you have, you'd probably be a different person. It's good to feel loved, and not everyone gets to feel that."





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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 homebound 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 sitdown 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/ bishopsdinnervolunteer/. 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 followlink: https://form.jotform. ing 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

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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

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"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



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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.

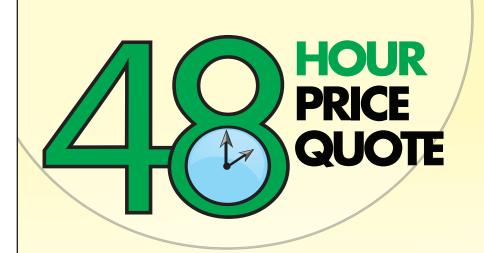
Amazon's Career Choice program is an education benefit that empowers employees to learn new skills for career success at Amazon or elsewhere. The program meets individual learners where they are on their education journey through a variety of education and upskilling opportunities including pre-paid 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-payhas 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 education that leads to career success.

forward "We're looking to QuinsigamondCommunityCollegecoming 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,





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