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Friday, July 24, 2026

Blackstone Valley Music launches first summer musical

BVTi graduates celebrated, marking inaugural milestone



Littlest Bee Photography — Courtesy

The Cast of “RENT” rehearsing Choreography for the upcoming production Aug. 7-9 at Uxbridge High School.

U X B R I D G E — Blackstone Valley Music (BVM) is proud to announce its historic, first-ever summer musical theater production, Jonathan Larson’s groundbreaking rock musical, “RENT: School Edition.” This highly anticipated debut will bring a passionate ensemble of the region’s finest young performers from BVM’s downtown studio to the main stage at Uxbridge High School for a limited three-show run from Aug. 7 through Aug. 9.

Based on Giacomo Puccini’s opera “La Bohème,” “RENT: School Edition” follows an unforgettable year in the lives of a group of young artists, musicians, and renegades struggling to survive, create, and find love in New York’s Lower East Side. This adapted version captures the raw energy, pro-

found heart, and iconic rock score of the original Broadway sensation while remaining perfectly tailored for high-school-aged actors.

For Blackstone Valley Music, a staple of the local arts scene known for premium music education, this production marks a thrilling expansion into full-scale musical theater. Watching the program grow from its earliest conceptual stages in the winter months to a fully realized stage production has been a monumental milestone for the school’s leadership.

“Seeing this production come together from our early planning sessions back in January to where we are now has been nothing short of inspiring,” said Mark Mandeville, Executive Director of Blackstone Valley Music. “Our mission at BVM has always been about fostering a supportive, grassroots community through music, education, and shared expression. Launching a dedicated theater program introduces a completely new level of creative collaboration to our studio, and I couldn’t be prouder of the sheer dedication our students and staff have poured into making this historic debut a reality.”

Musical Theater Program

Turn To MUSICAL page A8

UPTON — The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District celebrated the graduation of 62 students from its adult education programs, recognizing the inaugural graduating class of the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute (BVTi). The ceremony marked an important milestone.

The graduates completed training in Advanced Manufacturing, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, and Welding through BVTi. Designed to prepare adult learners for high-demand careers, BVTi’s credential-based programs provide industry-recognized credentials, hands-on training, and the technical knowledge needed to enter or advance in the skilled trades.

In 2025, the Healey-Driscoll Administration, in partnership with Commonwealth Corporation, awarded the district a \$1.04 million Career Technical Initiative (CTI) grant. With support from the grant, BVTi launched adult education programs for learners seeking new skills, certifications, and pathways to career advancement.

“We are incredibly proud of our inaugural graduating class and our partnership with the Commonwealth through the CTI program to expand access to career and technical education,” said BVT’s Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II. “This grant has allowed us to deliver high-quality career and technical education to adults seeking to upskill or retrain, provide skilled labor to the local workforce, and generate nontaxpayer revenue that helps support the school.”

“We continually look ahead and plan for the future,” said BVT’s Assistant Superintendent and Curriculum Director Dr. Matthew Connors. “Working collaboratively with our Director of Workforce & Economic Development, Mary May, BVTi is focused on expanding its catalog of adult education programs and introducing additional offerings this fall.”

To learn more about BVTi, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/bvti.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT)

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

August events at Waters Farm

SUTTON — Join Waters Farm, located at 25 Waters Rd., Sutton, for Picker’s Paradise Flea Market, a relaxed New England-style sale set at a historic farm.

This event will take place on Aug. 8, 9, 15, and 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We keep our event small and easy to explore, a welcoming starting point for anyone visiting a flea market for the first time. This is a great place for people who enjoy antiques, vintage finds, and other treasures but prefer a quieter shopping experience. If you would rather part with your treasures than collect more, we gladly welcome tax-deductible donations. Picker’s Paradise is also a great opportunity for sellers. Outdoor vendor spaces are available for \$10 a day. Bring your own tent and table, or sell directly from your vehicle. First-time vendors are welcome! This event will happen rain or shine, barring extreme weather. For vendor inquiries, donations, or to volunteer, please contact Pam Farnham at (508) 735-7146 or email pam@watersfarm.org.

We have a full slate of free, family-friendly, and fun activities planned for our next Open House on Sunday, Aug. 9.

9 to 11 a.m. | Waters Farm House Tours
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Picker’s Paradise Flea Market
9 a.m. sign-ups; 10 a.m. start until done | Antique Farm Tractor Pulls
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Blacksmithing with Dan Soucy Located at Capt. Cornelius Putnam Blacksmith Shop
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Beekeeping with Harvey Blythe of It’s Only Chemistry Includes a live hive, weather permitting.
Noon and 1 p.m. | Trail Hikes with Phil Johansson of Blackstone Heritage Corridor Hikes will last 40 to 45 minutes.

Finally, we always are open to volunteers of all ages, a great way to earn service hours! Coming up on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. is our annual Apple Crisp Preparation Day. Help Norma make her famous Apple Crisp by preparing the apples. Lunch and apple crisp samples are provided. Special thanks to First Congregational Church of Sutton (307 Boston Rd., Sutton,) for letting us use their kitchen.

To learn more about Waters Farm, find us on Facebook and Instagram, or visit our Web site at WatersFarm.org.

Uxbridge Elderly Connection plans 20th annual golf outing

UXBRIDGE — A good idea became a great idea when, 20 years ago, the Uxbridge Elderly Connection planned its First Annual Golf Outing in 2006. This year they will be celebrating with a 20th Anniversary event on Monday, Sept. 21, at the Whitinsville Golf Club in Whitinsville, Mass. The very special golf outing fundraiser, which benefits the Uxbridge Senior Center, will begin at Noon with a shotgun start for golfers at one of the top-ranked, nine-hole golf courses in the world.

Teams of four may sign up to play for \$125 per golfer for nine holes including golf cart and buffet supper. Only eighteen teams may play so early registration is essential. Special events will include two closest to the pin prizes, longest drive, team prizes and more. The team of Mark Wickstrom, Mary Pat Wickstrom, Dan Moors and Michael Horan, last year’s first place winners, are the team to beat in 2026.

Sponsorships offer



a way to show support for our senior community. A Platinum Sponsor of \$2500 includes a tee sign, sponsorship display board, four golfers with golf cart and dinner with highest recognition on all materials, website and social media. The Gold Tee-Shirt Sponsor of \$2,000 will provide your company name on all golf shirts, the sponsorship display board, and recognition on the website and social media. The Silver Golf Ball Sponsor for \$1,500 provides your company name on tournament golf balls

distributed to every player, recognition on sponsorship display board, website and social media. A mainstay of the Uxbridge Elderly Connection Golf Outing has always been the community business support in the form of tee signs. The Bronze Tee Sign Sponsor for \$150 provides a tee sign prominently displayed at the practice green at the start of the golf outing. To respond to any of these offers, email uxbridgeelderlyconnection@gmail.com, or call the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 for more information.

Golfers and sponsors may locate a registration form on the Uxbridge Senior Center Facebook Page or at the senior center and pay online with QR code provided or make a check payable to the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, P.O. Box 215, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

Local businesses and community members have been consistently supportive over the twenty years of the golf outing by purchasing tee signs, making donations or providing gift baskets. Silent and live

Turn To OUTING page A8

Local students receive degrees from Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — The following students received degrees from Quinnipiac University during commencement ceremonies held in May:

John Buckley of Northbridge received a Master of Business Administration degree in Management Science.

Brendan McIntyre of Northbridge received a Master of Business Administration in

Management Science.

About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,700 students in more than 100 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences,

Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts & Sciences. Quinnipiac is ranked 51st in The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse “2026 Best Colleges in the U.S.” and is also recognized by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review’s “The Best 391 Colleges.” The university is expanding innovative programs for both traditional and adult learners and developing dynamic corporate partnerships. Quinnipiac

recently completed a significant capital expansion on its main campus, including a state-of-the-art new School of Business and an interdisciplinary science and innovation hub. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and Instagram and follow Quinnipiac on X @QuinnipiacU.

Sophia Gu named to dean’s list at Tufts University

MEDFORD — Sophia Gu, Class of 2027, of Northbridge, was named to the dean’s list at Tufts University for the spring 2026 semester. Dean’s list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university’s schools is widely encouraged.

Ryan Rushford joins Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates

WORCESTER — Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates is proud to announce Ryan Rushford has joined their Worcester office. Rushford joins a dedicated team of knowledgeable agents at Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, who bring many years of combined real estate expertise to their clients.

Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, located at 470 Park Ave., is an independently owned and operated affiliate of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. For more information, please contact Julia Acquaah-Harrison at (508) 795-3885 or jharrison@hope-homes.com.

About Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. is a top real estate franchisor established in 2001 by Jim Weichert, president, chairman and CEO of Weichert Companies, which has been in operation since 1969. The company provides a clearly defined business model for operating, managing, and marketing a real estate brokerage, along with industry-leading technology, marketing tools, and support. Its first affiliate opened in 2002, and the franchise network has since grown to over 330 offices, serving markets in over 40 states. The company has appeared on the Entrepreneur Franchise 500 list as a top residential real estate franchise and been identified by Franchise Business Review as a top franchise for owner satisfaction 11 years in a row. For more information about Weichert, visit Weichert.com. For more information about franchise opportunities, visit WeichertFranchise.com.

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Salve Regina University announces Dean’s List for Spring Semester

NEWPORT, R.I. — The following students were named to the Dean’s List during the spring 2026 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Larissa Briggs of Northbridge

Emilee Hamelin of Douglas

Alyssa Schilling of Douglas

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. It offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 students from around the world are enrolled in Salve’s 60+ academic programs, which include bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees along with graduate certificates and combined bachelor’s/master’s programs. Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year experience that charts a personalized, values-based path connecting college to a successful, fulfilling career and life. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy and ideas. For more information visit salve.edu.

Vermont State congratulates Blake Sastre for earning Dean’s List honors!

RANDOLPH CENTER, Vt. — Vermont State University is pleased to recognize Blake Sastre, of Whitinsville, for earning Dean’s List honors during the Spring 2026 semester.

This distinction celebrates academic excellence and is awarded to students who maintain full-time enrollment while achieving a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Vermont State University provides a high-quality, flexible, and affordable education for students seeking associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees, certificates, and in-demand professional credentials. The university builds upon a history of public higher education in Vermont dating back to 1787. More information about Vermont State University can be found at: VermontState.edu

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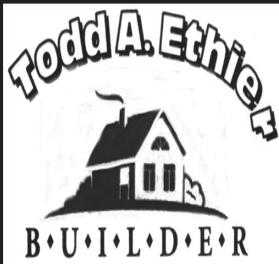
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Investing in opportunity beyond high school

For generations, vocational education has been viewed primarily through the lens of high school students preparing for a career. That mission remains as important as ever, but today’s workforce demands something more. Careers change. Industries evolve. New technologies reshape the skills employers need. Education can no longer end with a diploma.

That is what makes the graduation of the inaugural class of the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute such an encouraging milestone for the Blackstone Valley.

The 62 graduates recognized this summer represent more than a successful first class. They represent adults who made the decision to invest in themselves, often while balancing jobs, families, and countless other responsibilities. Returning to the classroom after years away is not easy. It requires determination, sacrifice, and confidence that the effort will lead to a better future.

Programs in advanced manufacturing, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and welding are not simply teaching trades. They are preparing people for careers that remain among the most essential in our economy. These are professions that keep our homes comfortable, our businesses operating, our infrastructure functioning, and our manufacturing sector competitive.

Across Massachusetts and throughout New England, employers continue to report shortages of skilled tradespeople. Many experienced workers are approaching retirement while demand continues to grow. Communities cannot thrive without electricians, plumbers, welders, HVAC technicians, and advanced manufacturing specialists. Every new graduate entering these fields helps strengthen the region’s economy.

The success of the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute also demonstrates the value of partnerships. The Career Technical Initiative grant awarded by the Healey-Driscoll Administration gave Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School the resources needed to expand beyond its traditional student population and create opportunities for adult learners. That investment benefits not only those who earned certificates, but also local employers searching for qualified workers and the communities that depend on a strong workforce.

Equally important is the broader message this program sends. Learning should never have an expiration date. Whether someone is seeking a better-paying job, recovering from a layoff, changing careers, or simply pursuing a long-held goal, education should remain accessible throughout adulthood. Programs like BVTi recognize that life’s path is rarely a straight line. Sometimes the best opportunity comes years after high school graduation.

Blackstone Valley Tech has long earned a reputation for preparing young people for successful careers. Expanding that same commitment to adult education builds on an already strong foundation while making even greater use of the school’s facilities, instructors, and industry partnerships. It is a practical approach that serves students, employers, and taxpayers alike.

The graduates of this inaugural class have every reason to celebrate their accomplishments. But this ceremony should also be viewed as the beginning of something larger. As BVTi expands its catalog of adult education offerings in the coming months and years, more residents across the Blackstone Valley will have an opportunity to develop valuable skills, improve their earning potential, and contribute to the economic vitality of the region.

Communities are strongest when education is available at every stage of life. The first graduating class of the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute reminds us that it is never too late to learn something new, build a new career, or create new opportunities. That lesson may prove to be the program’s greatest achievement of all.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

Local family faces devastating loss after both parents battle Stage 3 lung cancer



Dawn and Rick Megna. Courtesy

BY MELISSA VARIN SOMUYIWA

My name is Melissa Varin Somuyiwa, and I am reaching out in hopes that you will consider sharing the extraordinary and heartbreaking story of a local family that has endured two stage 3 lung cancer diagnoses, serious financial hardship, a life-threatening heart emergency, and now the devastating loss of a wife and mother.

On July 5, 2026, my dear friend Dawn Megna of Blackstone, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully in her sleep at just 58

years old after a courageous battle with lung cancer and many other serious health complications. She left behind her husband of nearly 19 years, Rick, and their 18-year-old daughter, Ashley, who had graduated from Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School just over five weeks earlier.

Dawn had been part of my life since childhood and was one of my mother’s closest friends for nearly four decades. Over the past two years, I have watched this family endure more than most people should have to face in a lifetime.

Dawn was diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer in April 2024. While she endured chemotherapy, immunotherapy, major surgery, repeated hospitalizations, and serious complications, Rick worked as many as 60 to 70 hours a week to support his family.

Then, just 15 months after Dawn’s diagnosis, Rick was also diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer.

Rick underwent chemotherapy, immunotherapy, major surgery to remove the entire upper portion of his left lung, and six weeks of aggressive chemotherapy and radiation. After everything he endured, he finally received the news that he was cancer-free.

But then another life-threatening medical crisis struck. In late May, Rick was diagnosed with pericarditis, a serious inflammation of the tissue surrounding his heart. On May 25, he was MedFlighted to Boston with fluid around his heart and underwent emergency surgery.

Turn To MEGNAS page A5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembering the Boston Tea Party

To the Editor:

As we celebrate our Semiquincentennial, consider that Dec. 16, 2023, was the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. It was the first significant act of defiance by Americans against British rule, leading to the Revolutionary War.

New citizens must study American history before they can be sworn in to declare their fidelity to the U.S.A. Do our students know the sacrifice of early Americans to create this democratic republic like no other, this Capitalist envy of the world?

Re-enactors from all over the nation convened in Boston just before Christmas in 2023 to commemorate the anniversary by a dumping of tea provided by London’s East India Company - the same company that provided the tea 250 years ago.

People dressed in gray colonial clothes or British red uniforms. Drum and fife corps played outside the Old South Meeting House. Thousands gathered to watch, and cheer! To protest and petition the government for redress of grievances - no new taxes! Cut taxes! President Trump cut your taxes and mine.

We are born with the privilege of being American citizens. It is an honor and a privilege. We are all privileged. Back then, in 1773, Americans protested taxation without representation. Do you feel represented in how your taxes are spent here?

Samuel Adams, founder of the Sons of Liberty, led the Boston Tea Party. The rable-rousers were artisans, craftsmen, rope-work laborers, business owners, tradesmen like silver-maker Paul Revere, apprentices and indentured servants. The Sons of Liberty also included well-to-do folks like John Adams, John Hancock, James Otis, Josiah Quincy, and Dr. Joseph Warren.

Did you know that Paul Revere was the son of one of a French-American? Apollos Rivoire came here as an apprentice to a silver-maker. And in a fine old American tradition, he changed his name to sound more American: Revere. The name Revere is now as American as apple pie and the Fourth of July.

Stirred up to assert their rights against the British, 5,000 colonials met at the Old South meeting house on December 16, 1773. Speech after speech incited the crowd. A signal was given by Sam Adams. Wielding hatchets and disguised as Mohawk war-

rriors, the Sons of Liberty insurrected. They stormed the docks, boarded the ships - the Dartmouth, the Eleanor, and the Beaver, and dumped what would be today \$1.7 million of tea into the harbor.

Most “Mohawks” remained anonymous for years afterwards and carried the secret of where they were that night to their graves. The majority were from Boston. Some were from Worcester and Maine. They were of English, Irish, Scottish, French, Portuguese, and African ancestry. Wives found tea flakes in boots.

Only one person was arrested. Back then, there was no Woke FBI to hunt down every last Son of Liberty like they did to Jan. 6 protestors in 2021. They indicted them, they kept them in solitary confinement, they ruined their lives.

The Executive Director of the Boston Tea Party museum said: “Who of us today would be willing to throw our livelihood, our families, our fortunes, our property out the window, based on an idea that had a 100 per cent chance of failure?” More like a 100 per cent chance of succeeding because God’s hand was on us, only we didn’t know it. Now, we know. But will God turn his face away with all the Godless activities in America today? The Commies selling a lie?

Who, indeed, would be willing to risk their livelihood today? Back then, Britain wanted to hang them all.

In the words of Dr. Joseph Warren, on March 6, 1775: “Our country is in danger, but not to be despaired of. Our enemies are numerous and powerful, but we have many friends, determined to be free, and heaven and earth will aid the resolution. On you depend the fortunes of America.”

A new Washington, D.C. Tea Party is exposing massive Medicare fraud, U.S. identity fraud, building the military, cleaning up the crime-ridden city of D.C., cutting taxes, stopping the flow of drugs over our borders, and setting up accounts for children to invest in America and truly own a part of the American dream.

It is time for a Second Boston Tea Party in Boston! Time to clean out Beacon Hill and the massive corruption, lack of transparency. But you must vote differently. Vote for a new Senator John Deaton. Vote for a new Governor Mike Minogue. Vote for a new Attorney General Michael Walsh. God help us.

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

The hidden danger of investing too cautiously



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

One of the most significant risks investors face isn’t losing money in a market dip; it’s failing to reach their long-term financial goals.

Many people focus heavily on short-term losses in the stock market and try to protect their savings by investing conservatively or avoiding stocks altogether. But that runs the risk that their savings won’t grow enough to keep up with inflation or support future needs.

Understanding what investment risk really means helps you make smarter financial decisions, considering these three key aspects.

Risk tolerance describes your emotional comfort with risk. If you’d want to pull your money out of the market during a downturn, that reveals something about your tolerance. Many financial advisors use questionnaires to help clients understand how they might react in different market conditions.

Risk capacity refers to how much risk you can afford to take. Your timeline matters. A 35-year-old saving for retirement has decades to ride out market swings. A retiree drawing income from their portfolio doesn’t have that same cushion.

Required risk describes how much risk you may need to take to reach your financial goals. Higher returns generally come with higher risk, though higher risk does not guarantee higher returns. If you need strong growth to retire comfortably, you may need to accept more short-term volatility.

Sometimes these elements don’t line up. You might be uncomfortable with risk but need strong growth to meet your goals.

Balance and diversification matter: Finding the right balance matters more than you might think. A small difference in your annual rate of return, from 5% to 7% for instance, doesn’t just add a little. It multiplies. That’s the power of compounding — returns earning their own returns, year after year, building on an ever-growing base. Over 30 or 35 years, that can become significant.

You needn’t choose between playing it so safe your money barely keeps up with inflation and taking on more risk than you’re comfortable with. Instead, a balanced mix can fit your comfort level and still help grow your money over time.

The age factor: You’ll want to adjust your approach to risk as you get older. If retirement is years away, your portfolio may lean toward growth investments like stocks and stock mutual funds; you have time to absorb short-term losses and benefit from long-term gains. Lower risk investments like bonds still play a role because they can help smooth out changes in your portfolio’s value.

As you near retirement, your portfolio may shift toward a more even mix of stocks and bonds to limit exposure to large market swings. The goal is to protect what you’ve built while still generating enough growth to fund a retirement that could last decades.

Investing well isn’t about eliminating risk; it’s about taking the right amount of it. Too little risk can be just as damaging as too much. A financial advisor can help you find the balance that matches your comfort level, your financial situation and your long-term goals.

Investors should understand the risks involved with owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates and investors can lose some or all of their principal.

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

MEGNAS
continued from page A4

Rick, a veteran who has always taken great pride in working hard and supporting his family, is still recovering from major lung cancer surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation while also battling this serious heart condition. He is medically unable to return to work and is currently scheduled to remain out until May 2027.

Meanwhile, Ashley is facing serious health challenges of her own. She has been diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), arthritis, and fibromyalgia, and she is currently unable to work.

The financial situation facing Rick and Ashley is now critical. Following Dawn's death and Ashley turning 18, their household lost approximately \$1,900 in monthly income. Their rent in Blackstone is \$2,200 per month, and their car payment is \$800 per month—\$3,000 before utilities, insurance, food, medical costs, and accumulated debts are even considered.

This family has already lost a home once. After both Rick and Dawn became unable to work because of their illnesses, they fell behind on rent and were evicted from their apartment in Franklin. Generous donations from previous fundraisers helped them survive some of their darkest days and move into their current home in Blackstone.

Now, just weeks after los-

ing Dawn, Rick is grieving heavily while trying to understand how he will keep a roof over his daughter's head. He recently told me, "I have people by my side emotionally, but it is hard to have the desire to do basic things now. Even getting out of bed is really difficult. I have Ashley trying to lift me up, but I don't think anything can fully heal me just yet. I truly don't know what we are going to do financially or how we are going to make it by. That is my biggest worry as of now."

I have created a GoFundMe to help Rick and Ashley with their immediate expenses, including rent, their car payment, insurance, utilities, groceries, and accumulated debts. The goal is to give Rick time to grieve his wife and allow his body and heart to heal without feeling forced to risk his health by returning to work before his doctors believe it is safe.

I am asking whether you would consider covering Rick and Ashley's story or sharing information about their fundraiser with your audience. I would be happy to provide the GoFundMe link, photographs, additional background information, or documentation, and I can help facilitate contact with Rick and his family.

This is a deeply personal story, but it is also a local story about cancer, grief, a veteran facing serious illness, medical and financial hardship, and a father and daughter trying to survive circumstances they never could have imagined.

The last pay phone

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

running late, we can call before anyone has time to wonder where we are.

But there was a time when finding a pay phone could feel

like finding water in the desert.

You always needed a quarter. If you didn't have one, you started checking cup holders, coat pockets or the bottom of your glove compartment. Sometimes you'd ask a stranger, "Do you have change for a dollar?" Nobody thought that was odd.

There was an unspoken etiquette, too. You kept your conversation short if someone else was waiting. If the weather was bad, you'd hunch beneath the little metal cover while rain dripped off the edges. In winter, the handset always seemed about twenty degrees colder than the air around it.

The pay phone was also a witness to life. Teenagers nervously calling home after missing curfew. Parents letting family know they had arrived safely. Drivers reporting

breakdowns before roadside assistance came with smartphone apps. Young couples talking longer than they could afford because hanging up first somehow felt impossible.

Looking back, it's amazing how much trust we placed in those phones. They sat outside through blizzards, thunderstorms and heat waves. Thousands of hands touched them. Somehow they almost always worked.

Today's technology is unquestionably better. I wouldn't trade my cell phone for a pocket full of quarters. But convenience has changed something else. Because every call is private now.

You never overhear someone happily announcing they got the job. You don't hear somebody telling their spouse they'll be home in twenty minutes. You don't watch a nervous teenager practicing what they're about to say before dropping a coin into the slot.

Life still happens, of course. We just experience it behind screens instead of out in the open.

S m a l l - t o w n

Massachusetts has always been full of ordinary landmarks that quietly stitched communities together. A hardware store with creaky floors. The diner where everyone knew the waitress's name. The corner barber shop. The bulletin board covered with handwritten notices.

The pay phone belonged on that list. It wasn't important because of what it was. It mattered because everyone, sooner or later, needed it.

Maybe that's why seeing those four empty bolts caught my attention. They reminded me that progress rarely arrives with a parade. More often it comes one unnoticed change at a time, until the world you've always known has become somebody else's history.

Someday, a child will ask what those rusty bolts are for. Someone my age will smile.

"They used to hold a pay phone," we'll say.

The child will probably look puzzled. And for a brief moment, we'll realize we're telling a story that has quietly become history.

Bay Path celebrates 59 CTI graduates, expands workforce training programs

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School proudly celebrated the graduation of 59 students from its Career Technical Initiative (CTI) program last evening, marking a significant milestone in the program's continued growth and impact.

The CTI program, launched in 2024, provides adult learners with access to high-quality, hands-on technical training designed to meet regional workforce demands. Last night's graduates represent a diverse group of individuals who demonstrated dedication, perseverance, and a strong commitment to building new career pathways. Many balanced work, family, and personal responsibilities while completing rigorous 200-hour training programs that prepare them for immediate employment in high-demand industries.

"This graduating class represents the heart of what the CTI program is all about—opportunity, access, and workforce readiness," said Marci Komssi, Program Coordinator. "We are incredibly proud of these 59

graduates and the determination they demonstrated throughout the program."

The success of the CTI program is made possible through continued state investment and workforce development partnerships. As part of the Commonwealth's commitment to economic recovery and growth, \$24.2 million was awarded to 23 organizations throughout Massachusetts to train 2,490 individuals. These strategic investments, led by the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet, are designed to expand access to career pathway programs and better position residents to fill critical workforce needs across the state.

Building on this momentum, Bay Path is expanding its program offerings to reach even more adult learners. For the first time, the school will offer a 200-hour Building Maintenance program in a five-week hybrid summer format, running from June 29 through July 31. This program is offered in partnership with MassHire, with applications opening this week.

Looking ahead to Fall 2026, Bay Path will offer nine CTI programs, further increasing access to career training opportunities. These programs include:

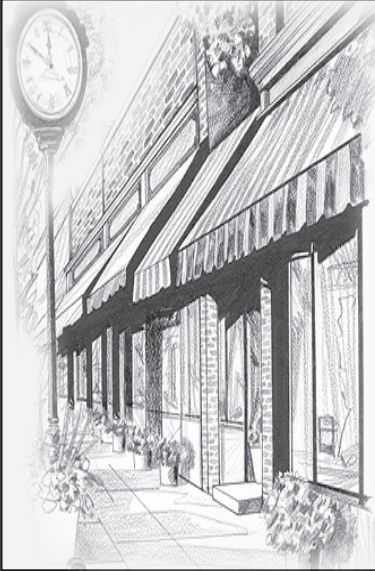
- Building Maintenance
- HVAC
- Culinary
- Manufacturing
- Auto Collision
- Auto Technology
- Diesel Mechanic
- Welding
- Electrical

Since its inception, the CTI program has continued to expand in both enrollment and program diversity, attracting students from local communities as well as across the region. The program remains a critical component of Bay Path's efforts to support workforce development and provide meaningful career pathways for adult learners.

For more information about the CTI program or to apply for upcoming opportunities, please contact Marci Komssi at mkomssi@baypath.net.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted. It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.



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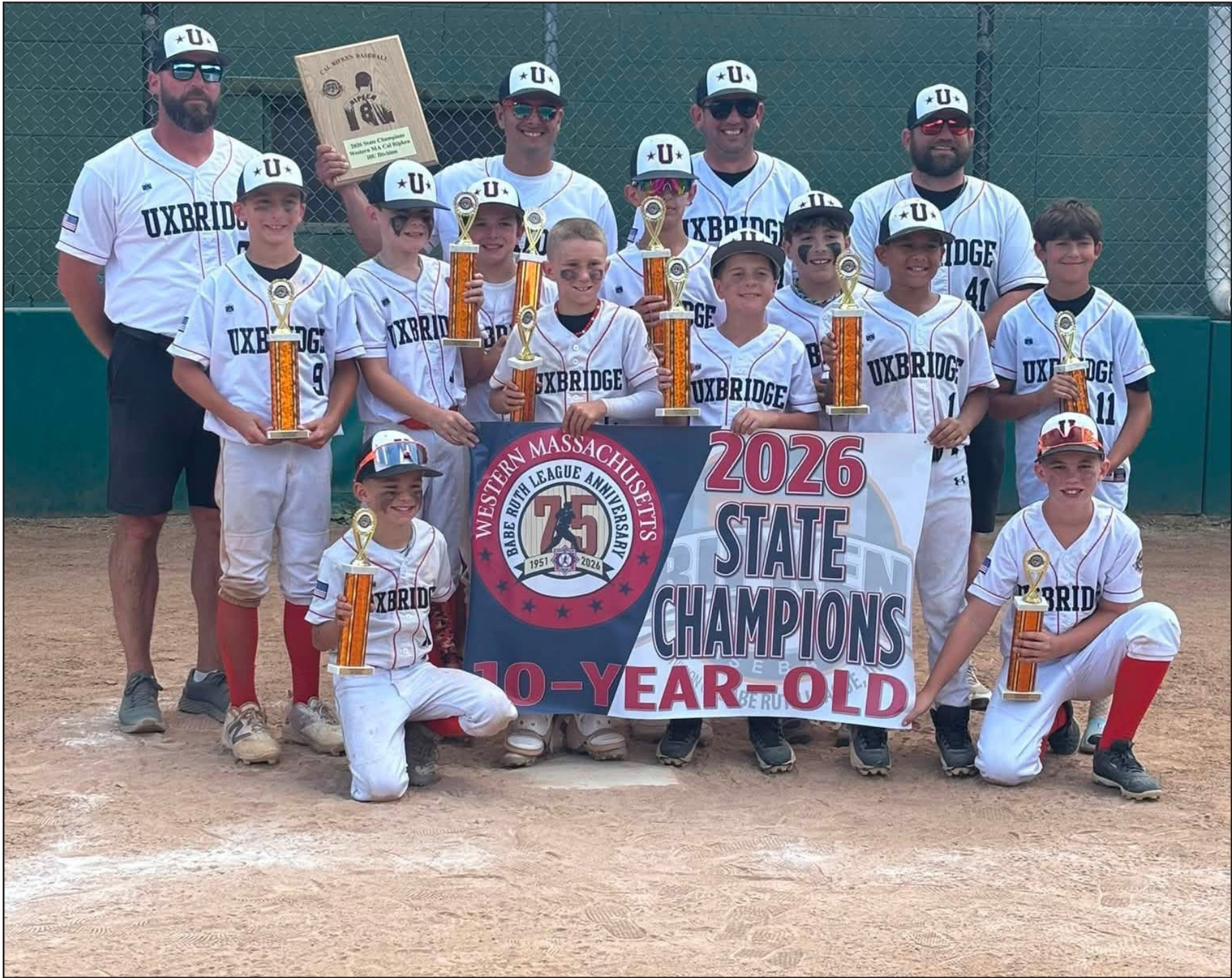
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Courtesy

The Uxbridge Baseball Association is proud to announce the Uxbridge Spartans 10U All Stars are back to back Cal Ripken Western Massachusetts State Champions and are officially heading to New England Regionals. This team is also the three time District 4 Champions. The Cal Ripken New England Regionals will be hosted in New Milford, Conn. Uxbridge Spartans 10U All Stars will face Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont to earn a spot in the semifinals. The team is going into the New England Regionals with an 8-1 overall record on the Cal Ripken road to the World Series in Stafford, Va. The team roster includes Dylan Lambert, Trevor Creighton, Jaxon Francesshelli, Paul Robert, Dylan Burke, Austin Hadley, Kolton Scanlon, Billy Bishop, James Lacki, Landon Thomas, and Evan Rosborough. Coaches are Billy Bishop, Kessik Burke, Brad Creighton, and Tom Rosborough.

Juniors named to Bay Path honor roll

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 11 on being named to the honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors
Lillian Lauren Araujo, Boden Richard Barrell, Brett Julius Beltzer, Alyssa Rose Bonneville, Alexia Rose Brown, Sagesse Mpolo Budimbu, Clara Mae Burlingame, Bella Kristina Calnan, Michaela Sarah Carter, Jenna Lynne Cianci, Naomi Natania Cooper, Trinity Chevelle Crompton, Benjamin Jackson Cryan, Livia Cassandra Deluca, Brianna Nyarkoa Dwomoah, Ava Lila Erkoc, Samantha Lynn Fleck, Brooke Nicole Fuller, Aliyah Marie Gauvin, Adrian Dariusz Golemo, Liam Reed Greenwood, Emma Grace Harrington, Julia Abigail Holton, Kelsey Rose Karlowicz, Finnian John Keefe, Perry Khai Lima, Julie-Anna Marie Marchetti, Nicholas Isaac Meneguzzo, Miles Joseph Moriarty, Nathaniel Thomas Munson, Kaiya Rowan Murphy, Melany Tuyet Ngo, Johnny Ly Nhan, Anastasia Marie Nieuwenhoff, Katie Ann Putnam, Jordyn Alexandria Sabotka, Owen Wajer Sanford, Ella Lanmei Schofield, Kayla Lynn Schroeder, Isabella Christina Sepulveda, Zachary Stephen Sirard, Alexander Gregory St. Jacques, Travis Jacob Tong, Timothy Nicholas Tripp, Kyle Dennis Twombly, Brady Matthew Weeks, Nico Anthony Yacavace, Lucy Vivian Zaleski, Payton Callee Ziemski

Honors
Anais Annette Alamo-Abad, Monica Jelis Alvarez-Rivera, Salette Hellen Alves, Trevor Riley Amaral, Winifred Donna Aucoin, Collin William Bachand, Kennadie Taylor Balcunas, Benjamin Whitman Bassett, Samantha Mackenzie Belanger, Kayleigh Rose Bissell, Alexandria Helene Blanchard, Olivia Raychal Burgos, Dominic Francis Carofaniello, Evalynn Rose Cedillo, Lizzy Choiniere, Dominic William Cincotta, Liam Zachary Colon, Maya Janara Cronin, Destiny Love Fortunata Daviau, Nathan Stephen Donnelly, Madisson Clara Drewry, Zachary Michael Dumas, Molly Elizabeth Dwyer, Tobias Michael Falco-Foreman, Jeremy Anthony Figueroa, Dylan Michael Filipkowski, Aria Faith Fournier, Ely Eric Gemboski, Jinnette Lynn Goguen, Sebastian Smith Hansen, Aidan Joshua Hodgdon, Vikram Kenchan Jha, Owen John Kennedy, Filip Tadeusz Kulma, Abena Kwartemaa Kwarteng, Benjamin Mitchell Labbe, Sangey Dawa Lama, Bret Robert Leonardi, Damon James Libby, Jared Thomas Magnusson, Emily Arlene Malia, Christopher Warren Martin, Aaron Robert Mazur, Finn McDaniel, Ava June McKellick, Joshua Daniel McLaughlin, Alysia Marie Melendez, Johannys Marie Melendez, Alexis Kayla Moore, Samantha Jean Morley, Miguel Angel Mosqueda, Thomas Andrew Nault, Daniel Anthony Nowlan, Sarah Hazel O'Donnell, Izabella Grace Paquin, Kiley Marie Paronto, Aylah Mae Patraw, Mayli Ann Pedersen,

Iban Alexander Pelaez, Racquel Evelyn Provencal, Sophia Morrigan Ramirez-Murphy, Evan Mitchell Roberts, Dani Roemer, Leilani Marie Rohena Torres, Autumn-Rayne Rondeau, Eziajah Gianni Santiago, Isaiah Omar Santiago, Logan James Schoff, Michael Ryan Scott, Julia Rose Simpson, Addisyn Theresa Skeates, Allison Marie Smith, Rebecca Marie Smith, Duane Caden Stephens, Marley Ray Talbot, Eskil John Tranes, Nicholas Aiden Tremblay, Bryce Joseph Vautour, Jazzelle Gia Wolverson, Jackson Robert Young

Principal's List
Vincent Louis Balducci, Zaclayia Rose Ballard, Nolan Scott Chumsae, Hunter William Defosse, Aariana Ryan Dolan, Jackson Christopher Edwards, Emma Lynn Grensavitch, Colin Paul Hurley, Dominik Ignatovich, Brady Nicholas Johnson, Ella Josephine Komssi, Maximilian Thomas Lapriorore, Jaxon David Kevin Leonard, Apollo Ridge Logan, James Dean Mack, Colin Archak McIlvaine, Jayden Anthony Minardi, Corey Amoako Ntim, Jacey Okyere-Tawiah, Matthew Dean Parmenter, Keira Ashley Pederson, Dylan James Poissot, Ava Marie Rennie, Isabella Lynn Richard, Jake Albert Roemer, Yarisbeth Michelle Rojas, Trevor Anthony Rose, Korban Christopher Roy-Bouthillette, Jennessa Ellie Sepuka, Emma-Lee Ann Shocik, Brady Patrick Smith, Nicholas Ryan Thebeau, Isaiah Miguel Torres, Sophia Ann Vigeant, Dashiell Robert Williams



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BHS Class of 1986 seeks community’s help locating classmates for 40th reunion

REGION — As the Bartlett High School Class of 1986 prepares to celebrate its 40th reunion on Sept. 26, organizers are asking the community for assistance in locating classmates who have not yet been reached through social media or via text.

To make the process simple, the reunion committee has created a short contact-information form and is encouraging residents, friends, and former classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the “missing classmates” list, organizers ask that you text them the link to the form so they can update their information.

Contact Info Form: <https://tinyurl.com/BHS1986-40Years>

If it’s easier, you may also complete the form on a classmate’s behalf—so long as you have their current contact details. Organizers emphasize that any help tracking them

down is truly appreciated, as personal connections often succeed where digital outreach falls short.

A list of classmates the committee is hoping to locate appears below. With the community’s support, they hope every member of the Class of ’86 will have the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

Peter Allain
Beth Antonopoulos
Marie Aperges
Andrew Baca
Austin Bailey
David Beardsley
Frank Belanger
Carolyn Bembenek
Richard Bernier
Sheila Bialoncik
Beth Bialy
Jason Borski
Doreen Bourget
Eric Brisbois
Kathleen Brown
Paul Browning
Paul Bugan

Cindy Bullens
Sandra Butt
Mont Canterbury
Stephen Carlson
Daniel Chapdelaine
Kelly Cobb
Ken Courmoyer
Timothy Decker
Tammy Deschenes
Aaron Dorcas
Daniel Doyle
Dorothy DusoSelina Fife
James Gardner
Jeffrey Gatto
Tina Giakoumis
Alicia Goudreau
Richard Guerin
Robert Hamm
Scott Horanzy
Jane Houle
Todd Hufault
Joseph Hughes
Melissa Jankowski
Thor Johnson
Nena Johnston
Lisa Kozlowski
Robert Krasnecky
Jill Krause
Michael Kryger
Rick Lawson

Deborah Leite
Linda Lifer
Patricia Majewski
Renee Marchand
Jennifer Marsh
Jennifer Mason
John Meagher
Fumiyo Mochizuki
Deborah Munsch
Brett Napierata
Wayne Parmentier
Brian Poplawski
Gary Poplawski
Edward Powers
William Radcliffe
James Remy
Debra Ross
Collin Salmon
Dale Schleis
Theresa Sergel
Henry Skiba
Alan Standrowicz
Jeffrey Surozenski
Karen Toukonen
Joseph Veronick
Douglas Waldron
Robert Wheeler
Edward Zdrok

MUSICAL

continued from page A1

Director Tobias Duke echoed that pride, highlighting the intensive work the cast has put in since rehearsals officially kicked off at the downtown Uxbridge studio.

“We chose ‘RENT’ because it demands absolutely everything an actor has to give—vocal power, raw vulnerability, and an absolute commitment to the ensemble,” said Duke. “Watching these kids step up to that challenge has been incredible. They aren’t just learning lines and choreography; they’re building a tight-knit community from the ground up, which is exactly what this show is about. This debut is a massive milestone for BVM, but honestly, the real magic is just seeing the sheer grit and heart these performers bring to the stage every single day.”

Performance schedule & location

All performances will take place in the auditorium at Uxbridge High School, located at 300 Quaker Highway, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

Friday, Aug. 7 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 8 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 9 at 2 p.m. (Matinee)

Ticket information

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased securely online through BVM’s official Zeffy ticketing platform:

Direct Ticketing Link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/bvmpac-presents-rent-the-musical>

Seating is limited, and community members are strongly encouraged to reserve their tickets in advance to witness this milestone moment in Blackstone Valley youth theater.

About Blackstone Valley Music

Located in the heart of downtown Uxbridge, Massachusetts, Blackstone Valley Music is a community-driven music school dedicated to fostering a lifelong love of the arts. Offering specialized private lessons, collaborative ensembles, and now main-stage musical theater productions, BVM provides a supportive, vibrant environment where student musicians and performers of all ages can discover their voices and shine. For more information please visit www.blackstonevalleymusic.com

OUTING

continued from page A1

auction items donated have proved a fun and profitable addition. Make your contribution by contacting the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, P.O. Box 215, Uxbridge, MA 01569 or call 508 278-8622.

The Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc., is a non-profit organization and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Board of Directors includes Russ Rosborough, President; Phyllis Dunn, Vice President; Marianne Shanley, Treasurer; Cathy Thornton, Secretary; Donna Oncay, Karen Sherlock, Sharon Emerick, Karen Beane and Harriet Platt. Its mission is to support the Uxbridge Senior Center and to help fulfill some of its needs, and the needs of seniors, such as facility improvement, education, nutrition, medical transportation, and socialization not provided by its municipal budget.



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LEGALS

(SEAL)
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Land Court Department
Trial Court
WORCESTER, SS.
CASE NO. 24 MISC 000627 (DRR)
Edwin R. Davis IV, et al. v.
Town of Northbridge**
TO: Any person claiming an interest in certain land off Fowler Road in Northbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, known as Parcel II as described in a 1949 deed of Louise Seabury et al. to Edwin R. Davis, recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 3213, Page 150: The Plaintiff(s) has/have filed a Complaint with the Land Court on October 23, 2024. This Complaint may be examined at said Court or online at www.masscourts.org. Plaintiffs Edwin R. Davis IV and Linda S. Pierson seek a judgment declaring that certain land known as Parcel II as described in a 1949 deed of Louise Seabury et al. to Edwin R. Davis, recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 3213, Page 150, was incorrectly identified in an Instrument Taking recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 10843, Page 78, and subsequent Final Judgment in Tax Lien Case in Land Court case no. 84732 T.L., recorded in said Registry in Book 14285, Page 213, and that Davis and Pierson are the lawful owners of said parcel. To resolve the disputed claims in this case, the parties have agreed to enter into an agreement for judgment under which the plaintiffs will purchase, and the Town will convey, the extent of the Town’s right, title and interest in the said Parcel II (see Northbridge Assessors’ Map 20, Parcel 27). The agreement for judgment will be filed with the Court on or after August 7, 2026 for endorsement by the Court. The filing of the agreement for judgment will make the agreement final. Any person claiming an interest in the said Parcel II must

file a notice of that interest with the Court, at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02018, on or before July 31, 2026.
It is ORDERED that notice be given by publishing a copy of this notice once in each week for two successive weeks in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette and the Blackstone Valley Tribune, newspapers with general circulation in Northbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, the last publication to be one day at least before the return date, July 31, 2026.
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of the Land Court, the seventh day of July, 2026.
Attest:
/s/ Deborah J. Patterson
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
July 17, 2026
July 24, 2026
**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. WO26P2232EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
**Marie A Haringa
Date of Death:06/19/2025**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Steven T Haringa of Rotonda West FL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .
Steven T Haringa of Rotonda West FL be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration**.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/04/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 08, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 24, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Worcester
Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO24P4305GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR
EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN
In the interests of:

Jeffrey Schiappucci of Blackstone, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department Of Developmental Serv of Worcester, MA of in the above captioned matter requestig that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **08/11/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your at-torney must file a written affidavit stat-ing the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Balley, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 15, 2026
July 24, 2025

Mechanics Hall expands Club 321 to year-round concert series

WORCESTER — Mechanics Hall announces the 2026-2027 season of Club 321, expanding its popular live music series to 12 performances spanning July 2026 through June 2027.

The season opens July 30 and introduces a new full-season subscription, giving audiences more opportunities to experience outstanding regional, national, and international artists in an informal club setting.

With the launch of Club 321 in 2022, Mechanics Hall created an inviting listening room in the iconic landmark’s Washburn Hall, showcasing exceptional musicians across blues, jazz, soul, folk, Americana, and world music.

Now presented one Thursday evening every month, the series has earned a loyal following for its relaxed atmosphere and outstanding live performances.

New this season, audiences may purchase a full-season subscription, receiving tickets to all 12 performances for the price of 10. Individual tickets are \$30, while a season subscription is \$300. Mechanics Hall members receive an additional 10 percent discount on both individual tickets and subscriptions.

“Club 321 gives audiences the chance to discover incredible musicians in a setting where every seat feels close to the stage,” said Christon Carney, education and outreach manager for Mechanics Hall and the curator of

this season’s series. “This season brings together artists representing a wide range of musical traditions—from returning audiences’ favorites to performers making their Club 321 debut. Every concert offers something unique, while maintaining the high caliber of musician-ship audiences have come to expect from Mechanics Hall.”

Club 321 takes place in Washburn Hall at Mechanics Hall, with cabaret tables, theater seating, and standing room creating a relaxed club atmosphere. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., with performances from 7 to approximately 9 p.m. Events are open to guests ages 18 and older and include a cash bar, a featured signature cocktail, and charcuterie prepared by Worcester local Charcuterie by Cherise.

Tickets available at mechanicshall.org.

2026–2027 Club 321 Schedule
July 30 – Robbie Pate (jazz, soul & R&B)
Aug. 20 – Carlos Odria & RioFlow (Latin jazz & world music)
Sept. 24 – Albino Mbie (Afro-pop & global music)
Oct. 22 – Greg Piccolo & Heavy Juice (blues & R&B): Presented in partnership with 90.5 WICN’s Brian Barlow Series
Nov. 12 – Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards (folk

& Americana)
Dec. 10 – Michelle “Evil Gal” Willson (blues & soul)
Artists for the following dates will be announced:
Jan. 21
Feb. 18
March 11
April 8
May 13
June 10

About Mechanics Hall
Steeped in the rich history of 19th-century Worcester, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world’s great concert halls. Regionally, it is a gathering place celebrated for its architecture, acoustics, and vibrant cultural programming. In addition to serving as a premier performance venue and recording venue, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences through concerts, educational initiatives, community events, a youth chorus, and collaborative partnerships.

Mechanics Hall is a nonprofit organization owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association, established in 1842. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at MechanicsHall.org.



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Blackstone Public Library announces August schedule of events

B L A C K S T O N E — Library Director Lisa Cheever and the Blackstone Public Library Board of Trustees are proud to present an August schedule packed with summer events and activities.

The library invites the community to escape the summer heat and enjoy this month’s lineup of crafts, book clubs, story times and more.

The Blackstone Public Library is located at 86 Main St.

Children’s Programs

Annual Touch-the-Trucks Event

Truck lovers of all ages are invited to visit the library and explore their favorite construction vehicles, fire trucks, school buses, farm equipment and more. All vehicles will be accompanied by an attendant.

- **WHEN:** 10 a.m. to noon, Friday, Aug. 7
- **W H E R E :** Blackstone Public Library parking lot
- **MORE INFO:** Attendees must seek off-site parking, as the event will be held in the library’s parking lot. Registration is not required.

Children’s Fall Story Times

The library is pleased to offer two, six-week story time sessions this fall. In addition to the Story Time and Craft Classes and Toddler Story Times, patrons are invited to attend Drop-In Story Time on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Story Time and Craft Classes

Beginning in September, the library will offer a “Story Time and Craft Classes” for preschoolers and kindergarteners ages three to five. Each class includes two stories and a simple craft.

- **WHEN:** 11 a.m. on Mondays beginning Sep. 14, and 1 p.m. on Thursdays beginning Sept. 17
- **W H E R E :**

Blackstone Public Library

- **MORE INFO:** Registration begins on Monday, Aug. 31, for Blackstone residents and Tuesday, Sept. 8, for all library patrons. Space is limited to 15 children. For more information or to register, call 508-883-1931 or email Tressy Collier at tcollier@cwmars.org. When emailing, please include your child’s full name, age and the caregiver’s email and phone number.

Toddler Story Time

Babies and toddlers from six months to three years old are welcome to participate in Toddler Story Time. Stop by the library to read board books, sing songs and fingerplays, play games and explore toys and books. This story time will last 45 minutes.

- **WHEN:** 10:15 a.m., Fridays, beginning Sept. 18
- **W H E R E :** Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** Registration begins on Monday, Aug. 31, for Blackstone residents and Tuesday, Sept. 8 for all library patrons. Space is limited. For more information or to register, call 508-883-1931 or email Tressy Collier at tcollier@cwmars.org. When emailing, please include your child’s full name, age and the caregiver’s email and phone number.

Adult Programs

Library Craft at the Senior Center: Floating Candle Paper Straw Vases

Participants aged 60 and older are invited to participate in this month’s “Library Craft at the Senior Center,” where they will create their own decorative floating candle vase to bring home.

- **WHEN:** 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 4
- **W H E R E :** Blackstone Senior Center, 15 St. Paul St.
- **MORE INFO:** Participants must be age 60 or older, or a member of the senior center. Call the library at 508-883-1931 to register.

Scrap It Up: Learn How to Preserve Family Memories

Scrap your other plans for the evening and join the Blackstone Scrapbooking Squad for a family history scrapbooking class on Thursday, Aug. 6. This is an opportunity to create beautiful scrapbooks, meant to preserve memories and family history. Guests at this Blackstone Public Library event are asked to bring at least four photographs each to use in the scrapbook, along with information about the subject. The rest of the supplies will be provided by library staff.

- **WHEN:** 5 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6
- **W H E R E :** Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** Registration is required. For more information or to sign up, please contact library staff member Jean Piechocki at jpiechocki@cwmars.org call 508-883-1931. This event is funded by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.
- **Music & More from Down Under & Beyond**
- **WHEN:** 6:30 p.m., Aug. 17
- **W H E R E :** Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** Registration is required. Visit the library’s events page on the website or call 508-883-1931 to learn more and register.
- **Give it Your Best Shot at the Photography Club**
- **WHEN:** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 18
- **W H E R E :** Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** Registration is required. Call the Blackstone Public Library at 508-883-1931 for more information or to

register. This club is funded by UniBank.

A Mermaid’s Clothesline: Senior Crafty Corner

This crafting event at the library is an opportunity to create your own under-the-sea themed piece of clothesline art. Seniors aged 60 or older are invited to join in on this month’s “Senior Crafty Corner.” All supplies will be provided at the event to help guests to build their own gnome to bring home.

- **WHEN:** 1 to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 18
- **W H E R E :** Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** Space is limited to 20 spots. Registration is required. Participants must be 60 years of age or older to register. Supplies will be provided. This event is funded by a donation from the Blackstone Public Library’s LIG MEG account as authorized by the Board of Library Trustees.

Fairy Tables: Adult Craft at the Library

This month’s “Adult Crafting with Jean” invites participants to make their own decorative fairy table for their home or yard. There will be two opportunities to join library staff member Jean Piechocki and create a summer craft. All supplies are provided and all skill levels are welcomed.

- **WHEN:** 1 and 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 20
- **W H E R E :** Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** Registration is required. Space is limited to 20 spots for each of the two sessions. To sign up, contact the Blackstone Public Library at 508-883-1931. This event is funded by a donation from the Blackstone Public Library’s LIG MEG account as authorized by the Board of Library Trustees.

Puzzle Swap

Swap out your puzzles to enjoy ones that are “new to you” with the library’s puzzle swap. Bring adult

puzzles into the library between Aug. 3 through 20 and receive a ticket for each puzzle provided. Return on Saturday, Aug. 22 to redeem your tickets for different puzzles.

- **WHEN:** 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Aug. 22
- **W H E R E :** Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** Call 508-883-1931 for more information.

Blackstone Quilters Assemble at the Library

Patch it up with a group of like-minded crafters this August by joining the Quilting Club at the Blackstone Public Library. Come together for a relaxing and creative gathering with fellow quilters. Not a quilter? Become one. Learn some tips and tricks, while doing some quilting. Each meeting is an opportunity to learn, relax, share ideas, work on projects and enjoy each other’s company.

- **WHEN:** 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 27
- **W H E R E :** Meeting Room, Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** This club is sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Ongoing Book Groups:

Get Spooked With the Grim Reader’s Society, a Horror Book Club

The strange, scary and mysterious world of horror literature comes alive with the Grim Reader’s Society, also known as The Horror Book Club, at the Blackstone Public Library. This monthly book club focuses on spooky, spine-tingling tales. The Grim Reader’s Society welcomes newcomers, if they are brave enough. Scaredy cats are welcome, too. Copies of the book of the month are available at the front desk.

- **WHEN:** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6
- **WHERE:** Quiet Study #2, Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** Contact Children’s Librarian Tressy Collier

at tcollier@cwmars.org or call 508-883-1931.

The Blackstone Book Group

The Evening Book Group, also known as the Blackstone Book Group, offers participants the chance to discuss amazing works of literature with like-minded readers. Copies of this month’s book can be found at the circulation desk.

- **WHEN:** 6:30 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 11
- **WHERE:** Quiet Study #2, Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** Contact Renee Milliken at rmilliken@cwmars.org or call 508-883-1931.

Saddle Up With a Book at the Senior Center

The Senior Center Book Club meets on the third Tuesday morning of every month at the Senior Center on St. Paul Street. Monthly books are available at the library’s front desk or the Senior Center. New members are always welcome.

- **WHEN:** 11 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, Aug. 18
- **W H E R E :** Blackstone Senior Center, 15 St. Paul St
- **MORE INFO:** Contact Ellen Goudreau at egoudreau@cwmars.org or call 508-883-1931.

Spend an Afternoon Recapping the Latest Book of the Month

The Afternoon Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month. Join the group for a lively chat and a cup of tea. Take a seat, relax and unwind during an afternoon of great conversation about the Afternoon Book Club’s latest book of the month. Newcomers are welcome. Copies of the book of the month are available at the front desk.

- **WHEN:** 3 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 25
- **WHERE:** Quiet Study #1, Blackstone Public Library
- **MORE INFO:** Contact Donna Foster at dfoster@cwmars.org or call 508-883-1931.

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Outdoor summer concert returns Aug. 21 in downtown Worcester with Jazz+ Live™ featuring The Love Dogs

WORCESTER — WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM, The Hanover Theatre & Conservatory for the Performing Arts, and the Downtown Worcester Business Improvement District invite the community to celebrate summer at the 9th Annual Jazz+ Live™ concert, featuring the acclaimed jump blues and rhythm & blues band The Love Dogs.

The outdoor concert will take place on Friday, Aug. 21, behind The Hanover Theatre in downtown Worcester. Gates open at 5 p.m., with the concert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

For more than two decades, The Love Dogs, fronted by the charismatic Eddie Scheer, have entertained audiences across the United States, Canada, and Europe with their irresistible blend of jump blues, New Orleans R&B, swing, and early rock ‘n’ roll. Their powerhouse horn section, boogie-woogie piano, soulful vocals, and infectious stage presence have made them one of New

England’s premier live bands and a favorite among music lovers of all ages.

“Jazz+ Live™ has become one of Worcester’s signature summer traditions because it brings together outstanding live music, strong community partnerships, and people who simply enjoy spending an evening together,” said Melanie Le-Boeuf, Executive Director of WICN Public -MORE-Radio. “At WICN, we believe music has the power to connect people.”

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, along with food and non-alcoholic beverages, to enjoy during the performance. Food trucks and cash bars will be available throughout the evening. Outside alcohol is not permitted.

General admission tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 on the day of the event. Guests should bring their own lawn chairs. VIP front-row tables for four are available for \$175 per table,

offering reserved seating with the best views of the stage. Tickets are available through The Hanover Theatre Box Office and online at TheHanoverTheatre.org.

About WICN Public Radio

WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM is an independent, non-profit public radio station serving Central Massachusetts and beyond. Through award-winning jazz, roots, blues, world music, and locally produced programming, WICN connects listeners with the arts, culture, education, and conversations that enrich the region. WICN’s mission is to inspire, entertain, and engage diverse audiences while supporting the cultural vitality of the communities it serves. Broadcasting throughout Central New England and streaming worldwide, WICN brings exceptional music and local voices to audiences wherever they are.



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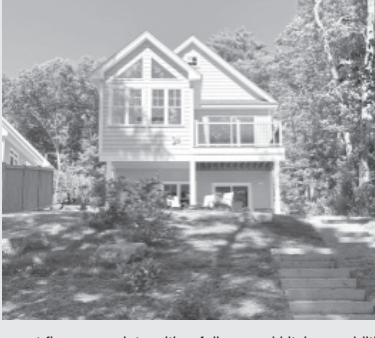


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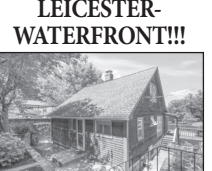
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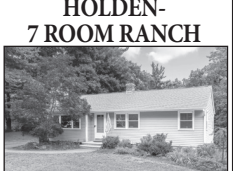
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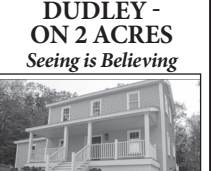
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Northbridge Senior Center celebrates summer with Elvis-themed party and community spirit

NORTHBRIDGE
— The Northbridge Senior Center welcomed a full house of guests for its annual Summer Elvis Party, bringing together friends, neighbors, volunteers, and community supporters for an afternoon filled with music, laughter, delicious food, and lasting memories.

The event celebrated not only the timeless music of Elvis Presley but also the vibrant community that makes the Northbridge

Senior Center such a special place.

"Nothing makes us happier than seeing a full dining room of people supporting our programs and activities," said Senior Center Director, Kelly Bol. "We are incredibly grateful to everyone who joined us for our Elvis Summer Party and helped make this event such a wonderful success!"

Guests enjoyed a festive buffet lunch courtesy of Creedon and Company, followed by a live performance from the award-win-

ning New England Elvis Dan Fontaine, affectionately known as "Our Elvis" by the Northbridge Senior Center community! His energetic performance had attendees singing along, dancing, and reminiscing to classic Elvis hits throughout the afternoon.

Events like the Summer Elvis Party reflect the Northbridge Senior Center's ongoing commitment to providing engag-



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