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# BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE

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Friday, April 12, 2024

Free by request to residents of Douglas, Northbridge, Uxbridge, Linwood, Whitinsville and North Uxbridge

## Uxbridge schools host mental health summit

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

UXBRIDGE – The town's public schools recently hosted the second annual mental health summit.

The event, held on April 3 at Blissful Meadows, featured breakfast, remarks from special guests, a data collection review, student leaders, and several panelists from across the state and region, according to the Uxbridge Public Schools.

"Many thanks to our elected officials, Rep. Soter, Sen. Fattman, Select Board members, School Committee members, Finance Committee members, public safety, and school partners for sharing in the experience and hearing why mental

health remains such a critical priority for our students, staff, families, and community," the schools released. "We look forward to continuing to share information with our community as we can provide supports and opportunities."

"Great to be in Uxbridge at their annual Mental Health Summit," Soter released in a statement on social media. "Mental health is a very big focus of my agenda. We need to have better ways to focus on the mental health of our children and our society as a whole."

Soter thanked the Uxbridge School District for hosting this annual event of "folks working hard to help our schools



work towards helping to focus on this issue."

Each panelist presented data that is "pertinent to the discussion on the behavioral and mental health of children and young adults, and what their agency or work is in this area," event details read.

"We want to encourage open dialogue, sharing of diverse perspectives, and collaborative problem-solving," the schools released.

Additionally, Uxbridge High School's "Mending Spartan Minds" mental health awareness organization presented at the event and continues "to be a powerful voice of advocacy," Uxbridge Schools released. "It was a privilege to have you and some of your parents present today as well."

## Resident earns statewide fishing award

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

GRAFTON – Resident Jack Ostriker has been announced as the 2023 Youth Catch and Release Angler of the Year by the state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Each year, the Division (MassWildlife) recognizes anglers who catch "exceptional freshwater fish in Massachusetts," according to reports. The 2023 winners have been announced; Ostriker caught 14 of the 24 eligible species.

"MassWildlife's Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program recognizes anglers who catch exceptional freshwater fish from Massachusetts waters that are open to the public," MassWildlife released. "Anglers who catch fish that meet a minimum weight or length can submit proof of their catch and receive a bronze pin. Gold pins are awarded to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category."

In 2023, MassWildlife added the Youth Catch and Release category and added two new fish species to the program, giving Massachusetts anglers even more opportunities to test their fishing skills.

"Congratulations to the 2023 winners," MassWildlife released. "Angler of the Year awards are given to the person who catches the most species that meet the minimum weight or length requirements in each category."

Additional highlights from 2023 include Gill resident Cam Tucker, the Adult Catch and Keep Angler of the Year, who caught 10 of the 24 eligible species; Logan Middlebrook of Pittsfield, the Youth Catch and Keep Angler of the Year, caught 17 of the 24 eligible species; and Andrew Langley of Peabody, the Adult Catch and Release Angler of the Year, caught 20 of the 24 eligible species.

MassWildlife hosted an award ceremony to present gold pins and Angler of the Year awards to participants, according to a press statement.

"There is plenty of time to get involved in 2024," the organization released.

Learn more about the Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program and submit your catch at [mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards](http://mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards).

## Douglas native journeys to California on Spring Break mission trip

DOUGLAS — This past spring break, a group of University of Massachusetts Boston students had foregone relaxation and recreation to lend a hand to those living on the margins of the community. They participated in the Sojourn Collegiate Ministry, a program providing students with unique opportunities for service, experiential learning, and learning how to love neighbors well.

For seven days in March, Max Bolandrina of Douglas traveled with students from Boston University, Lesley, and UMass Boston to Davis, California, to learn what it looks like to take what they already love about Sojourn and build it in a new place. They helped other students discover God's dream for their lives. Together, they learned what it looks like to form a meaningful community. They asked themselves questions such as what it means to live intentionally? What does it look like to live life in a way that works to make the world, yourself, and the people around you better? What does it mean to live for others?

"Going to California for spring break appealed to



Courtesy

Max Bolandrina

me," said communications major Max Bolandrina, who was a first-time participant in Sojourn Collegiate Ministry's alternative spring break. "I am happy to be doing something positive for the world."

While giving coffee and food to the homeless, Bolandrina stated, "We had bags of clothes, snacks, and toiletries with us too. We asked if there was anything else we could do for them, and what they wanted us to do was keep smiling. I thought, my Papa would like that one."

Bolandrina graduated from Douglas High School where he was an officer for the Class of 2022, a member of the Debate Club, DECA Inc. Officer, Game Club Member, SPICE/Connections Club Member, and Winter Carnival Dance Choreographer.

His work experience includes being an autograph staff for FanExpo Boston since 2019 where he manages autograph queues and stations for guests and celebrities at the annual three-day convention, and as staff for Kurukuru Ramen assisting in the kitchen and with customers during pop-up events. His volunteer experiences include Pan Mass Challenge at Provincetown since 2013, where he assists in food and drink preparation, bike parking, site beautification, and supplies. Bolandrina also graduated and is a volunteer (since 2010) for Boston's Iskwelahang Pilipino (IP, a cultural school, [www.ipbahay.org](http://www.ipbahay.org)) in Bedford. He is a Banduria (a traditional 14-stringed Filipino instrument) musician, Philippine Folk Dance Performer, and an "Introduction to Banduria" student-teacher. He performed with the

IP Rondalla Ensemble's 2018 Canadian Tour. He taught elementary and middle school students how to read musical notation and play the banduria. He led bi-weekly classes with demonstrations and interactive learning strategies. With Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, he has volunteered as a musician and usher during the annual commencement (since 2016) playing the piano live, for the procession and recession's pomp and circumstance. With the Lowell Folk festival IP Booth, Bolandrina volunteers as a Food Service Worker (since 2010). Bolandrina assists volunteer chefs with food preparation and service and leads with customer service interaction and day of marketing.

Sojourn Collegiate Ministry is a 501(c)(3) public charity with EIN 20-5378781. Bolandrina's trip was funded by the generosity of donors and supporters. Funds raised through Givebutter covered the cost for all aspects of the trip including food for meals, ground transportation, flights from Boston to San Francisco, gas, and a once in a lifetime experience!

## Uxbridge Lions honor recycling partners

UXBRIDGE — It is that time again when the Uxbridge Lions Club provides a much-needed service to the community. Folks discover after tax time that they have way too many old documents and receipts hanging around the house. What should you shred? Just about all of them. Bring them to the VFW Parking Lot, Route 16 and Cross Road in Uxbridge, on Saturday, April 27, between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. You can watch the Pellegrino Truck securely shred your material. Onsite Computers guarantees the secure destruction of electronic devices, including phones, electrical cords, DVDs, cameras, USB cables, flat screen monitors, keyboards, radios and stereos.

Contributions to this semi-annual service help fund the Lions Club's many charities. From the donation of \$5 per copy paper sized box or per electronic item, many local activities and organizations are supported. In addition, tons of paper have been recycled over the many years



Courtesy

(Left) Bev Fanion and Don Danforth of Onsite Computers are honored by Uxbridge Lions by President Mike Sulham.

of these shred events. No need to get out of the car. Just follow the signs and a Lion will be at your door.

At its March meeting, the Uxbridge Lions honored Don Danforth and Bev Fanion, owners of Onsite Computers with the Lions Humanitarian Award. Danforth and Fanion were praised for the contribution of their services at the Recycle/Shred Events for the past several years donating the proceeds to the club. At a recent event, they donated a refurbished laptop which was raffled off. In addition, they have contributed to other local non-profit organizations such as the Boy Scouts.

"We cannot say enough good things about Don and Bev. Their knowledge can be relied on to be accurate and efficient and their energy to make work less tedious," says Mike Sulham, Uxbridge Lions President.



# Local Brownie/Daisy troop tours historic Sutton farm

SUTTON — Thorn bushes, a steep rocky hillside and soggy mud puddles were no match for seven members of Local Brownie/Daisy Troop 65224, who recently toured the historic Freegrace Marble Farm in Sutton.

"Girl Scouts can do anything!" the girls shouted, as they braved the arduous climb to the Marble Cemetery assisted by sturdy walking sticks they found in the forest.

"What an incredible day exploring local history with this amazing crew! From the 250 year old farmhouse, to the Native American stone structures, to visiting the grave of the woman who made it possible for the land to be preserved, it was a memorable day! It's mind boggling that this kind of history is right in our own communities!" said Troop Leader Jen Losavio.

The group was greeted warmly by farm owner James Marran, who cautioned the girls that his homestead's history is about far more than the house and barns, mentioning that there is ample evidence left behind by the original inhabitants, the Nipmuc Indians.

"You're going to see stone structures and artifacts that are estimated to be thousands of years old. It all combines to make this a very special place," Marran said.

Next, the girls met Lori Gannon, author of the illustrated middle-grade book "Leona's Gift," of which the girls have copies and have been reading. The book details the long-time previous farm owner Leona Dona's successful battle to preserve her farmstead.

"Leona's goal was to preserve this farm for all to enjoy, and she would be so thrilled to know that people, especially children, still come to visit and learn the history of this special place," Gannon said.



Tour highlights included the sparkling pond, the ancient stone bridge and fishing weir by the rushing stream in the forest, as well as viewing the serpentine walls and cairns constructed by the Nipmucs.

The girls were excited to find a bleached white animal skull, which they assumed was once a deer. The peaceful cemetery, surrounded by four stone walls and protected by a canopy of trees, was also a highlight. They marveled at the grave-stones of the Marble men who served as Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers.

Dona's gravestone was also a draw, with several girls remarking that they wished they could have met her.

The tour wrapped with Marran introducing the girls to Jenny, the llama "mama" who nannies his herd of Icelandic sheep. The animals were all standoffish save for the only male sheep, named Milk Man, who despite his tiny size, sported the largest horns.

Marran explained that Milk Man was a sickly runt at birth, so he raised him in the farmhouse in a dog crate and fed him bottled milk, on which the baby sheep gorged.

"So, that's why I named him Milk Man!" Marran laughed.

The girls laughed, marveled at all the sights and asked many pertinent ques-

tions. They said the land was "so pretty" and "peaceful" and that they had a wonderful time.

The Freegrace Marble Farm District is on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information about "Leona's Gift" (which is for sale on Amazon) and the farm's history, please visit [lorigannonauthor.com](http://lorigannonauthor.com).

## Local poet to read at Uxbridge Free Library

U X B R I D G E —The Shawna Foundations Library Poetry Tour's April Poetry Month reading at the Milford Town Library and the Uxbridge Free Library.

The featured poet is Lea C. Deschenes.

Lea C. Deschenes is the author of "The Constant Velocity of Trains" and the editor of "Knocking at the Door: Approaching the Other" from Write

*Mendon Historical Society hosting program on history of the apron*

MENDON — The Mendon Historical Society will present a program on the "History of the Apron."

Aprons were a part of our kitchens for hundreds of years before falling out of favor after the 1960s. In recent years, however, men and women have rediscovered the apron's appeal. What does this simple little garment have that keeps us from completely severing ties?

Come and view the aprons and hear the stories. The program is being presented by Carleen Halsing at the Mendon Senior Center, 62 Providence St., Mendon, on May 11 a 2 p.m. We are encouraging everyone to wear an apron, perhaps one of your mom's or gram's. It should be a fun afternoon.

The presentation is free but donations are appreciated. We recommend contacting the Society at [mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) to reserve a space.

Also, please keep us in mind when cleaning out or downsizing. We are having a Yard Sale on June 8 at the museum. If you have something to drop off or would like picked up please contact us at [mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).



Courtesy

Lea Deschenes

Bloody Press. She was a co-founder of Damfino Press and is the fastest poetry book layout in the East. A long-time Worcesterite and veteran of the poetry scene, her work has appeared online, on stage, and in print. She holds an MFA in Poetry from New England College.

She once found a five-leaf clover during a solar eclipse. The readings will be held on April 17, 7 p.m. at the Milford Town Library and April 25, 7 p.m. at the Uxbridge Free Library.

The program is financed in part by the Milford Cultural Council and the

Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit who believes the arts and education are essential to creating a vibrant, healthy community and world.

The mission of the Shawna Foundation is to equitably promote and support students through scholarship and showcase artists in filmmaking, performance arts, poetry and other creative endeavors with a focus on underrepresented communities.

For more information, visit the [shawnafoundation.org](http://shawnafoundation.org).

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**Friday's Child**

**Hi! Our names are Giavanna and Xander and we are so excited to meet our forever family!**

Giavanna (Gia) and Xander are sweet, soft-spoken siblings. Gia loves to read, write, and try new things, such as taking piano lessons! She is described as very smart, happy, funny, and often offers help when she sees someone who needs it. Gia gets along well with all her peers, and her teacher says she is an excellent student and a "joy in class."

Gia's younger brother Xander loves to play video games, board games, and Legos. He also likes basketball and takes drum lessons. Once you get to know him, Xander is very funny and witty and comes up with great one-liner jokes!

Gia and Xander would do well in a loving, two-parent household. A family for Gia and Xander would support their relationships with their three younger siblings, who they see monthly. Both Gia and Xander do well in the family setting and enjoy activities such as watching movies, playing games, and going out together.

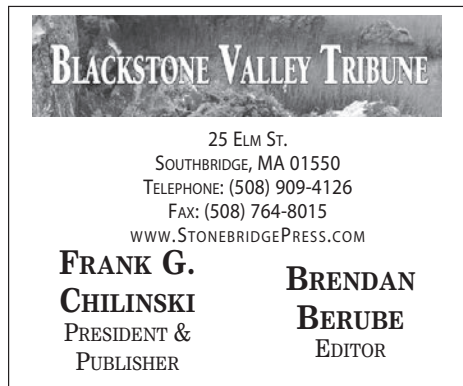
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If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles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

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

To learn more about adoption from foster care visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Blind and hateful

To the Editor:

I have taken notice over the last three years that the left in this country won't be satisfied until Donald J. Trump's body is on a spit for the main course in a free for all buffet hosted by the Late Show. Now as much as I and other's loathe Joe Biden, we certainly don't want him dead but just rendered him impotent where he can do no harm.

The liberals in this country are very hateful and they disguise their hatred very slyly. For instance, the liberals don't like suburbs and are always trying to turn suburban areas into urban concrete playgrounds by erecting more buildings, shopping malls, and big box hardware stores. And what's involved with such an endeavor? Cut and clear trees, excavating that evict habitats, relocate cemeteries, and basically ruin our clean air in the process but, there's also a secret wrapped up in all of that. By turning suburban areas into urban areas our gruesome left begin gerrymandering to keep themselves in power and what do they do when someone calls them out on it? But, but, but Republicans are the ones that are gerrymandering.

I have many friends, and some of them are die hard Democrats and some are hard right conservatives. And one of the things I will never understand is why Democrats, liberals, et al see things so differently than us conservatives. For the past four weeks, I have been presenting facts about Joe Biden, a.k.a. Mr. Magoo and all the damage & divisiveness he has done to society as a hack senator; VEEP, and his installment into the White House as the Commander in Chief in 2020. Little Ricky still plans on voting for this goon and why? Little Ricky has disdain for Donald J Trump, our 2024 presidential nominee and, most likely our new POTUS, unless of course a mysterious illness should plague the citizens and render everyone trapped in their homes. Donald J. Trump never took a paycheck, never got us into war, lowered our taxes, made peace abroad, and protected Americans by securing our border and deporting criminals. Say Bev from Whitinsville has Biden done any of those things? The answer is clearly no but you are too blind and hateful to see how destructive Mr. Magoo is and it should haunt your dreams but you are even blind when you sleep.

I am also calling the liberal from Whitinsville out as a fabricator. In the March 22 edition, in a letter entitled "Mushroom People," you tell us that millions love being lied to and that we want a dictatorship and we'll have all these restrictions, and no freedom and social security will be gone, and women will be treated like the women in the Handmaiden Tales, and won't be able to vote" if Donald J. Trump becomes the president. All of this is dribble... lies conjured up by a blind and hateful liberal and the sad reality of it is his hatred for one man outweighs his love for this country and he should be ashamed of himself.

On social media, someone posted this Land O' Lakes meme: we removed an Indian woman on the package, but we kept the land...How American! Our government stole the land from Native Americans and somehow, we the people took the hit for it. Yes, we the people have taken the hit for Native Americans, Black Slavery, and illegal immigration is next. Our tax dollars have funded the government to pay Native Americans for the government's blind and hatefulness of these people. There was talk of reparations for Blacks on CNN with Don Lemon soon after Queen Elizabeth died and the story goes like this. Don

Lemon asked a UK scholar Hillary Fordwich if there would be reparations paid by the Royal Families for their part in colonizing North America? Ms. Fordham retorted this: "Well, if we go back to the very beginning of when slavery started we would have to travel back to Africa when African Kings sold off their own people to slavery."

She went on to say, "England as you know was the first country to abolish slavery and went so far as to force other countries to do the same and many Englishmen died trying to enforce it."

In addition, Ms. Fordham proclaimed that reparations should also be paid to the English that died trying to deter slavery by Africa's monarchy. Don Lemon was speechless and very unprepared for that response and he almost looked like the Mayor in Jaws when he said, "it's an interesting discussion." Okay, so what's the point of bringing this up? Our government, especially those that hate this country, want the American people down and to pay for the mistakes our government made, and illegal immigration is no different because I have heard a lot of people who are upset this year because they have to pay federal tax for the first time in a long time. I wouldn't be surprised if we the people are going to pay the price for all these illegals invading our country.. Little Ricky, be careful what you wish for liberal because someday soon you might just because of your party affiliation be stuck housing some illegals in your home by force of the government. Imagine you're at home watching the Fake News (CNN) when you get a knock at the door... are you a democrat Mr. Liberal? He answers yes, "you are hereby ordered to house this family in your home until further notice. Sounds Orwellian huh? Well, the governor of Massachusetts, Maura Healy (D) wanted you to open your home to illegals just recently so don't tell me it's not a future possibility. If they can convince you the people that you were responsible for the damages to Native Americans and the slavery of Black Americans don't be surprised if you're in one of those Twilight Zone nightmares the left likes to brand the republicans with somewhere in the near future.

Joe Biden is no different; he is also blind and hateful as well, so little Ricky, you have lots of company especially because of Biden's imaginary friends like "Cornpop" he has in his empty skull. During any of the State of The Union's or his televised primetime speech, Biden has done nothing but create divisiveness. Mr. Magoo's obsession with eliminating fossil fuels is dumb, very dumb. Renewable energy is great for auxiliary energy, but it can't sustain all of this country and it has been proven simply by looking west to California with their blackouts and brownouts. Gasoline is 5.50 a gallon in California and there are lots of EV's so if you can only afford a gasoline engine vehicle you are further gouged at the pump.. Biden did that.

Mr. Magoo talks about MAGA republicans like it's a bad thing but all we the people want is: clean air and water, politicians who defend and support the Constitution of the U.S., criminals in jail, a secure border and legal immigrants like our ancestors did with sponsors, lower taxes, the ending of useless wars and disturbing wokeness, and a smaller government because we don't need big brother. Biden and his henchmen are hellbent on revising or removing the 2nd Amendment which if it goes away, you can bet the 1st Amendment will follow. God Bless.

Mike Downing  
Whitinsville

### There is only one option for reliable electricity

To the Editor:

Do you wonder why your electricity bill is so high? To power your lights, your home heating, your stove, your fridge, your Tesla?

How about powering the blender to create that Green Climate smoothie? No one is making smoothies with an old school whisk. All require old fashioned electricity. After all, we need to keep those yummy avocados chilling alongside the oat milk, the Peruvian grapes, the Honduras melon, and gluten-free cauliflower pizza.

So, where does Massachusetts get its electricity? Back in the fat and happy days of the 1960's to the 1980's, New England had nine nuclear power plants generating cheap clean electricity. Nine. Now, Massachusetts has none. New England has two.

According to the Independent System Operators of New England, the region's two remaining zero-carbon-emitting nuclear facilities, Millstone in Connecticut and Seabrook in New Hampshire, supply 25 percent of the electricity consumed in New England per year. Twenty-five percent of New England's electricity! Go Nukes!

With 1,244 megawatt electrical output, Seabrook nuclear power plant is the largest electrical generating unit on the New England power grid. Millstone is second.

In contrast, wind power provides one percent of Massachusetts' total generation of electricity. One percent. As in one. It takes 21 wind power facilities to make up just one per cent of our electricity. Combined, the wind power facilities provide just 102 megawatts of electricity. And kill 328,000 birds a year. Woke activists say no evidence supports the threat to whales. Woke science. Where is the evidence that these massive underwater vibration units will not hurt the nearly extinct extra-sensitive hearing mechanisms of the North Atlantic Right Whale? Broke science.

Wind power is the most expensive way to produce electricity. The most expensive.

Which do you prefer? Twenty-one wind power spinning turbines, making vibrations and killing migratory birds just to produce a puny amount of electricity or one nuclear plant that makes 1,244 megawatts? Sign me up for nuclear. Can you do the math? Our know-nothing- about- the- real

### The UFO in the room

Do you recall the shopping bottlenecks at the checkout end of those shopping aisles?

Obviously, sparing innocent lives is not the political left's strong suit given their pro-abortion stance. However, exploiting any situation where lives are lost continues to be well within their wheelhouse.

Which is precisely what the present administration is doing with their lackluster; foot dragging response to the Baltimore bridge collapse. Accompanied by a similarly designed support from the usual media suspects in their alleged fair-minded analysis.

Why do you think it is that none of those experts managed to include the analysis of the unidentified flying object that can be seen in the the StreamTime live recording of the collapse?

That still unidentified light in the sky enters from

world Democratic Woke politicians sold you a pig in a poke. You 'vil' obey, and you 'vil' go green! - no matter the cost. They will not protest your high electric bill.

In addition, the Green Nuts closed the coal plant in Salem, the coal plant in Somerset, and Comrade Healey bragged that she closed down two potential natural gas pipelines, one from Canada, one from Pennsylvania which would have provided cheap American natural gas for our remaining gas-fired power plants.

Biden posed at the former Brayton Point electric power plant in Somerset, once the largest coal-fired plant in the region. It alone provided not one or two percent, but a full 20 percent of Massachusetts' electricity. It's gone.

But Mr. Magoo said a manufacturing facility on this site will make the heavy-duty undersea cables needed to connect offshore wind "farms" to the power grid. No expensive heavy duty undersea cables are needed for nuclear power plants.

When the wind "farms" are built - at some future time - they may provide (if we are lucky) one-third of what bad coal-burning Brayton used to produce. Did I mention that wind power is the most expensive way to produce electricity?

Solar farms are the second most expensive way to generate electricity. Did you know that 78 percent of all solar panels are made in China? China owns Biden.

When you weep over your electric bill, remember that Massachusetts is the third most energy-expensive state. The rest of New England states are in the top 15. Massachusetts has high electricity prices because it is transitioning to renewable energy sources at a faster higher rate than other states. Go Woke. Go Broke.

Did you know that Socialist Massachusetts consumes three times more electricity than it produces? As my Learned Friend says, "Massachusetts is a parasite."

A nuclear power plant lasts for 40-60 years and runs 24/7, 365 days a year, like the U.S. Navy: always on duty. Wind and solar facilities generate electricity only 20 to 30 percent of the time. And last only 20-30 years. Which do you choose?

Signed, your local Wide Awake Enviro-Realist,  
Bev Gudanowski  
Uxbridge

## EDITORIAL

### The allure of outer space and eclipses

Humanity's fascination with outer space and celestial events like eclipses stretches back to the dawn of our existence. From ancient civilizations to modern-day space agencies, the allure of the cosmos has captured our imaginations and sparked a colossal sense of wonder and curiosity. But what is it about outer space and eclipses that continues to captivate us?

One of the most undeniable reasons is the utter scale and mystery of the universe. Outer space represents the ultimate frontier, a vast expanse of uncharted territory waiting to be explored. The unfathomable distances between stars and galaxies, the enigmatic nature of black holes, and the possibility of extraterrestrial life all contribute to a sense of awe and intrigue. The exploration of outer space offers us the chance to push the boundaries of our knowledge and understanding, to uncover the secrets of the cosmos, and to answer some of humanity's most weighty questions about our place in the universe.

Eclipses, in particular, hold a special place because they offer a tangible connection to the cosmos. These rare celestial events, where the sun, moon, and Earth align in perfect harmony, produce breathtaking displays of light and shadow that captivate millions of people around the world. Whether it's a solar eclipse, where the moon passes between the sun and Earth, casting a temporary shadow on our planet, or a lunar eclipse, where Earth's shadow falls across the surface of the moon, eclipses remind us of the beauty and grandeur of the universe.

Moreover, eclipses have played a significant role in shaping human history and culture. Ancient civilizations viewed eclipses as omens or portents, often interpreting them as signs from the gods. Today, eclipses continue to inspire awe and wonder, bringing people together to witness these rare cosmic events firsthand. Whether it's through scientific expeditions to observe and study eclipses or community gatherings to marvel at their beauty, eclipses have a way of uniting us in our shared sense of wonder and appreciation for the cosmos.

In addition to their aesthetic appeal, outer space and eclipses also hold immense scientific value. Studying the cosmos allows us to better understand the fundamental laws of nature, from the forces that govern the motion of celestial bodies to the origins of the universe itself. Eclipses provide scientists with unique opportunities to conduct experiments and observations that would be impossible under normal circumstances, offering valuable insights into everything from solar physics to the dynamics of Earth's atmosphere.

Furthermore, our fascination with outer space and eclipses speaks to something deeper within us - a primal instinct to explore, to seek out new frontiers, and to push the boundaries of what is possible.

**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.

To the Editor:

I guess we've all been remiss in not thanking the previous administration for its Operation Warp Speed success that streamlined the development and distribution of those Covid-19 vaccines during the election year of 2020. Right along with that administration's expanding patient access to telehealth services. Just think about all those lives spared from Covid-19 death.

Oh, the humanity! And, of course, the lack thereof on the political left's side of the equation. Such as lives the left-wing zealots endangered, harmed or ended with those one-way rules they so foolishly imposed on grocery store shoppers.

Did you know that there were few better ways to deliberately spread SARS CoV-2 than combining social distancing and one-way travel when shopping for food?

To the Editor:

Being progressive and supporting more dwelling units in Millbury should never be accomplished by ignoring our town's bylaws that protect our residents' properties, and never by allowing developers to dictate what and where they're going to build.

Regrettably, my opponent, who rolls his eyes and makes faces when the law is read, is given a piece of paper before a decision is made. Out loud, he reads the list of waivers that a developer is requesting and then endorses it. He has successfully led the vote to approve a battery energy storage system behind the homes on Sycamore Street and Sullivan Place while ignoring the safety issue that if it catches on fire, it will be left to burn as it gives off toxic fumes. He repeated this waiver approval performance which allowed six bedrooms in

a group home to replace six affordable apartments at Canal Street, and then approved a subdivision of one single family home by requiring that only a 50-foot strip of dirt road on Alstead Path had to be paved as frontage. Both of these waivers and approvals, for Canal Street and Alstead Path, were granted for the same developer.

I believe that waivers from Millbury's bylaws should be granted when they benefit the people and the property of Millbury, not the developer's pocketbook or his choice to build in the wrong area.

I agree that some of our laws should be updated. In response, I have been participating in the discussions regarding possible changes in all the Planning Board's and Board of Selectmen's meetings, as a citizen, not as a board member.

As an 18-year Planning Board member, I led the suc-

cessful denial of the 42 dwelling units project off Rice Road, because the developer refused to make the required safety improvements. I will always stand up to support what our citizens have voted in place as law to protect their property and quality of life.

I respect and support the integrity, due diligence, intelligence, knowledge of Millbury's Bylaws, and hard work that Francis DeSimone puts forward in every Planning Board meeting.

I respectfully request that you vote "D & D" for Planning Board.

"Dotson and DeSimone."

Together, we'll have the vote to keep Millbury safe and on track while progressing forward.

"D & D." "Dotson & DeSimone."

Terry Burke Dotson  
Millbury



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# Freshwater fishing heats up

Wachusett Reservoir was hot last week for numerous anglers, as this week's pictures show. Trout fishing was not bad either; if you could stand the cold wind that was blowing all week.

Wallum Lake opens this Saturday, and should be a great day outdoors. The lake was stocked two times by Massachusetts, and the trout should provide some great fishing. The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will also open their trout pond to fishing for members only.

Eastman Party boats had some slow fishing last week with spotty fishing for haddock and pollock. There were plenty of Cusks being caught. Mass. saltwater fishing regulations have changed very little from last year, with scaup increasing another inch.

Tautog fishing in both Mass. & Rhode Island should start to improve in the next two weeks. Although a three fish daily bag limit is still in effect, catching a few of these hard fighting fish are all worth the effort. Eating one of these fish can provide a meal like no other ocean fish.

Turkeys are starting to become more active in the last few days. Sightings by local hunters have increased also. The



Pet is shown here with some nice large lake trout taken from Wachusett Reservoir last week.



Courtesy



Courtesy

A possible catch & release record lake trout caught at Wachusett Reservoir last week.

Mass. turkey season opens on April 29.

Striper migration is slowly heading our way, and anglers are only days away from catching them. The one fish daily limit is the same as last year, with a slot limit still in effect.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep them Rods Bending.

## Keep smiling

I waited tables for quite a while in my early acting days. It's a common choice for actors because you can work at night. That leaves your days free for auditions and acting gigs.

Even after I landed a lead role in Showtime's "A Separate Peace," a film produced by Oscar winners Dustin Hoffman & Michael Sugar and directed by Oscar nominee Peter Yates, I was back at the restaurant working shifts before and after filming.

It surprised a lot of folks. They thought a movie role meant you made it big, but acting jobs can be few and far between. Keeping a steady job, like waiting tables, helped me pay the bills.

Being a waiter is straightforward but challenging. You're always on your feet, rushing around. Customers are only sometimes lovely; some can be downright rude or impatient. And when you're juggling several tables, plus dealing with kitchen mix-ups, guess who customers blame? Yep, the waiter.

Waiting tables is a job packed with stress. There were days when it was written all over my face, days

when anyone walking by the kitchen could hear me grumbling under my breath. I was short with the kitchen staff, snappy with my managers, and could have done better at keeping my cool.

Quitting crossed my mind more often than I'd like to admit. I fantasized about making a grand exit, throwing my apron down and shouting, "I QUIT!" for everyone to hear, then striding out the door with my head held high.

Then came the day my managers decided it was time for a chat. They understood that the job was stressful, but they also made it clear that stress comes with the territory in the restaurant world. They told me straight: no matter how tough things got, losing my cool wasn't an option. I was expected to handle it all with a smile, no exceptions.

I remember thinking, How am I supposed to keep smiling? What if a customer yells at me for their steak being overcooked when they asked for it well-done? It seemed impossible at the time. How could I grin and bear it when things were so obviously

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
.....  
TOBY  
MOORE

not my fault, yet I had to act as if they were?

It didn't matter.

Showing annoyance and anger towards a customer, no matter how much they might deserve it, wasn't an option. I was forced to choose.

After many nights of soul-searching, tossing, and turning, with thoughts racing through my head, I reached a decision. No matter what happened during my shifts, I had to keep smiling.

No matter how tempting it was to snap back, showing annoyance or anger towards a customer was off-limits. I had to make a choice, which was definitely challenging. I found myself smiling at customers who sent back their meals because the soup was "too hot" or complained their ice cream was "too cold." It seemed absurd, but as I kept my cool and flashed a smile—even when everything in me wanted to do the opposite—something unexpected began to happen. The stress that used to weigh me down started to lift.

As I made smil-

ing a practice, I realized it wasn't about giving in or pretending the stress didn't exist; it was about choosing how I reacted to it.

I realized that my smile wasn't just a courtesy; it was my shield, a powerful defense against the relentless negativity and chaos that threatened to engulf me. No matter how unreasonable the customers were, how baseless the complaints were, or how chaotic the kitchen became, I found something interesting.

I found that smiling, keeping calm, and not reacting to the negativity wasn't me being a fake person. It was changing how I felt on the inside. I started to feel happy and soon enough I didn't have to force it.

I also noticed that the customers found it hard to continue their negativity when confronted with unwavering positivity. Next time you find yourself about to lose your cool, take a breath and force a smile. It might feel unnatural at first, but give it a moment. That smile will start to work wonders, not just on those around you, but on you as well.

## Enjoy and protect hydrangeas from hungry deer



Melinda Myers

Low maintenance, beautiful flowers, and plenty of varieties have made hydrangeas a favorite landscape plant. It seems you can't visit a garden center or nursery without being tempted by one of the traditional favorites or newer hydrangea varieties.

Despite their easy-care nature, hungry deer can make it difficult to fully enjoy these plants. Rutgers University rates landscape plants based on their susceptibility to deer damage. According to Rutgers, hydrangeas are occasionally severely damaged by deer, meaning they are a plant preferred by deer and protection is advised. Your experience may be different and can vary from year to year, but it is always wise to be prepared to protect key plants in your landscape.

Deer like to browse leaves, tender shoots, flower buds, and blossoms. Damage is worse when populations are high, food is scarce, and when environmental stresses like cold and deep snow are present. Once deer find a place to dine, they tend to return. Their damage has a rough or torn appearance as opposed to a

Hydrangeas are a favorite of hungry deer making them susceptible to severe damage so strategies to protect these plants are recommended.

clean cut like that made by a pruner. Preventing damage is always the best way to maximize your enjoyment. Even if your plants have escaped damage in the past, continue to watch for deer tracks, droppings, and plant damage.

Fencing is one option but not always the most attractive or practical. An eight-foot fence is the recommended height for protecting large areas. The University of Minnesota found deer can be kept out of small gardens that are 8 x 16 feet or smaller with much shorter fences. Sturdy decorative posts and somewhat invisible deer fencing tend to make a less obtrusive fence. Always check with your local municipality for any fencing restrictions.

Many gardeners report success using high-test fishing line. Create a barrier using

strong five-foot posts with the fishing line spaced at two-foot intervals.

Scare tactics may provide some short-term help. Motion-sensitive sprinklers, noise makers, and smells are often used. Several gardeners reported success placing colorful wine bottles inverted over rebar posts. The rattling helped discourage deer browsing and added an ornamental element to the garden. Change scare tactics to increase success.

Place key plants closer to your home, in the back of large beds, or surrounded by less susceptible plants. Making it hard to reach the plants can help discourage damage to hydrangeas.

Repellents are another option. Treat susceptible plants before the deer start browsing for the best results. Look for a rain and snow-resistant prod-

uct, like organic Plantskydd (plantskydd.com), which does not need to be reapplied as often. That means you'll save time applying and spend less money.

Maximize results by treating new growth according to the label directions. Most liquid repellents need time to dry and can only be applied when temperatures are above freezing. Always check the label for the product being applied and follow the directions for the best results.

Continue to monitor the landscape for signs of deer presence and damage and adjust your management strategies as needed. Be persistent so you can increase your success.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The 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* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Tree World Plant Care* for her expertise in writing this article. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



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Courtesy  
 Two eighth graders cleaning up on Earth day in Uxbridge, Emily Geshelin and Paige Foley.



Courtesy  
 Pictured from left to right are Kathryn Walker, Payton Fasulo, Michael Shain of Thanks To Yanks and Lillyanne Straight, the Brownies are from Troop 65217 Milford, who are seen here donating cookies to Thanks To Yanks to be sent to those deployed. Thanks To Yanks is a local charity that serves those who serve in the military and the families that love and support them, Girl Scout cookies to those deployed has become a tradition for the charity says Shain and he adds that local residents are very generous in our support of those who serve, for more information like them on Facebook.

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LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. <b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$899.99	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel <b>\$599<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWS0SSNWW <b>\$749<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$999.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$899<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$1099.99	LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE <b>\$729<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$999.99	G.E. OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE <b>\$229<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$279.99

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# OBITUARIES

## James Everett Duffy Touchette "Jime" & "Bush", 68

Uxbridge- James Everett Duffy Touchette "Jime" & "Bush", 68, Passed Away On Sat., March 30, 2024 After A Period Of Declining Health.

He is survived by his son Joshua James Duffy; his daughter, Jamie Rose Touchette; his siblings, JoAnne, Coleen, Cheryl, Scott, and Timothy, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Charles Duffy, and Elaine (Rattie) Touchette.

Born in Newport, RI Navy Hospital on May 23, 1955, Jim went to Blackstone Valley Tech Trade school class of 1974 in Upton, MA for Auto Body

Jim worked at Pine Grove Cemetery for a few years after High School and then became the Superintendent at St Mary's Cemetery in Uxbridge for over 10 years. While there he started his own excavation business, Jim Touchette & Son. Jim snow plowed for 29 straight years in his hometown of Uxbridge. He worked for three other excavation companies before early retirement due to health reasons at the age of 60.

Jim loved operating heavy equipment and took pride in all that he did. He built two houses in his lifetime one near Webster Lake where he lived for a number of years and one in Uxbridge. Jim loved Uxbridge and always tried



to be a part of his community through sponsoring some of his Children's sports teams and driving his 46' Chevy Pickup that he restored with his son and had many appearances in the town's parades. He enjoyed spending time with his kids, building the family Go Kart, as well as a love for putting out the flower barrels in downtown Uxbridge.

Jim was a part of the First Congregational Church in Uxbridge for many years where he attended with his family and community. He served as a Deacon for numerous years and was the sexton and property care taker. Later on, he worshiped from home in his own way.

He had a passion for traveling with his kids and family on vacations to Cape Cod, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Florida, and one of his favorite places Martha's Vineyard.

Jim was a good friend, a father, and a good man who will be missed by many.

Jim's life will be celebrated privately by his family. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the New Bedford Star Kids, 100% of the students have a parent with a history of incarceration and/or substance abuse. <https://newbedfordstarkids.org/donate/>

## Scott L. Benson, 52

Uxbridge - Scott L. Benson, aged 52, Uxbridge, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2024, after being stricken ill at home. Born in Oil City, Pennsylvania, on June 14, 1971, Scott was a devoted husband, loving father, cherished son, grandson, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, and friend to many.



his peers, and he took pride in his homemade brews, a testament to his love for beer making.

Competition fueled Scott's spirit, whether it was a friendly game or a more serious contest. He was a loyal fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers, displaying unwavering support through every

season. Travel and beach vacations were among Scott's favorite ways to unwind and create lasting memories with Krystin and family.

Scott's family extended beyond his immediate circle to include his father-in-law, Marc Bruyere and his wife Jo-Anne of Pascoag, RI, and his mother-in-law, Bethany Pomfret and her companion John O'Brien of Whitinsville. He was a cherished brother-in-law to Nicole Murphy and her husband Timothy of Auburn, and Danielle Bordewieck and her husband Bradley of Bernardston. His nieces and nephews—Ashley, Sara, Ava, Chloe, Victoria, Devon, Ian, and Charlotte—will fondly remember their uncle's playful spirit and loving nature.

Scott's legacy will be carried on not only by his family but also by his many loving cousins (Don & Diane McGinnis, Kimberly Bennett, David Bennett), his Aunt Barbara McGinnis, Uncle Terry Benson and many friends. His affable personality and genuine warmth drew people to him, and his absence will be deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He was predeceased by his step-father Sylvester Ceci, stepmother Cindy Benson, grandfather Gus Benson, grandfather Carl Shirey, grandmother Alice Shirey and aunt Joyce M. Bowie, and his faithful canine companion Gus.

Calling hours for Scott were held on Friday, April 5 from 4-7 PM and Saturday, April 6 from 9:30 - 10:30 AM at Buma Funeral Home, 101 N. Main Street, Uxbridge followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary Church, 77 Mension Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

Interment St. Mary Cemetery, Uxbridge  
[www.bumafuneralhome.com](http://www.bumafuneralhome.com)

## Plummer Place Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

Meditation Group meets every Thursday at 9:30am, all are welcome! Learn how to meditate and how it can benefit your health!

Plummer Place will be closed, Monday, April 15th in recognition of Patriot's Day.

Book Club will meet on Wednesday, April 17th at 10:30.

Kentucky Derby Party, Thursday, April 25th from 2:00-3:00pm. Come join us as we celebrate "the run for the roses" at Plummer Place. Light refreshments will be served. Derby themed games and race! You won't want to miss this fun afternoon, Derby hats encouraged! \$10/ticket/limit 2 tickets per person. Northbridge residents have priority.

Mother's Day Tea, Thursday, May 9th @ 1:00pm. Janet Parnes will be back with part 2 of the historical portrayal

of Frances Perkins. Frances Perkins was the first woman to serve in a U.S. Presidential cabinet, was the Secretary of Labor from 1933-1945 and the driving force behind many of the groundbreaking New Deal programs. Sign up in the main office. Sponsored in part by a grant through the Northbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency and Struggles and Snuggles.

We need volunteer out of town medical drivers! This is a very important service we provide at Plummer Place for seniors who cannot drive to their medical appointments. If you can spare some time, even if it is one day a week, it would be much appreciated. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage. Call Michelle or Amy if you would like more information or to volunteer.

## Douglas PD announces autism patch fundraiser

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS - The town's police department is selling patches as part of an autism awareness fundraiser for the month of April.

Proceeds from the patch fundraiser will benefit the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism.

"Our Autism Patch Initiative is a public awareness and fundraising campaign," the department shared. "Throughout the month of April, we will sell and wear an autism acceptance police patch to spread awareness and acceptance of autism."

All proceeds raised will be "reinvested in the Flutie Foundation's safety programs focusing on keeping people and families affected by autism safe in our communities."

The Douglas Police Department said the patches are located at the station and cost \$10.

"They can be paid for in cash or a check made out to the Douglas Officers Association," the department shared in a statement on social media. "They can also be bought online."

The Douglas Police Department added that it is "committed to full inclusion for all of our citizens, including those affected by autism."

"The Police Patch Initiative strives to bring acceptance and awareness for all families within our community, and to be a source of support by funding, mentoring, educating, and collaborating



with individuals, first responders, and community and school organizations," the department released in fundraiser details. "The Flutie Foundation provides critical, responsive, and innovative programming and services that answer the everyday challenges of keeping people with autism safe and included in their communities."

"Every day, we work to create connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community to live fully," the Autism Society released, which is continuing its sixth annual "Celebrate Differences" campaign in April in honor of Autism Acceptance Month. "We believe that acceptance is creating a world where everyone in the Autism community is connected to the support they need, when they need it. And by everyone, we mean every unique individual: the implacable, inimitable, and irreplaceable you."

Scott's very early years were spent in the lush landscapes of Pennsylvania, where he was raised by his Father, Lawrence Benson of Pennsylvania and his Mother and Stepfather, Sharon and Sylvester Ceci of Michigan. Later his family moved to Michigan where his upbringing was shared with his siblings, Alyson Ceci Bardecki, Jim Ceci and his wife Pam, and John Ceci, all of Michigan, who together built a lifetime of memories while always maintaining a close relationship with his beloved Grandmother, Emma Benson.

In his later years, Scott moved to New England for work and found love and companionship with his beloved wife, Krystin A. (Bruyere) Benson. Effortlessly and with such love, Scott assumed the role of a step-father, raising Zachary alongside Krystin for the past 20 years. 13 years ago, Scott and Krystin were married and shared a beautiful life together, as travel companions, golf partners, animal lovers, and restaurant enthusiast. Always by each other's side.

Scott was a respected member of the Unilock family, where he assumed many roles in his 29-year career, most recently as a sales manager. His colleagues will remember him for his dedication, charisma, and the genuine relationships he fostered within the industry.

Beyond his professional achievements, Scott was known for his zest for life and his diverse interests. An avid golfer, he found serenity on the greens and enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow enthusiasts. His passion for the outdoors extended to hunting, where he skillfully combined patience and skill. Scott's talent for turkey calling was renowned among

## Douglas Adult Social Center

331 Main St.  
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Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-noon  
DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.

Monday: Painting class 9:45 to 11:45, Balance & Strength Exercise 12 pm, Mat Yoga 2 pm

Tuesday: Walking club 9 am, Cribbage 9:30 am, Zumba 9:30 am, Bingo 12:00 pm, Technology Class 1pm (call to make an appt.)

Wednesday: Balance & Strength 10 am, Darts 10 am, MahJong 1 pm

Thursday: Walking club 9 am, Chair Yoga 9:30 am, Pitch 9:30 am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30 pm

Friday: Balance & Strength 10 am

APRIL EVENTS:

Thursday 11th @ 9:00: Veteran's Breakfast, FREE and open to ANY veteran that would like to come in and enjoy some conversation and breakfast. Please RSVP by 4/8.

Thursday 11th @ 11:30: National Grilled Cheese Day! Join us for a fun afternoon of trivia and a grilled cheese luncheon. There is no charge for lunch! Please RSVP by 4/8.

Thursday 18th @ 11:30: Lunch and a movie, featuring The Hill. We will be serving American Chop Suey, salad, and cupcakes. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. Please RSVP by 4/15.

Thursday 25th @ 11:00: Bemis Nursery is back, and we are so excited! Join us in making a rainforest terrarium. The cost for this event is \$20.00 per person and must be paid when you sign up. Please RSVP by 4/18.

MAY EVENTS:

Thursday May 2nd @ 1:30: The Art of Pysanky (Ukrainian Egg) Workshop. We are going to explore the colorful world of Pysanky as you learn this wax-resist technique handed down through generations. No experience is required! We only have space for 20 people as this can be a little time consuming. This class is FREE and made possible through a grant from the Douglas Cultural Council. Please call the center to sign up.

Thursday May 2nd @ 10 am: Hearing aid cleaning with Darci. Please call the center to schedule an appointment.

PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES

The Sunshine Club invites you to cruise with them.... Join us for a river cruise down the Danube River on an AMA Water Way cruise ship. We will be going in October 2024. The Sunshine Club is organizing this trip through the AAA office in Webster. The trip is a seven day tour with an optional three day pre cruise in Prague and/ or 2 day post cruise tour in Budapest. Experience cultural and culinary highlights of this historic European region at the different port stops along the Danube River. For more information about this itinerary and travel plans, please contact Pam Schwartz @ 508-476-4474. This trip is open to everyone!

Check our website for events that may not be listed here <https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>

## Walking group in Uxbridge

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Senior Center is proud to present a formal Walking Group. Join Doreen Cedrone, our Wellness Coordinator, in walking local trails in Uxbridge. Our "Walk & Talk" Group will start on Tuesday, May 14 from 2-3 p.m. The group will meet each week, for the month of May, at the Blackstone Valley Greenway located on Adams Street in South Uxbridge (near McDonald's). The walking trail locations will vary and will be announced monthly.

Walking with a group can help you meet new people, build friendships, and provide a sense of community. Being active is the secret to staying healthy, and walking is one of the easiest and least expensive ways to get moving.

Participants will meet Doreen at the walking site, the location may change each month. The program is weather permitting and there is no charge. Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle. Participants are required to complete an enrollment and waiver form. Please call the senior center for more info and to receive your forms at (508) 278-8622 or email Director Lisa Bernard at [lbernard@uxbridge-ma.gov](mailto:lbernard@uxbridge-ma.gov).

## Students named to Champlain College Dean's List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — The following students were named to the Champlain College Dean's List for achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in the Fall 2023 semester:

Gavin Francisco of Douglas  
Matthew O'Neill of Douglas  
Riley Plourde of Uxbridge  
Making the Dean's List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate them on this great

accomplishment and honor.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a traditional undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain and more than 90 residential undergraduate and online undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates. Champlain's distinctive career-driven approach to higher educa-

tion embodies the notion that true learning occurs when information and experience come together to create knowledge. Champlain ranks in multiple categories of U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges;" is included in The Princeton Review's 2024 list of "The Best 389 Colleges;" was named a 2023-2024 College of Distinction for Education, Business and Career Development; and was awarded one of America's Best Colleges by Money for combining quality and affordability. [www.champlain.edu](http://www.champlain.edu)



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# Wanjiru receives 2024 Post-Secondary Student of the year Award

FOXBORO — John Martin Wanjiru of South Grafton, a practical nursing student of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton, was recently honored at a banquet and awards ceremony, held at the Renaissance Boston Patriot Place Hotel. The MassCTE.org awarded Wanjiru the Post-secondary student of the year award, Central Chapter.

“What an honor to witness and celebrate this recognition for our nursing student,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, of Douglas. “We are proud of John Martin for this achievement!”

Wanjiru is pursuing a career in nursing, having been motivated by his experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Certified Home Health Aid (CHHA), and a direct support professional.

“Giving the best version of a nurse whenever I will be working, to create a positive environment for the residents and colleagues,” he noted.

He spends his free time giving back



to those who give their service to the country. He is collecting items for care packages that will be sent to soldiers. He spoke in front of the Practical Nursing Class of 2024 and showed samples of items that can be

donated. Care bags will be filled and donated to <https://militarymissions.org/> sent via USPS at 570 Delzan Place, Suite 10, Lexington, KY 40503. Although John Martin just started the drive recently, he will collect items until the end of Term 2, by April 12. He feels encouraged and empowered to show appreciation to the veterans.

John Martin is a CNA at the River Terrace Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center since 2021. From 2019 to 2022, he was a direct support professional at Venture Community Services. Originally from Kenya, he obtained his certification at Kenyatta University (Nairobi, Kenya for CISCO Networking Academy, 2012). He completed his secondary education at Kiamuya Secondary School (Nyeri, Kenya 2009).

As a practical nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Wanjiru is certified in BLS/HCP CPR, mental health first aid, and dementia care. He is a

member of the admissions panel interview and coordinated the Alzheimer’s Association memorial luminary during the longest night in December. Most recently, through <https://www.betherecertificate.org/> he received his Be There Certificate. The Be There Certificate is a self-paced learning experience designed to increase mental health literacy. The training provides knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to safely support anyone who may be struggling with their mental health. From “It provides a deep understanding of Be There’s 5 Golden Rules — a simple but actionable framework on how to recognize when someone might be struggling with their mental health, your role in supporting that person, and how to connect them to the help they deserve.”

Wanjiru was joined by mentor and Bay Path alumnus Genshireh Mwaura, BSN, RN from PN Class of 2019, and Loise Ngigi, incoming student 2025.



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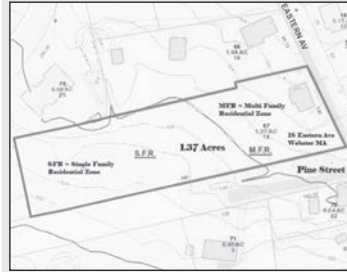
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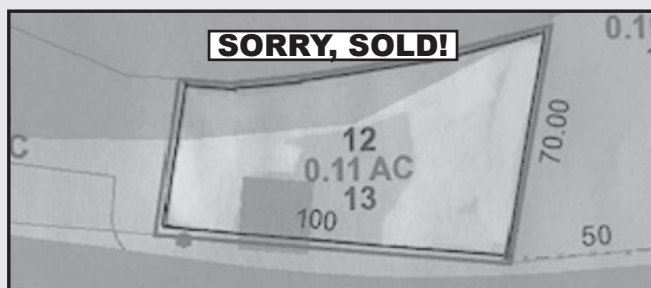


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# LEGALS

## LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jay A. Ficco to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated March 29, 2007 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40899, Page 324 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Nationstar Mortgage LLC is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., its successors and assigns to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated December 21, 2023 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 70059, Page 204, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 5 C Street, Douglas, MA 01516 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00 PM on April 25, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: The following property situated in Douglas, Worcester County, Massachusetts on the Southerly side of "C" Street, commonly called Maple Street, in the Village of East Douglas bounded and described as follows: Beginning at northwest corner of the premises at the northeast corner of house lot of Chester Wallis at said street line;

Thence S. 27° 02' E. sixty-two feet, bounded westerly by said Wallis land to a bound at north line of one Janton;

Thence N. 68° 30' E. fifty-one and eight-tenths feet, bounded southerly by said Janton and, a few feet, by land of Gniadek to an iron pin driven in the ground to mark the southeast corner of the premises and a corner of said Gniadek land;

Thence N. 11° 10' W. fifty feet to an iron pin driven in the ground in the South line of said Street, bounded easterly by said Gniadek;

Thence N. 89° W. twenty-eight feet by said Street;

Thence S. 75° 25' W. forty and forty-eight hundredths feet by said street, to the point of beginning.

Together with a narrow strip eight feet wide adjoining and extending the length of said lot on the Easterly side thereof.

BEING the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor by deed dated March 27, 2007 and recorded prior hereto, Book 40899 Page 322.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40899, Page 322.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign writ-

ten Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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Ficco, Estate of Jay A., 23-044068  
March 29, 2024  
April 5, 2024  
April 12, 2024

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 83 Oak Street,  
Uxbridge, MA 01569

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Hector A. Girouard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Generation Mortgage Company, and now held by **Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its Individual Capacity but solely as Trustee of NCP SSNS I Trust**, said mortgage dated August 1, 2012 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49419, Page 177, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Generation Mortgage Company to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, acting not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee of Southside NSP Trust 2017-1 by assignment dated November 17, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68523, Page 35; said mortgage was assigned from Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, acting not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee of Southside NSP Trust 2017-1 to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its Individual Capacity but solely as Trustee of NCP SSNS I Trust by assignment dated February 7, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68829, Page 118; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on May 15, 2024 at 01:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*A certain tract or parcel of land with all the buildings and other improvements thereon situated in the central part of the Town of Uxbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the easterly side of Oak Street, so called bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side of Oak Street, said point being the northwest corner of land of Clarence A. and Odina Gauthier and the southwest corner of the parcel herein described; THENCE N. 27° 06' E, with said Oak Street, one hundred eighteen and eighty-one hundredths (118.81) feet to a drill hole in wall at other land of the Ballou heirs; THENCE S. 60° 27' E, by said Ballou heirs' land two hundred twenty-five (225) feet, more or less to a granite bound at the northwest corner of land sold to Josaphat Archambault and wife, THENCE S. 48° 18' W, with land of said Archambault eighty-two and sixty-seven hundredths (82.67) feet to a drill hole in the wall; THENCE N. 68° 00' W, fifty-nine and nine tenths (59.9) feet to a corner of land of the aforementioned Gauthier; THENCE N. 74° 06' W, with said*

*Gauthier land, one hundred forty (140) feet to the place of beginning; For chain of title see Deed at Book 7489, Page 110*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated April 13, 1982 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 7489, Page 110.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its Individual Capacity but solely as Trustee of NCP SSNS I Trust  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701  
March 29, 2024  
April 5, 2024  
April 12, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL  
COURT

DOCKET NO. 24 SM 001224  
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Paul Larson, Jennifer Larson and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq): United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in 1 Sunset Dr, Douglas, MA 01516, given by United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC dated October 18, 2019, and recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 61268, Page 281, 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 5/13/2024 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 3/27/2024. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder April 12, 2024

SEAL)  
COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL  
COURT  
Docket Number: 24 SM 001238  
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:  
Dylan Cross and Joyce Cross and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq.)  
**EVO Origin Funding, LLC** claiming to have an interest in a

Mortgage covering real property in Northbridge, 34 Chipper Hill Road, given by Dylan Cross and Joyce Cross to EVO Origin Funding, LLC, dated October 5, 2023, and recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69741, Page 157, 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 5/13/2024 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 3/27/2024  
Attest  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder  
April 12, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Docket No. W024P0357GD  
NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment of  
Guardian of a Minor  
In the interests of  
Godny Celestin  
of Uxbridge, MA  
Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED  
PARTIES

**1. Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **02/05/2024** by **Kaylin M Jones of Rutland, MA** **Nicholas R Jones of Rutland, MA** will be held **03/18/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of a Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate and Family Court**

**Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and  
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

**3. Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

**4. Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

**5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

**THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE:** An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.  
Date: February 6, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate

April 12, 2024

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### Noah Pfordresher of Uxbridge named to Champlain College President's List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Noah Pfordresher of Uxbridge was named to the Champlain College President's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

Students on the President's List have achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher during the semester. Pfordresher is currently enrolled in the Cybersecurity program. Making the President's List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate them on this great accomplishment and honor.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a traditional undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain and more than 90 residential undergraduate and online undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates. Champlain's distinctive career-driven approach to higher education embodies the notion that true learning occurs when information and experience come together to create knowledge. Champlain ranks in multiple categories of U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges;" is included in The Princeton Review's 2023-2024 College of Distinction list of "The Best 389 Colleges;" was named a 2023-2024 College of Distinction for Education, Business and Career Development; and was awarded one of America's Best Colleges by Money for combining quality and affordability. www.champlain.edu

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2024 list of "The Best 389 Colleges;" was named a 2023-2024 College of Distinction

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**JAMES GLICKMAN**  
Principal

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jpglickman@glickmankovago.com



**JONAH D. GLICKMAN**  
Vice President

508-868-3765

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