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Thursday-Friday, June 12-13, 2025

“Today is a public victory...”



Gus Steeves

3669: The event also drew on several younger students to serve as ushers.

(Left) Two seniors help each other with their mortarboards.

(Right) Alexis Ramos gets his diploma.

SOUTHBRIDGE — “... but what brought you here are countless private victories.” That’s one of the things Principal Stefania Doucette told the Class of 2025 Friday evening, as she and others sent them out into the world in a jubilant ceremony.

She, and several other speakers in slightly differ-

ent ways, also reminded the grads that they rely on “a team of people who walked beside you” to get to this point, and will again going forward. As keynote speaker Nadia Ward put it, citing an African aphorism, “I am because we are, and we are because I am.” Or, in another way, “While you are each an individual star, none of you shine

alone.” She praised parents, teachers and other helpers for raising “thoughtful, passionate, powerful young people,” and urged the students to “let kindness and compassion be your superpower ... Build communities that care.”

Turn To **VICTORY** page 14

Selectmen nip at bottle pollution

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — On June 2, the Select Board took up a big issue caused by small things that many people see every day – nip bottles. Mary Dowling brought the issue forward, based on seeing “an inordinate amount of nips along Route 15” recently while out running. She said she initially wanted to just clean them up, but found that state law allows towns to ban them. That dovetailed with a letter the board recently received from a nearby town resident who advocated doing that, so she thought now was a good time to start talking about it. “Nips are typically used for a quick drink while you’re driving,” she said, adding that it has several “dimensions”

– environmental impact, public safety and fiscal impact on towns and businesses. This non-hearing was aimed at giving three liquor license holders who sell nips a chance to comment on the idea – Megan Jones of Yankee Spirits, Christine Brady of Fred’s Variety, and Mr. Patel of Lucky Mart. They did not ask the public as a whole for comments. Although all three agreed on opposing it, Jones was the most eloquent of them. “It punishes the Sturbridge residents, punishes Sturbridge business owners, and doesn’t do anything to fix the true issue – the people who litter,” she said. Like the others, she said she supports statewide efforts to put a de-

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Select Board Attendance Dashboard posted on Charlton town Web site

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Select Board has debuted a new attendance dashboard that provides an easily accessible resource for citizens to monitor the participation of its members. The dashboard was one of the first recommendations by newly elected member and recently appointed chair Karen Spiewak with the goal of increasing trans-

parency. However, the concept received mixed responses from the board at large. During a Select Board meeting on May 27, Spiewak defended the proposal as a way to make the attendance record more easily accessible allowing voters to ensure that selectmen are participating in town government. Attendance is recorded for each individual meeting as a standard, but the dashboard was proposed as a centralized location to track

this data without citizens having to sift through individual meeting minutes. “It’s really difficult for people once their elect and official to track or monitor the attendance. I’m sure everyone here has heard it. In my opinion, why I asked for this, we’re taking information that already exists and consolidating it and making it more easily accessible to the general public. It’s already out there, but rather than having people go through all the minutes it’s just taking what’s there and putting it in a place where they can easily get to it,” said Spiewak.

Selectmen Peter Lancette and David Singer were initially critical of the idea. Selectman Lancette questioned if the dashboard would create negative public perception for excused absences like sick time, work, or a life event that wouldn’t necessarily reflect a lack of commitment by a member. Selectman Singer echoed these concerns but took a more direct stance against the proposal calling it “entirely unnecessary” and “childish overreach.” “To me it’s more or less something that now feels like it wants to be used as a babysitting tool or a way to punish people because the people who are looking online at this are not going to know if the person in question was out because they had to have a surgery or they were out of town for work,” said Singer. “All they know is they see

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Quinebaug Masonic Lodge wins big at Golden Gavel Awards

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

MANSFIELD — On Saturday, May 31, the Envision Hotel and Conference Center in Mansfield was packed with Master Masons, their wives and significant other to participate in the “OSCARS” of Massachusetts Freemasonry. The Golden Gavel Awards ceremony is the “Oscars” of Freemasonry. A celebration and recognition of the most outstanding programs and events held by our Lodges and Districts for the past three years. The Golden Gavel Awards is an opportunity to showcase your Lodge or District, highlights outstanding dedication to the Craft and reward exceptional efforts in Freemasonry.

There was an excellent dinner, and live music by Hiram Jive and the Low

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Courtesy

members of the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge that participated in the Golden Gavel Awards ceremony. Recipients: Brother Brent Thompson, Brother Sean LeBlanc, Brother Joel Reich and Brother Jimmy Falzone had smiles and is excited to be part of this prestigious event that only comes around once every three years.

Officials denounce federal funding cuts

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Officials statewide are joining the Healey-Driscoll Administration in condemning the Trump Administration's recent termination of \$14.1 million in federal funding meant to expand Internet access for rural communities.

The previously awarded funding from the Digital Equity Act (DEA) Capacity Grant Program would have provided communities with resources to expand the adoption and use of high-speed internet services.

"Everyone deserves access to the internet. It's essential for being able to participate in our economy and utilize the resources and services that so many of us rely on," said Gov. Maura Healey. "It's terrible that the Trump Administration

is blocking our efforts to bring Internet access to veterans, rural communities, and individuals with disabilities across the state."

The termination of the Capacity Grant Program will suspend the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's Launchpad Program, as well as efforts to expand municipal digital equity programs.

Impacted areas include digital skills training, expanded access to digital devices, and assistance for local governments with digital equity planning activities.

"The Trump Administration continues to gut programs that connect people with essential services, training opportunities, and tools needed to achieve upward mobility," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "While the federal government is busy rolling back efforts to expand internet access, Massachusetts will keep building on our progress toward internet for all, ensuring everyone has the ability to participate in the digital economy."

The Launchpad Program (\$9.44 million) had been allocated to provide nonprofit and public sector entities with tools to address digital access gaps statewide. Among other focus areas, the program was intended to provide connectivity resources to low-income individuals, in addition to resources assisting digital literacy, education and outreach efforts, and public space internet modernization and Wi-Fi access.

The Capacity Grant Program was created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in 2021. It included \$1.44 billion in funding to all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and U.S. territories.

Looking ahead, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development will evaluate the effects of the termination and report to state leaders on potential legal options.

"This funding cut is reflected in the Healey-Driscoll Administration's newly created Federal Funding Cuts Dash-

board, which shows that the Trump Administration has terminated \$350 million in direct funding for Massachusetts state agencies to date," read a statement released by the Healey-Driscoll Administration.

To learn more about the dashboard, visit www.mass.gov.



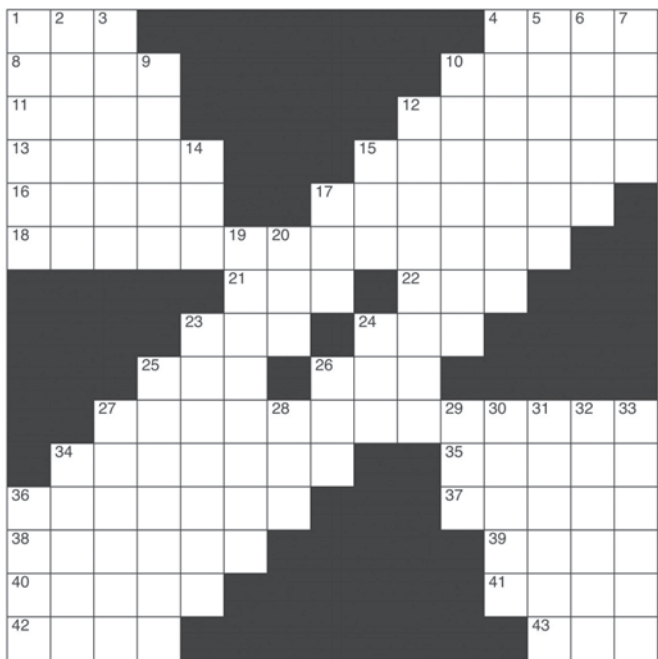
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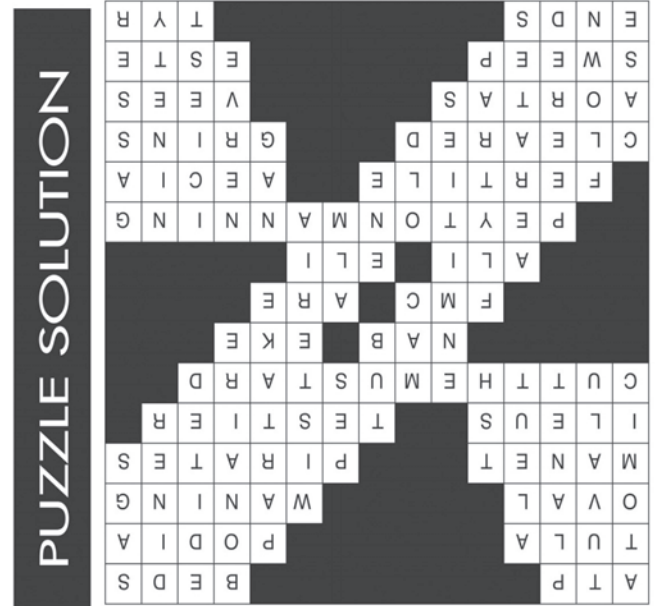


CLUES ACROSS

1. Racquet sports association
4. Places to sleep
8. Native American tribe
10. Small platforms
11. Egg shape
12. Running out
13. French painter
15. Some are "of the Caribbean"
16. Painful intestinal problem
17. More irritated
18. Prove yourself
21. Catch
22. Supplement with difficulty
23. American automotive giant
24. Form of "to be"
25. Boxing's GOAT
26. Peyton's little brother
27. Eli's big brother
34. Capable of producing
35. Reproductive structures in fungi
36. Allowed to go forward
37. Smiles
38. Arteries
39. VVV
40. Win a series without losing a game
41. This (Spanish)
42. Opposites of beginnings
43. Germanic mythological god

CLUES DOWN

1. Consisting of uncombined atoms
2. Island country
3. Heavenly body
4. Caribbean island
5. Copyread
6. A place to eat
7. Drops down
9. Native group of Alaska
10. Engage in
12. "Desperate Housewives" lane
14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
15. Foot (Latin)
17. A place to bathe
19. Animosities
20. Partner to cheese
23. Venus __, plant
24. A donation
25. Pokes holes in the ground
26. Midway between northeast and east
27. Looked into
28. Not young
29. Annoy constantly
30. Something one can strike
31. Most glacial
32. Ten less than one hundred
33. Idle talker
34. Has moved through the air
36. Container for shipping



REAL ESTATE

CHARLTON

\$950,000, 105 Hammond Hill Rd, Johnson, Keith A, and Johnson, Kym M, to Ryan, Pauline J, and Ryan Jr, Terrence K.

\$825,000, 105 Blood Rd, Doucette, Stephen G, and Yeager-Doucette, Shelley, to Quattrucci, Nicole.

\$819,900, 70 Jennings Rd, Kendall Homes Inc, to Bacopulos, Agnes, and Mumtaz, Salmaan.

\$232,000, 39 Hiland Rd, Desousa, Antonio M, to Spahiu, James.

\$140,000, Casey Rd, Vincent, Richard A, to Pageau, Timothy M, and Pageau, Elizabeth S.

\$120,000, Mckinstry Dr Ext, Christian Endowment Ft, and Christian, Christopher, to Rob Judson Contracting In.

\$10,000, Smith Rd, Newman, Janet, to White Development Corp.

\$10,000, Smith Rd, Douthwright Ft, and Gagnon, Nicole M, to White Development Corp.

HOLLAND

\$439,000, 26 Amber Rd, Bricmore Prop Invs LLC, to Karlowicz, Timothy D, and Karlowicz, Carolina.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$415,000, 60 Taft St, White, Danielle, and Mccarthy, Jordan, to Collazo, Jose A.

\$329,300, 277 South St, Peralta, Jose J, and Land Home Fincl Svcs Inc, to Land Home Fincl Svcs Inc.

\$255,000, 88 Alpine Dr, Poswiatoski Patricia A Es, and Poswiatoski, John E, to Mucci, Annette.

\$25,000, Dennison Dr #2B, Richard M Harwood RET, and Harwood, Nancy G, to Golemi, Lorenc.

STURBRIDGE

\$625,000, 98 Westwood Dr, Analytical Svcs Mktg Grp, to Baral, Samuel, and Amadei, Michelle.

\$436,500, 43 River Rd, Podell, Kayla, and Pepin, Matthew, to Domings Jr, John, and Niland, Christina.

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- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org
www.charltonfedchurch.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
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Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

Southbridge Council OK's \$86.6 million for fiscal 2026

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — On May 29, after a hearing that had no public comments, the Town Council unanimously approved the fiscal 2026 budget of \$72,657,226. Including water, sewer and trash enterprise funds, the grand total is \$86.6 million.

Town Manager Jack Jovan described its overall creation as “a difficult budget process, with a lot of personnel issues.” Most notable were the resignation of DPW Director Rich Benoit and Receiver Jeff Villar during it.

He said he went into it with three priorities, noting “The most trying was to maintain core services” within the tax levy limit, ensuring fiscal oversight, and promoting accountability and stability. He said he told departments to provide a “level service” budget, although he got “some tweaks to that where some individuals provided requests for additional personnel.”

The approved plan maintains last year's staffing, although a few posts changed in minor details. Besides the annual cost of living and contractual raises, the community service director was bumped up to an MS-12 pay rate, there's a raise for the electrical inspector, and DPW has been reorganized. But he noted the public safe-

ty departments are “stressed to the max,” but got no additional staffing because “We're at the maximum tax levy.”

Jovan noted last year used the max levy, too, but he was able to apply \$500,000 to it in December to reduce it somewhat. This year will be the second year of the fire station debt exclusion, which is still in its “short-term” phase. At a previous meeting, he said the town will combine its cost with road and other recent borrowing into one long-term bond after the work's done. Groundbreaking is slated for June 13.

Overall, the budget breaks down this way: Schools \$38.7 million, General Government \$20 million, Public Safety \$8.8 million, DPW \$2.6 million, Human Services \$1.1 million, Bay Path \$1.3 million, and various indirect costs (mostly state assessments) \$1.7 million. Among those figures are \$1.6 million for school choice and general insurance each, and \$2.25 million for charter tuition, plus notable increases in retirement, health insurance and school lines.

“We're trying to be conservative, but capture as much in local receipts as we feel we can receive,” he said. As an example, he pointed to the “other available funds” line, which was budgeted two years ago at \$80,000, but he's just using \$7500. He said his team's

research has not yet been able to validate that much higher number, but can attribute the lower one mostly to grave fees and street book payments the town receives.

In most cases, hikes in the various fixed costs “didn't leave us much room to do anything else in our budget,” Jovan admitted. That's despite Southbridge getting an increase of \$2 million in Chapter 70 school funds and \$4.4 million in “unrestricted general government aid.”

Many towns are seeing similar aid hikes this year, but struggling with cost hikes that exceed them. Several have sought large overrides, but many are failing at the ballot, as Oxford's two requests did a couple weeks ago.

After his presentation, George Chenier asked about the landfill royalty account and whether it's “time to look at that whole [trash] operation to see if we can make it better?”

Jovan noted the account has about \$4 million in it, but isn't in the budget because it has restricted uses. Regarding Chenier's question, he agreed, saying he'd like to look into a transfer station, possibly as a regional effort with Charlton.

“There's another three years left on this [trash hauling] contract, and that's going to come up quick,” he added.

A big part of the budget – capital

projects – was not part of that vote; it will go to council for vetting in a couple weeks. Among the larger requests are the following: repairing the town hall steeple (Jovan's placeholder was \$100,000, but he noted the engineer's review photos show it could be ten times that); an new ambulance \$425,000; two cruisers \$174,220; a library elevator \$350,000 (but he's seeking a grant that'll require a smaller match); paving the high school bus lane \$145,000, and four school vehicles \$293,000. He noted his team has been working on old, open accounts and think they can fund many capital costs with those funds.

He also noted a couple already-approved road projects will probably need more money. Those are the Ashland Avenue and Elm Street bridges (both got \$500,000 Small Bridge Grants, but are much costlier); plus \$1 million for water line work associated with the downtown TIP project.

Regarding the latter, he said, “I'm sure seven to 10 years ago, it was discussed, but it was never baked into a finance plan” and is now coming due, since the work starts soon.

There was also some talk of projects that are coming due over the next few years, but not in the current budget.

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

Southbridge Lions Club awards \$12,000 in scholarships

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club has awarded a total of \$12,000 in scholarships to twelve exceptional local students as part of its 2025 scholarship program. Each student received a \$1,000 award to support their continuing education.

Although all recipients are from Southbridge, they attend a variety of area high schools—including Southbridge High, Marianapolis Preparatory School, Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, and others—reflecting the broad range of educational opportunities pursued by students in the community.

Funding for this year's scholarships was made possible by a combination of generous sources:

- The Southbridge Lions Club Investment Account
- An anonymous donation

A scholarship gift from Kim Sansoucy

The Anna Mae Galonek Fund, which continues to honor her legacy of community support

Special thanks go to Lion Jim Keyes, who leads the club's scholarship efforts each year with dedication and care.

The 2025 Southbridge Lions Club Scholarship recipients are:

- Edward Goodwin – Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Alexis Ramos – Southbridge High School
- Jose Isaac – Southbridge High School
- Rudshel Volcy – Southbridge High School
- Mason Nichols – Southbridge High School
- Griffin Harold – The Grow School

Samuel Carrasco – Marianapolis Preparatory School

Luisa Henao – Marianapolis Preparatory School

Brady Miller – Marianapolis Preparatory School

Shane McGlone – Marianapolis Preparatory School

Matthew Guerin – Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School

Yheraldine Baez – Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School

The Southbridge Lions Club congratulates all of this year's recipients and wishes them continued success in their academic and professional pursuits.

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SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of June 2-9.

Two 19-year-olds from Southbridge received summonses in lieu of arrest on June 4, one for operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle and the other for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

A 41-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on June 4 in connection with multi-

ple warrants.

A 28-year-old male from Dorchester received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 5 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

A 30-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on June 5.

Armstrong O. Opoku, age 63, of Southbridge was arrested on June 6 for operating a motor vehicle with an Obstructed or Nontransparent Window and Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license.

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Friday's Child

**Kavon**
Age 11
Registration #8878

Kavon is a sweet, friendly, and outgoing young boy who brings joy and laughter wherever he goes. He's naturally engaging and loves connecting with others—his easy smile and sense of humor make him a favorite among peers and adults alike. Kavon enjoys a variety of activities that allow him to express his creativity and energy. He loves drawing, watching cartoons, and playing games on his tablet. He's also a big fan of outdoor fun, especially playing in the water and kicking around a soccer ball. Kavon thrives on positive attention and enjoys one-on-one time with trusted adults. His warm, personable nature and enthusiasm for life make him a truly special child with so much to offer the world around him.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21189474869>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

Sturbridge farmers' market begins



Just as the calendar turned to June, Sturbridge kicked off its Farmers' Market season on the Common. Despite being somewhat cooler than June usually is, vendors and visitors turned out to sample products that included meat, cactus-
mead, honey and beeswax items, pottery, some early vegetables, and various crafts. Photos by Gus Steev

Bay Path PN Class of 2025 completes three-day NCLEX live review

CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy’s Class of 2025 has completed a three-day, in-person NCLEX Live Review on campus, fully supported by the Academy’s faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners. The ATI NCLEX Live review, held May 12–14 in Seminar Rooms A & B, marks a key milestone for the 31 graduates as they prepare to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN).

“The 31 members of the PN Class of 2025, like all our graduates before them, are set to do great things,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director. “The 10-month practical nursing curriculum is rigorous, and for many, it’s a stressful journey. We do everything we can to ensure our graduates are fully prepared and supported.”

The Academy welcomed back ATI Nurse Educator Margaret Van Buren, MSN, RN, to lead the NCLEX Live Review. Bay Path partners with ATI Nursing Education to provide this high-impact review, which features NCLEX-style practice questions, alternate format strategies, and active learning methods proven to increase pass rates.

Dr. Bolandrina and the entire faculty joined the

Class of 2025 throughout the sessions. In attendance were Dr. Adelina Healy, Professors Shannen Sherman, BSN, RN, Melissa Zeien, BSN, RN, WCC, Jennifer DeFilippo, MSN Ed, RN, and Donna Pope, LPN.

“It’s a team effort,” Bolandrina noted. “Our dedicated faculty and staff go above and beyond to create a learning environment where students feel supported and ready.”

The Academy also received generous support from alumni and friends, including:

Elizabeth Anacona; Phan Houatchanthara, LPN; Kaitlin Miliauskas, LPN; Christiana Sochiletey, LPN; Donald Akeyo, MSN, RN; Nancy Kamicha, LPN; David Macharia, LPN; Victoria Boateng, LPN; Alex Mupengu, LPN; Tracy Nakayagaba, LPN; Jeniffer Kilonzo, LPN; Regina Njuguna, LPN—and even a local sponsor, Simon Says Pizza Chef of Southbridge.

Cindi Barrick, MSN, RN, Northeast Regional Manager of NCLEX Services for ATI Nursing Education, expressed her appreciation following the event, stating “Thank you for the opportunity to work with the graduates from your nursing program. The ATI Live Review engaged students through a variety of recognized educational strat-

egies, interactive learning, and NCLEX-style review.”

Members of the PN Class of 2025 who completed the final day’s evaluation received access to additional preparation tools, including new assessments and a NCLEX video tutorial. Also initiated was the Virtual ATI (VATI) for the PN Class of 2025. Throughout the year, students gained real-world clinical experience at hospitals, long-term care facilities, a wound care clinic, school nurse offices, and correctional facilities. These in-person rotations were complemented by Shadow Health’s Digital Clinical Experience (DCE), providing a well-rounded foundation in patient care and clinical reasoning.

To ensure individual readiness, Dr. Bolandrina maintains close contact with each student—meeting face-to-face, sending emails and text reminders, and offering personalized support.

“Our Bay Path community is amazing,” she said. “Everyone came together. We are a strong village of givers and caregivers.”

The soon to be graduates prepare to take the NCLEX-PN and officially begin their careers as Licensed Practical Nurses.

Nichols College names four new members to Board of Advisors

DUDLEY — Nichols College has named four new members to its Board of Advisors (BOA). The BOA is an engaged volunteer leadership body that lends its time, talent and resources to support the strategic initiatives of the College.

The new members are Lynn Brothers, Michael Darling, Patrick Hoey and Jared Maymon.

industry experience. He specializes in the origination of market rate and affordable multifamily loans, with a primary emphasis on the Northeast region of the United States. He graduated from Nichols College in 1999, earning a bachelor’s in business administration (marketing).

localize apparel production, in turn bringing sustainable, on-demand production closer to consumers. He graduated from Nichols College in 2021, earning a bachelor’s in business administration (corporate finance & investments).

Lynn Brothers '92 MBA '98 of Webster Brothers has been with MAPFRE Insurance (formally The Commerce Insurance Company) for 32 years. She began her career right after graduating from Nichols. She held several roles within the claims department and now works in the legal department, where she is responsible for managing regulatory filings and collaborating with all areas of the company. She earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration (general business) in 1992 and an MBA in 1998 from Nichols.

Michael Darling '99 of Southborough Currently a senior managing director for Walker & Dunlop in their Needham office, Darling has closed over \$13 billion in commercial real estate transactions throughout his career and possesses more than 25 years of

Patrick Hoey '15 of Paxton With 10 years of experience in the finance industry, Hoey is a financial advisor at Hoey Wealth Management, which he joined after building a successful early career with companies such as John Hancock and Jackson Financial. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration (marketing) from Nichols in 2015.

Jared Maymon '21 of North Scituate, R.I. As the global head of investor relations & strategic finance at Kornit Digital, Maymon guides the company’s strategic investment, long-term capital allocation and investor engagement initiatives. Based in Rhode Island, Jared’s work supports Kornit’s mission to digitize and

About Nichols Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Charlton resident Marisa DeJesus named to Dean’s List at Boston University

BOSTON — Marisa DeJesus of Charlton has been named to the Dean’s list of Boston University. DeJesus received academic honors at Boston University for the 2025 spring semester.

A rising senior at BU, DeJesus is majoring in Earth & Environmental Sciences, with a dual minor in Biology and Marine Science, in the University’s College of Arts & Sciences.

Founded in 1839, Boston University is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. With nearly 37,000 students, it is one of the largest private residential universities in the United States. BU consists of 17 schools and colleges, along with the Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences and a number of multi-disci-

plinary centers and institutes integral to the University’s research and teaching mission. In 2012, BU joined the Association of American Universities (AAU), a consortium of leading research universities in the United States and Canada.

Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2025 Spring Semester.

Springfield College has named Matthew Cooper from Sturbridge to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester.

Cooper has a primary major of Sports Biology.

Springfield College has named Katherine Wade from Sturbridge to the

dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester.

Wade has a primary major of Communication Sci & Disorders.

Springfield College has named Andrew Sweet from Charlton to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester.

Sweet has a primary major of Physical Education.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as fol-

lows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term. Student must not have been barred from Dean's List due to disciplinary action.

Charlton Public Library announces summer concert series

CHARLTON — The Charlton Public Library announces its Summer Concert Series, sponsored by Cornerstone Bank: June 26, July 10, and July 31. These concerts are free and open to the public. All concerts are in Dexter Hall from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Far From Eden will perform on Thursday, June 26. Far From Eden is a four piece band from Millbury, formed in 2005 by Vocalist Tina Pugliese Savage, Drummer Ed Scholz, Bassist Bob See, and Guitarist Dave Bourdeau. The band is noted for Tina’s powerful vocal delivery and cleverly crafted versions of songs from a wide variety of genres and artists, including Aretha Franklin, Pink Floyd, Lady Gaga, Led Zeppelin, and U2.

The Dirty Martinis, made up of Les Sampou and Ed Grenga, will perform on Thursday, July 10. Les Sampou has seven albums of original songs and has toured the U.S. and Europe for the past three decades, earning her top billing at major festivals as well as supporting such legendary acts as Aretha Franklin. Ed Grenga has written dozens of film scores as well as won composer awards (2023 and 2024) for his work on PBS “This Old House.” They bring their vast talents to an extensive repertoire which includes not only award-winning original compositions but cover songs from Americana, Classic Rock, and American Songbook standards. Their repertoire covers classics from the 1920s to the 2020s. “Twenties to the Twenties” appeals to all ages.

Tony Gahan will perform on Thursday, July 31. Tony is a singer-songwriter from County Tipperary, Ireland. He has an extensive catalogue of songs ranging from traditional ballads to more contemporary Irish hits. His passion for Irish music shows through in his performances, as every song he sings tells a story.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton. Additional parking is available at the Elementary School and Town Hall.

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Planning Board gets first look at housing plan, continues 39 Elm

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Housing was again the focus of the last Planning Board meeting, in two main senses. The panel got its introduction to the town's first Housing Production Plan (HPP), and continued its hearing on the 39 Elm St. apartment project.

Emily Glaubitz of Central Mass Regional Planning Commission has been spearheading the HPP since April 2024, with several local residents as advisors. (For transparency's sake, I have been one of them.)

The focus is largely on housing affordability and meeting “more diverse housing needs,” she said. A big part of the HPP is to encourage adding to Southbridge's stock of housing that's deed-restricted to qualify under income guidelines (a state-defined form of affordable, as opposed to market-rate housing that happens to be affordable now but can change). By that definition, the town has 7,899 year-round total units, but just 385 “affordable” ones – less than half of the 10 percent state goal.

The catch is that the state defines “affordable” based on the county's median income, which the draft HPP states is \$122,200 – about \$60,000 higher than Southbridge's actual median. That means an individual qualifies if their income is just under \$70,000, while the “extremely low (30 percent)” income category is set at \$26,200. But the state doesn't count individuals getting such aid toward the “affordable” housing goal – only deed-restricted units themselves.

That was a problem for George Chenier. He has repeatedly noted that several people at his complex (the former TAG) get housing vouchers, but the

complex as a whole lost its affordability and will be seeing rent jump to \$1,750 this November. He also noted several recent sales of large multi-family sites for millions of dollars, and observed that Southbridge has a 10 percent vacancy rate. (By comparison, the Federal Reserve Web site, fred.stlouisfed.org, calculates the state's rental vacancy rate was just 3.2 percent in 2024, and this century's peak was 7.3 percent in 2013.)

Once approved, the plan will give Southbridge more flexibility on meeting that goal, including more say over projects proposed under MGL Chapter 40B. That law enables developers to sidestep local zoning as long as their project calls for 25 percent or more units to be state-defined affordable (in practice, usually subsidized); they can, for example, build multi-family proj-

ects in a single-family zone.

As Mike Loin noted, deed restrictions are “only as good as their enforcement.”

Mike Colognesi added most restrictions expire in 30 years, and the person who set it can waive it at will. Developers are often willing to “live with them” for a while, but “eventually want out and I want out at market rate,” he said.

To him, “The rents are not tied to market. That's a problem.”

Glaubitz noted the plan's nearly complete and will go to the Planning Board and Council for approval soon, followed by the state. The draft was not yet on the town website as of Monday.

Regarding 39 Elm, the proponents presented some of the requested changes from the hearing's last session, including a separate door to the

commercial space, emergency-vehicle turning radius for the parking lot, stucco trim and windows. They noted they plan to have a structural review of the existing parking structure and retaining walls, and add flashing warning lights at the driveway exit.

Chenier again brought up “stressing the importance [that] you have to take into consideration public safety.” Although it meets turning radius, he said he's concerned about how fire crews would work in that building and parking lot safely, not just getting vehicles in there.

Planner Katie Yoder read a new memo from Fire Chief Paul Normandin essentially agreeing with Chenier. The chief said parked vehicles in that lot would “significantly hinder” fire equipment's ability to work there and make access to both Town Hall

and the News building “extremely challenging.” He noted changing it from commercial to residential significantly changes the “risk profile.”

Project attorney Don O'Neill argued, however, that the place will be fully sprinklered and have an elevator (board members noted it hasn't had either for years). He said the fact housing puts “additional strains on the fire department” is “kind of a given” for such projects.

Yoder said the memo notes the current water line is adequate for sprinklers, although Loin said they'll still have to upgrade it to serve the residential needs.

Regarding the parking structure, Scott Lazo said “concrete is falling on vehicles” now, and it's being held together with “a lot of Band-Aids.”

“That will be repaired as required by the condi-

tions and the engineer's requirements,” said the proponent's designer Rafael Hernandez, noting the owners intend to invest \$6-\$7 million in it.

Loin, however, noted that if the project loses that structure, the board would require them to come back to amend the size of the project. Although the board may waive a couple spaces, losing 12-15 is “too many,” he said, but added it would still have enough to meet legal requirements if it took back Town Hall parking. The board can't require them to lease space to the town, he said.

The board continued the hearing to June 18.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com. If anyone wants a copy of the draft HPP, contact me, and I'll send it to you.

Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale announces Vacation Bible Camp

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale has announced it will once again offer its popular Vacation Bible Camp this summer. According to Rev. David W. Cote, this year's camp will take place from July 21 – 25 from 9 a.m. to noon on church property at 8 Maple St., Sturbridge, between Town Hall and the Joshua Hyde Library.

The theme for this year's camp is “Live it Out.” Participating children will have an opportunity to focus on five key aspects of faith—love, live, share, forgiveness, and service—each rooted in a Bible story that

encourages them to embody these values in their daily lives. This emphasizes practical application, guiding children to live out their faith through tangible actions that reflect Christ's teachings.

“We've heard it before: Actions speak louder than words,” says Pastor Dave. “So, what does that look like for followers of Jesus? It means more than just learning the stories in the Bible. At this year's vacation bible camp, kids will learn those stories, but then they will be empowered to move their faith into action.”

The program, which will involve storytelling, games, crafts, and snacks, will be run by CORI-certified teachers who practice SafeChurch policy.

The Federated Church Vacation Bible Camp is open free of charge to all children in the community, ages six to 12, but pre-registration is requested. Please call the Church Office at (774) 304-1021 or email them at churchoffice@sturfed.org. The office is also open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Eva Glaser graduates from Eastern's Honors Program

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University's Honors Program celebrated the achievements of 14 graduating seniors, who completed their honors theses during the spring semester, at its annual senior reception on May 17 at the J. Eugene Smith Library.

Among the Honors Scholars was English major Eva Glaser of Sturbridge, who completed a thesis project titled *Of Ghosts and Gates: or American Women Writers' Civil War Theologies*.

The abstract for Glaser's project reads: The nineteenth-century spiritualist movement offered post-Civil War Americans solace through a comforting promise of connection with the dead. In response, Christian women in New England began merging traditional Protestant beliefs about death and heaven with spiritualist ones. Despite the revolutionary nature of their writings, there is a regrettable lack of scholarship discussing the theological, literary, and feminist implications of the genre. To address this, I have curated and analyzed an archive of Christian-spiritualist literature. These works' subversive theologies and call for women to be theologians highlight the power of laywomen to transform a nation's cultural and religious landscape.

After graduating, Glaser plans to pursue a career as a middle school English teacher.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Let’s start showing up again

We’ve lived in this region most of our lives. Our family cut our wood, fixed our own trucks, and we still wave to folks when we pass them on the road, because that’s what we do when you remember what it’s like to know your neighbors. Lately, though, it feels like we’re losing that. Not all at once, but piece by piece. A text instead of a visit. A scroll instead of a handshake.

That’s why we still show up. To farmers’ markets, free music nights on the town green, community suppers, even if we don’t need anything or know everyone there. We show up because it’s good for the town. It’s good for us, too.

Turns out, the scientists are finally catching up to what we’ve always known here in small town New England: people need people. Studies show that regular social connection, not just online but face-to-face, can improve everything from heart health to memory, and it lowers your chances of depression, addiction, and even early death. That’s not fluff, that’s data.

But more than any study, it’s just plain common sense. When you’re out with your community, hearing a local kid play guitar, buying bread from someone who baked it that morning, chatting about the weather while your kids toss a frisbee, you are a part of something bigger than yourself.

We used to have that naturally. Back when phones were wired to walls and no one knew what an algorithm was, we looked each other in the eye. We made time. We borrowed sugar and offered help before someone asked. Now, we have to be more intentional about it.

There’s a movement underway, quiet but steady, to bring back the kind of community where folks check in on each other, not because they were told to, but because they want to. Where events aren’t just entertainment, but glue. Not perfect. Not flashy. But real.

So when someone invites you to a free event in the park or a market downtown, don’t shrug it off. Go. Bring your kids. Just show up. Stand around. Talk. Listen. You don’t need a reason. That’s how it starts. That’s how it used to be. If we’re lucky and willing we might just get it back.

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.

OPINION

Keep going!

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

It’s easy to get down on yourself when you’ve spent years chasing a dream, only to look up and feel like you’re still miles from the finish line. You start comparing your timeline to someone else’s, wondering if you took a wrong turn—or if you’re just too far behind. But I like to say, “forward is forward.” Every inch gained matters. Just because you’re not there yet doesn’t mean you’re not going somewhere extraordinary. Just staying in the game—when giving up would be easier—is a kind of quiet brilliance.

As Confucius said, “It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.”

Maybe you started out with a bang—momentum, vision, even a team behind you. Things moved fast. It felt like your dream had a rocket strapped to it. But then life showed up. People dropped out. Plans hit delays. That sprint turned into a crawl, and some days it felt like you were standing still. But the dream only stopped if you did. Slow progress is still progress.

As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “If

you can’t fly, then run; if you can’t run, then walk; if you can’t walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”

You look around and wonder why it seems easier for everyone else. Why their path looks smoother. Why their progress feels faster. But what you can’t see from the outside is the doubt they wrestled with, the nights they wanted to quit, the battles they never posted about. Everyone’s journey carries invisible struggle. Comparison turns their high-light reel into your measuring stick—and that’s not just unfair, it’s paralyzing. The truth is, your pace is fine. Your dream is unfolding at the pace it needs to. And it was never meant to look exactly like theirs.

As Theodore Roosevelt said, “Comparison is the thief of joy.”

You might not feel like you’re crushing it. Maybe the wins aren’t flashy,

the milestones aren’t Instagrammable, and your inner critic keeps whispering that it’s not enough. But here’s something we forget: showing up—especially when no one’s watching—is one of the rarest forms of discipline. And consistency, practiced quietly and relentlessly, is its own kind of genius. You’re not waiting to feel inspired. You’re moving anyway. That’s a rhythm most people never find.

As Jim Rohn said, “Success is nothing more than a few simple disciplines practiced every day.”

You’ve made sacrifices. Skipped shortcuts. Held the line when it would’ve been easier to quit. You kept going even when the applause stopped—or never came. And that doesn’t make you slow or weak. It makes you powerful. Anyone can run when they’re cheered on—but it takes something deeper to keep walking when it’s quiet. That is strength in its truest form. That is the character being forged in the fire.

As Winston Churchill once said, “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to

The importance of setting strong financial goals



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

There’s a quote about the importance of setting goals that says, “If you don’t know where you’re going, any path will take you there.” You probably have dreams about retirement, vacations, hobbies and more. But if you don’t have a strategy with financial goals in place, you may not make the choices that can best set you on the path to achieve those dreams.

Setting goals helps define and showcase your purpose, passions and priorities. And establishing your own strong financial goals can help you earn and enjoy a wide variety of short- and long-term achievements throughout your life. When you reach your financial goals, you can feel a sense of accomplishment in seeing your efforts literally pay off. But how do you get started?

Prioritize your needs and wants. Think about the things that are most important to you and then outline them as financial “must-haves” and “wish-list” targets. Start with the big-ticket items and work through to ideas that may not cost as much. A must-have for many people is having enough to live comfortably through retirement. Being able to afford the college of your child’s choice, without incurring mounds of debt, is another. Your wish list, on the other hand, may include things like saving for vacations, hobbies or entertainment expenses.

Create detailed short- and long-term goals within your financial strategy. It’s important to be specific about the goals you want to achieve and how much you’ll need to achieve them. One way to do this is by making your goals measurable. Assign estimated dates and costs to each goal so you can plan how much to save and how much time you have before you need the money. For example, for your retirement goal, be specific about how many years before you want to retire. And once you do, how you plan to spend your time — perhaps traveling the world, turning your hobby into a business or taking your grandkids on outings. These can have vastly different price tags.

Be willing to compromise. Reaching one, or more, of your goals may mean compromising. If your must-have is building your dream home but it’s not looking quite affordable, you may need to make a trade-off — build it a bit smaller, work a year or two longer or trade in some of your wish-list goals so you can stay focused on your must-haves.

Hold yourself accountable to stay on track. Once your strategy is in place, it’s not a set-and-forget exercise. Actively tracking your progress and managing your decisions and actions can help you be better positioned to reach your goals. Use time-tested principles for making financial decisions, not predictions. Diversify, own quality investments and keep a realistic perspective, especially for your long-term goals. Maintain your focus and don’t let your emotions control your investment decisions. It can be helpful to meet with a financial advisor at least annually to review your full financial strategy, address any changes in your life or your goals, and discuss your progress and new ideas.

As you achieve certain milestones, celebrate them. You may even want to refresh your outlook with new goals. Take pride in your ability to strategize and accomplish a personal financial goal for yourself by following the path you envisioned and created.

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

Save Money with Household Substitutes



TAKE THE HINT

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**

If you’re using zinc oxide cream as an effective weapon in the war against acne breakouts, you know the nationally advertised brands can be costly. Since a key ingredient in diaper rash cream (Desitan) is zinc oxide, it makes sense to buy this less expensive alternative.

**

If you’re purchasing a product specifically to clean whitewall tires, you could be spending money unnecessarily. Lyson Basin Tub and Tile Cleaner has been proven to rival the product sold in auto supply stores. One product, more than one use – a win win for your pocket book.

**

Another expensive laundry aid is the every expanding line of spot and stain pretreating products. Forgo the fancy sprays and dab a tiny bit of Dawn dishwashing liquid onto the stain, and gently rub as you would for traditional pretreaters. Wash as usual. A small bottle kept in the laundry room will last a very long time!

**

You can literally cut your savings in half with this tip: Those who use Breathe Right nasal strips have report-

ed cutting them in half does not reduce their effectiveness! Before opening the individual packets, simply cut the strips down the center between the two metal strips. For best results, buy the medium/large size to allow for more size.

**

Cedar chip closet hangers protect clothing and smell great, but if you use these, you can cut your cost by over half by shopping the pet aisle instead of the closet aisle! Cedar chips meant for hamster bedding work just as well. Simply tie the chips into a tight mesh bag (or an old nylon knee high) and hang in closet or tuck into drawers.

**

Did you know Clorox Clean-up gel or spray does double duty? The bathroom cleaner also works to renew and treat stains on sneakers, especially grass stains. Just apply, let stand for a few minutes and scrub. It also works to renew discolored or yellowed sneakers.

**

Fancy face toner is popular today, but getting back to basics can save you a bundle. An effective tried and true astringent can be made by mixing equal amounts of Witch Hazel and rubbing alcohol. As a bonus, this toner also tames breakouts.

**

Lastly, for you Starbucks Frappacino fans, here’s a recipe to rival

Plant sunflowers for a season of enjoyment



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Sunflowers are one of those happy plants many gardeners can't resist planting. Kids love to watch the plants reach for the sky and everyone enjoys all the visitors. You are likely to see hummingbirds, bees and other pollinators on the flowers, songbirds munching on the seeds, and squirrels practicing acrobatic contortions as they try to gain their fair share of the harvest.

What we call the flower is made of 1,000 to 2,000 individual flowers. The large petals are, in fact, infertile ray flowers that do not develop into seeds. The center consists of fertile disk flowers that develop into seeds after pollination occurs.

These versatile flowers tolerate a wide range of soils around the world and are drought tolerant. It is not surprising they have been used by people for more than four thousand years. Native Americans used the flowers for pigments, seeds for food, the dried stems for construction and fuel. Today millions of acres of sunflowers are grown for the edible seeds, oil, and birdseed.

There is still time to plant sunflowers. Just check the seed packet for the number of days from planting seed until bloom. You'll find varieties that mature in as few as 55 days while others need as many as 120 days to flower. Start planting sunflower seeds directly in the garden after the danger of frost has passed and soil is about 60°F. Extend the bloom time by making additional plantings, allowing enough time for the plants to flower before



Courtesy — All-America Selections

Concert Bells produce multiple flower heads along the stem for a ready-made bouquet from a single stem.

the first fall frost.

Protect seeds and seedlings from birds and other critters. Cover the area with a floating row cover, a spun fabric that lets air, light and water through to the plants, or some type of netting or screen. Plant the seeds

one to two inches deep and six inches apart in rows two to three feet apart. Remove every other seedling once they are several inches tall.

Protect young plants from deer if needed. These critters can quickly destroy young plants so consider using a repellent or fencing if deer are a problem in your area.

Water often enough to keep the soil moist around the seeds and young seedlings. Gradually extend the time between watering to encourage the plants to grow a robust root system. Continue to water thoroughly as needed throughout the growing season. Fertilize at planting and make a second application mid-summer if needed. Follow the fertilizer label directions for proper timing and rates.

Staking isn't usually needed to support even

the taller varieties unless they are growing sunflowers in a windy location or are overcrowded. Use a metal or wood stake placed close to the stem if you need to stake the plants. Secure the plant to the stake using twine or soft ties made from cloth.

As the flowers appear, watch them track the sun from east to west and return facing east each morning. Scientists recently discovered the young plant's sun-tracking, also called heliotropism, is tied to the plant's circadian rhythms. One side of the stem elongates during the day and the other side at night, directing the flower toward the sun. As the flowers mature, they stay facing east, helping to attract pollinators like bees to the warmer flower surface.

Enjoy watching your sunflowers sprout, grow and flower. Take time to observe the many visi-

tors to the blooms and be sure to harvest a few seeds for snacking.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition, MN & WI Month-by-Month Gardening, and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers hosted "The Plant Doctor" radio show on WTMJ radio for over 20 years and seven seasons of Great Lakes Gardener on PBS. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com which features gardening videos, audio tips, free webinars, monthly gardening tips, and other gardening information.

Auction news

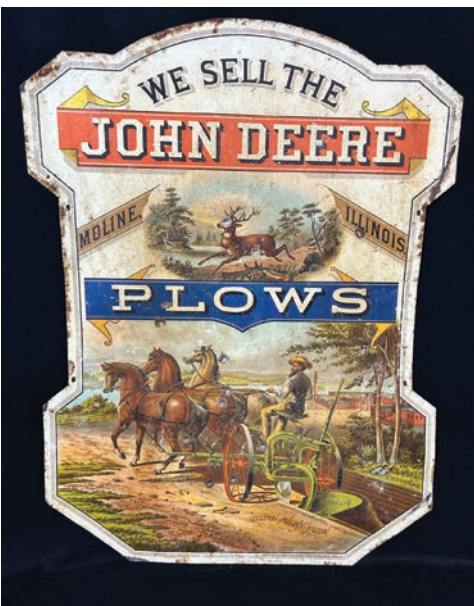


ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
.....
WAYNE TUISKULA

It's been nearly a month and a half since my last auction news update. I'll return to my top 10 antiques and collectibles list in the next column and will cover the latest news today.

Number 8 in my top 10 list is advertising signs, and a great one just sold at auction. What was described as one of the first John Deere signs ever produced and even hailed as "the greatest John Deere sign of all time" sold earlier this month. The late 1800s sign made with chromolithograph printing on metal was found in a Montana barn. Despite some rust around the edges and having been shot with a BB gun a few times, the sign brought \$71,500.

In art news, a painting by Marlene Dumas set an auction record for a living female artist last month. "Miss January" was described as Dumas'



"magnum opus." The nine and a quarter foot painting depicts a semi-nude woman in a sweater and one sock. Dumas created "Miss World," an artwork depicting the forms of 10 models, in 1997, according to CNN. The "Miss January" painting brought \$13.6 million.

Some pieces from historical figures also made news recently. A collection of

artifacts was sold to benefit the Abraham Lincoln Foundation, according to ArtNet. A few items related to his assassination sold very well. A wanted poster offering a \$100,000 reward for assassin John Wilkes Booth and two of his co-conspirators sold for \$762,500, according to the Antique Trader. A pair of gloves that Lincoln brought to Ford's Theater on the fateful night he was assassinated went for \$1,512,500, a record for a Lincoln assassination relic. An 1824 sum (arithmetic) leaf that was signed twice by Abraham Lincoln when he was a teenager brought \$521,200. It may be the earliest example of Lincoln's handwriting.

A 10-carat diamond that was owned by Marie Antoinette will be heading to auction later this month. "The Marie-Thérèse Pink Diamond is a kite-shaped fancy purple-pink diamond dating back to the mid-18th century that is said to have royal ties," according to Fox News. It's speculated that Antoinette entrusted her jewels to her coiffeur in 1791, prior to her failed escape from Paris. She expected her escape would be successful and planned

to retrieve them after but was captured a few days later. After her death, her jewels were passed to her only surviving child Duchess Marie Thérèse de Angoulême. The royal diamond is expected to shine, bringing between \$3 and \$5 million.

We will have diamonds, gold, sterling silver, art, and other valuable objects available in an auction later in the year. We are continuing to work on a one collector Civil War online auction and a Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction. Our sports cards, comic books, and collectibles auction begins soon. We are always accepting valuable pieces and collections for upcoming sales. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508) 612-6111.

Hint

continued from page 6

the real thing:

Ingredients: 1 1/2 cups cold coffee; 1/2 cup whole milk; 1/2 cup granulated sugar; 1 teaspoon chocolate syrup; 1/4 teaspoon salt; 1/8 teaspoon vanilla extract; 3 cups crushed ice or ice cubes

Directions: Combine the coffee, milk, sugar,

chocolate syrup and salt in a blender and mix on medium speed for 15 seconds to dissolve sugar. Add the vanilla extract and ice then blend on high speed until smooth and creamy. Stir with a spoon if necessary to help blend. Pour drink into two 16-ounce glasses. Makes 2 large drinks.

**
Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your

best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints

to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.



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OBITUARIES

Richmond and Joyce Marcy

As I sit to write this obituary, I find it difficult to pen an ordinary farewell for two parents we children viewed as extraordinary. They never would have considered themselves anything special, yet it was from that very humility that they touched and cared for so many throughout their lives. With the love they had for each other, we think it is divinely fitting that they shared a “Notebook” ending.

On that note, it is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, Joyce Kallgren Marcy, age 84, of Louisville, Kentucky. Joyce was born in Putnam, Connecticut, and entered God’s Kingdom on April 25, 2025, with her loving husband, Richmond Herman Marcy, and family members at her side.

Just eight short days later, on May 3, 2025, our beloved father, Richmond Herman Marcy, age 83, of Louisville, Kentucky, entered into God’s Kingdom, passing peacefully with family at his side, but with a broken heart from missing Joyce. Richmond was born in Southbridge, Massachusetts.

High school sweethearts from Woodstock Academy in Woodstock, CT, Joyce and Richmond were married for over 62 years, building a life deeply rooted in faith, service, and love. Theirs was a beautiful partnership, a true “Notebook” legacy, as they passed away peacefully at home just days apart after a long and courageous journey with dementia. For those who knew them, it comes as no surprise that they could not be kept apart for long.

They leave behind their four children: Barbara Lasley (Brian), Carolyn Williams, Michael Marcy (Justine), and Karen Bayles (Bill), as well as grandchildren whom they poured into with time, adventures, and love: Sara Rodgers, Clint Rodgers (Jennifer), Jessica Allen, Zachary Marcy, Maria Drake (Jonathan), Chelsea Wilson (Elijah) and Sebastian Bayles (Ruth). They were also blessed with seven great-grandchildren.

Joyce was predeceased by her mother and father, Ellen Dorothy (Carlson) Kallgren (Yonkers, NY) and Carl Alfred Kallgren (Woodstock, CT). Richmond was predeceased by his mother and father, Pauline Grace (Thompson) Marcy (Southbridge, MA) and Herman Alvin Marcy (Woodstock, CT), his brother Alvin Newell (Ruth), and his brother-in-law George Tyler. Richmond leaves behind his sister, Marilyn Marcy, his brother Leonard Marcy, and his sister-in-law, Laura Marcy.

Together, Richmond and Joyce leave behind many nieces and nephews whom they loved deeply.

Joyce graduated from Wheaton College and received her Master’s degree from the University of Louisville. Richmond graduated from Barrington College and earned his Master’s degree at the University of Connecticut.

Joyce shared her passion for education as a fifth-grade teacher in Connecticut before moving to Louisville, where she worked in Senior Services at Crescent Hill Ministries. She later served as both a counselor and the principal at Christian Academy of Louisville and as the elementary principal at Whitfield Academy.

Richmond dedicated twenty-eight years of his career to serving as the



Priscilla Baerlein Photography

principal of the Kentucky School for the Blind. He was a member of the Mayflower Society and the Lions Club and was honored as a Kentucky Colonel in 2004.

Richmond and Joyce lived out their deep Christian faith as devoted members of Southeast Christian Church and previously also enjoyed many great years at Broadway Baptist Church.

Gifted with a wonderful sense of adventure and openness, Joyce embraced life with hospitality and spunk. She fiercely advocated for her family, into whom she poured her heart. This spirit extended to her love for outdoor adventures like downhill skiing and gardening, her passion for travel, bird watching, and her cherished Swedish heritage. She was also quite proud to be known for riding steers bareback as a child, her irresistible apple pie, and insatiable desire to learn. According to Mom, just about everything in life could be solved with a good scoop of ice cream!

A devoted husband, father, brother, and friend, Richmond was cherished for his strong gentleness, calming spirit, encouraging words, and helpful hand. He was also known for the constant twinkle in his eye and his ability to bring a smile to anyone’s face with a well-timed “dad” joke. Richmond also held a quiet passion for life, enjoying traveling, downhill skiing, playing golf, ping-pong, and enthusiastically cheering on the University of Louisville Cardinals. With a creative spirit, he enjoyed singing in the church choir, caning, calligraphy, photography, and framing. Both Mom and Dad led lives characterized by service to others, generosity, hospitality, kindness, patient love, and deep faith.

Their impact on their family and community was profound. They leave behind big shoes for us all to fill, but they are the kind of people who inspire us to try.

A Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, June 19, at 11:00 a.m. at Covenant Church, 24 Child Hill Rd, Woodstock, CT 06281. It will be followed by a graveside service at Elmvale Cemetery, 453 Roseland Park Rd, Woodstock, CT 06281. A reception/gathering will follow at 586 Senexet Road, Woodstock, CT 06281.

If you wish to send flowers, they can be delivered to Covenant Church, 24 Child Hill Rd, Woodstock, CT 06281

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in their name to one or more of the following:

Alzheimer’s Association at <https://www.alz.org/>

Louisville East Lions Club at <https://louisvilleeastlionsclub.wordpress.com/fundraiser/>

Woodstock Evangelical Covenant Church at <https://www.woodstockcovenant.org/give/>

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach out to Karen Bayles at karen.bayles@upliftmarketing.ca or Michael Marcy at mmarcy92@aol.com.

Our family will miss them dearly, but we are at peace knowing they are together in the presence of Jesus and the Glory of God. In this, we find joy and hope.

If you knew them, we know you will miss them too.

We love you, Mom and Dad! Till we see you again! XOXO

John P. Lango, 75



Sturbridge: John P. Lango, 75, of Cedar St., passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, May 20th, with his wife and sister by his side.

John leaves his wife of 36 years, Edwina (McNally) Lango; his sister, Susan M. Lango of Sturbridge; his sister-in-law, Catherine Montigny and her husband and his brother-in-law, Bryant Montigny of Southbridge; his sister-in-law, Patricia McNally of Maine; his uncle, Philip Kozyra of Bedford, NH; his niece, Erin Streibig and her husband Christopher of Florida and their children, Allison and Bridget; two close cousins, Paul Lango of Dudley and Kathy Roehrs of Webster, along with several cousins and many close friends. He also leaves his beloved dog and constant companion, Lexi. John was born in Southbridge the son of the late Norbert F. and Janet S. (Kozyra) Lango. He was a graduate of Southbridge High School and was a star on the school’s football team earning him the nickname of ‘the Polish Riffle’. John went on to Marianapolis Prep School in Thompson, CT and later

attended Tampa University and UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

John was a self-employed landscaper for over 30 years. He later was the maintenance and grounds manager for St. John Paul II Parish in Southbridge before retiring several years ago. John loved sports and was an avid New England Patriots and Boston Bruins fan. He also loved to spend time in Maine.

His family would like to thank the staff of the Overlook Hospice, Aveanna Home Health and Deb Butler for all of the care and compassion they gave to John.

A funeral Mass for John was held on Friday, May 23rd, at 10:00am in St. Anne Church, 16 Church St., Sturbridge. Burial followed in St. Hedwig’s Cemetery, Southbridge. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or to St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale, MA 01518. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Russell W. Piper



With sadness, we announce the passing of Russell W. Piper on May 5, 2025. He was a long-time resident of the Southbridge/Charlton area. Russell passed away peacefully after a long battle with COPD. He was born November 10, 1947 in Lowell, Massachusetts to George Russell Piper and Rose (Gregory) Piper. He was pre-deceased by his wife of 53 years, Kathleen Ellen (Carow) Piper of Dorchester, South Carolina. He leaves his five children and their families, Jason W. Piper of West Virginia, Marjorie Mae Ferguson of Massachusetts, Travis N. Piper of Washington, Aaron R. Piper And Katelyn Rose Morales both of South Carolina. He had eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Russell was one of nine children. His surviving siblings are Nelson C. Sleeper of Charlton, Massachusetts, Kathleen E. Facteau of Sturbridge Massachusetts, Douglas Peal Clark

of Connecticut and Daniel E. Peal of Virginia. He was pre-deceased by 2 brothers and 2 sisters; John C. Sleeper of Florida, Laurence R. Sleeper of Washington, Claire M. Soule of Connecticut and Maureen R. Coffey of Rhode Island.

Russell worked many years as a general contractor doing roofing, siding and gutter work. But he found his niche in painting. He had a good eye for color and was able to foresee what the finished product would be like even prior to the application of the paint. He often said “life is messy, let’s clean it up! It just needs a fresh coat of paint.” He will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

Cremation was carried out by Kelly Cremation and Funeral Care in Worcester Massachusetts. The family will hold a personal gathering at a future date to commemorate Russell’s life.

Sheriff swears in new correctional officers

WEST BOYLSTON — On Friday, June 6, Worcester County Sheriff Sheriff Lew Evangelidis proudly administered the Correctional Officers Oath to the 16 graduating recruits of the Sheriff’s Office’s 63rd Basic Recruit Training Academy (B.R.T.A.) at the department’s Training and Command Center in West Boylston. Among the 16 graduates were Officers Thomas Henriquez of Auburn, Joseph Richardson of Grafton, & Michael Sputo of Oxford.



Courtesy

Sheriff Evangelidis poses with the 16 new officers after graduation.

The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office is committed to ensuring public safety across the cities and towns in Worcester County. The department recognizes the importance of building a team that reflects the diverse community it serves. The graduates of B.R.T.A. #63 represent a highly qualified group of recruits, each bringing unique skills and experiences to their new roles as correctional officers. These officers come from nine different towns throughout Massachusetts and include 6 individuals who are either active members or veterans of the U.S. Army.

The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office Academy offers a paid, full-time program lasting 13 weeks, designed to equip recruits with the skills needed to manage and maintain the care, custody, and control of inmates at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction. The academy includes both classroom instruction and hands-on training.

While at the academy, recruits undergo extensive training in various aspects of corrections. This training includes skills such as de-escalation techniques, the duty to intervene, fire safety, defensive tactics, and first responder protocols. They also receive education in suicide prevention, mental health issues, and substance abuse awareness.

In addition, recruits engage in daily physical fitness sessions, take weekly assessments on classroom material, and benefit from regular guest lectures and demonstrations provided by a range of public safety partners.

“After 13 rigorous weeks of training, I present the best and brightest in corrections today,” commented Evangelidis. “The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office Training Department is one of the best in the state, and I can confidently say that these individuals are ready to join the ranks as full-time corrections officers and contribute to successfully executing our mission. Congratulations to these graduates as they begin their new careers.”

Before starting the academy, applicants must complete a written exam, a physical fitness test, a background check, and a psychological screening. To ensure fairness and impartiality, Evangelidis has implemented a policy that prohibits letters of recommendation from politicians and gives preference to hiring individuals who have served our country.

The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office is accepting applications for its 64th Basic Recruit Training Academy, which will begin in September 2025. To learn more about what it takes to be a correctional officer, please visit www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com/Careers/Correctional-Officer-Academy/.

University of Rhode Island students named to Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Spring 2025 Dean’s List. Among them are:

Kyle Norberg of Charlton
Erin Farrell of Sturbridge
Mary Godek of Wales
Sage Hoschek of Wales
Lizzy Maxfield of Brimfield
Elise Mazeika of Sturbridge
Makena Pentoney of Holland
Tyler Powell of Fiskdale
Vanessa Ricci of Brimfield
Jillian Winco of Sturbridge

To be included on the Dean’s List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Students named to the Dean’s List

represent nearly all of Rhode Island’s cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island’s flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today’s world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

Venture Community Services to hold 27th Annual Charity Golf Classic

STURBRIDGE — Venture Community Services, one of the Commonwealth’s leading nonprofit providers of innovative human services, will host its annual Charity Golf Classic to support the nonprofit’s programming for individuals with developmental disabilities on June 13. The fundraiser, supported by sponsors Team Hoyt and Country Bank, will also celebrate Venture’s 50th anniversary of making a difference in the community.

“We are especially looking forward to this year’s Charity Golf Classic as we mark half a century of service,” said Mike Hyland, President and CEO of Venture Community Services. “The event truly celebrates the community that supports our mission and enables us to transform the lives of those facing diverse challenges throughout



Massachusetts.”

More than 120 individuals will come together at Blissful Meadows Golf Club in Uxbridge. The golf tournament will include various challenges with prizes to follow, such as a chance to win \$10,000 with the Starkweather & Shepley sponsored \$10,000 Putt Challenge. Venture will hold a general raffle as well as a 50th anniversary raffle, with proceeds to benefit the individuals served by the agency.

For more information about supporting the Charity Golf Classic, visit www.venturescs.org/event/golf25 or contact Kerrie Mason at kmason@venturescs.org or 774-922-1136.

Courtesy

(Left) Community members (from left) Tracy Digreggiorio, Suzanne Wright, Kara Smith and Missy Baker teamed up for Venture Community Services’ Charity Golf Classic on June 14 of last year at Blissful Meadows Golf Club in Uxbridge. The annual fundraiser supports Venture’s programming for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Kaitlyn Merriam of Southbridge awarded MS in Nursing during Salve Regina University Commencement

NEWPORT, R.I. — Kaitlyn Merriam of Southbridge was awarded a MS in Nursing degree during Salve Regina University’s 75th Commencement.

Salve Regina President Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong conferred 508 bachelor’s degrees, 206 master’s degrees 18 doctoral degrees and 11 doctor of nursing practice degrees to mem-

bers of the Class of 2025.

Located in historic Newport, R.I. Salve Regina is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education, founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. Salve offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than

2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world are enrolled at Salve in 48 undergraduate majors, nine master’s degree programs, combined bachelor’s/master’s programs and four doctoral programs. Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a transformational four-year program through which they develop

the experience, skills and wisdom required for a fulfilling career and to make a positive difference in the world. 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.



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P.E.O. Chapter R gathers to discuss summer Initiatives, celebrate educational impact at Bay Path

CHARLTON — Members of P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), Chapter R of Worcester, gathered at the Hilltop Restaurant at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School to reflect on recent accomplishments and plan upcoming activities for the summer. Among those in attendance was Dr. Gretheline Ramos Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, of Athol, Director of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton, MA.

Founded in 1869 by seven young women in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, P.E.O. has grown into one of the oldest women's organizations in North America, with over 6,000 chapters across the U.S. and Canada. Since its founding, P.E.O. has provided more than \$321 million in scholarships, grants, awards, and loans to more than 105,000 women pursuing educational goals, according to peointernational.org.

"I first learned about P.E.O. in 2018 while researching scholarships for my students," said Dr. Bolandrina. "I'm continuously amazed by the organization's commitment to uplifting women through education."

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students and alumni have benefited directly from P.E.O.'s Program for Continuing Education (PCE), thanks to Chapter R's nominations and support with the application process.

"I'm deeply grateful to the members of Chapter R for helping our students access these life-changing opportunities," Bolandrina said.

Since being inducted into Chapter R in November 2021, Dr. Bolandrina has been inspired by the group's dedication and camaraderie.

"It's a very special kind of friendship and sisterhood," she noted. "Every meeting and social event reinforces our shared mission—and I'm excited to see the chapter continue to grow."



Chapter R raises funds throughout the year for P.E.O. scholarships and for Cottey College, a fully accredited liberal arts and sciences college in Nevada, Missouri, owned and supported by the organization since 1927. Fundraisers range in style and scale—Chapter R, for example, hosts an annual nut sale, which Bolandrina actively supports.

While membership in P.E.O. is by invitation, its impact is widespread. "Philanthropy is the goal of P.E.O.," Bolandrina said. "But friendship is truly its cornerstone."

Courtesy

(Left) Photo shows, from left: Delores Dobson, Gretheline Bolandrina, Georgeanne Roe, Christine White, and Sheila Ansley.

Aleah Begg of Charlton awarded a BS in Finance during Salve Regina University Commencement

NEWPORT, R.I. — Aleah Begg of Charlton was awarded a BS in Finance degree during Salve Regina University's 75th Commencement.

Salve Regina President Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong conferred 508 bachelor's degrees, 206 master's degrees 18 doctoral degrees and 11 doctor of nursing practice degrees to members of the Class of 2025.

Located in historic Newport, R.I. Salve Regina is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education, founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. Salve offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world are enrolled at Salve in 48 undergraduate majors, nine master's degree programs, combined bachelor's/master's programs and four doctoral programs. Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a transformational four-year program though which they develop the experience,

skills and wisdom required for a fulfilling career and to make a positive difference in the world. 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.



LEGALS

<p>Planning Board Public Hearing</p> <p>In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, and the Town of Brimfield Zoning Bylaw section 7, the Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Hitchcock Academy located at 2 Brookfield Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010.</p> <p>The purpose of the hearing is to consider a Site Plan Review application for Babe's Lawncare to expand from 2,124 sqft by constructing a 7400 sqft building, with a proposed storage building, and salt shed. The property is located at 345 Sturbridge Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010 owned and operated by Christopher Predella.</p> <p>David Killian Planning Board Chair June 13, 2025 June 20, 2025</p>	<p>388 Prairie Ave Providence RI 02905</p> <p>VEHICLE MAKE : 2006 ACURAL TL VIN: 19UUA66266A028268 LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Omar Garcia 54 Esther ST # 2 Worcester MA 01607</p> <p>VEHICLE MAKE : 2010 Honda Civic VIN: 2HGFG1B6XAH535221 LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Glenda Colon 249 Thomaston Ave Waterbury CT 06704</p> <p>VEHICLE MAKE : 2008 ACURA MDX VIN: 2HNYD28278H541931 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Carlos Manuel Santiago Medina 94 Vine St ,APT 3B Hartford CT 06112</p> <p>VEHICLE MAKE : 2014 CHEVROLET SONIC VIN:1G1JC5SH3E4241653 LAST REGISTERED OWNER:J OHN J HANLON 5638 ELEUTHERA WAY NAPLES FL 34119</p> <p>VEHICLE MAKE: 2005 ACURA TL VIN:19UUA66245A002718 LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Kelley Williams 410 SHELTON ST FL 2 BRIDGEPORT CT 06608</p> <p>VEHICLE MAKE: 2006 MAZDA MAZDA6 VIN:JM1GJ1V5XG1415434 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Progressive Casualty Insurnace PO Box 1388 Windham MA 04062 June 6, 2025 June 13, 2025 June 20, 2025</p>	<p>A.C. 78A Docket Number W024P1459PM THECOMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS WORCESTER, SS PROBATE COURT</p> <p>To all persons interested in the estate of Helen Xanthakos of Southbridge, in said county, a person under conservatorship. A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell - private sale -certain real estate of said Helen Xanthakos for maintenance. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney shall file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the Fttwenty-sixth day of June 2025, the return date of this citation. Witness Leilah A. Keamy, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fifth day of June 2025. Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate June 12, 2025</p> <p>(SEAL) THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 25 SM 001642 ORDER OF NOTICE To: Jason Tom Patraw and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): Freedom Mortgage Corporation claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 40 Dennison Lane, given by Jason Tom Patraw to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. D/B/A Norcom Mortgage, dated August 26, 2015, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54216, Page 249, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on January 27, 2022, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67013, Page 323 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before July 14, 2025, 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 June 2, 2025. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 27460 June 12, 2025</p>	<p>CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE</p> <p>In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on June 18, 2025, at 7PM on the application of Modern Structures, Inc.</p> <p>The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the proposed construction of a single-family home within the 100-ft buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: Stevens Park Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 17A-G-40.</p> <p>Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.</p> <p>Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission June 12, 2025</p> <p>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. W025P1927EA INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Estate Of: Dawn L. McLaughlin Date of Death: 7/11/2024</p> <p>To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner William F McLaughlin, Jr. of Sturbridge MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate. William F McLaughlin, Jr. of Sturbridge MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without Surety on the bond.</p> <p>The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. June 12, 2025</p>
<p>SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A Notice is hereby given by Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after JUNE 20,2025 at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle VEHICLE MAKE:2020 Infiniti QX60 VIN: 5N1DL0MM1LC502956 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Anuj Vohra 77 LOFGREN RD AVON CT, 06001</p>	<p>VEHICLE MAKE: 2017 CHEVEROLET EQUINOX VIN: 2GNFLGE36H6136074 LAST REGISTERED OWNER : ROBERT DUBE 471A MILL ST WORCESTER MA,01602</p>		
<p>VEHICLE MAKE :2005 ACURA TL VIN: 19UUA66235A081640 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Winder A Moronta 157 CHANDLER ST APT 1 Worcester MA ,01609</p>	<p>VEHICLE MAKE: 2007 GMC YUKON VIN:1GKFK63807J385321 LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Claudio Alessandro Vitiello 349 Braeside Ave Apt 108 East Stroudsbu PA 18301</p>		
<p>VEHICLE MAKE : 2013 Audi allroad VIN: WA1UFAFL6DA063024 LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Joseph Mickarweil RANDOLPH 02368</p>	<p>VEHICLE MAKE : 2003 GMC Sonoma VIN: 1GTCS19X638149015 LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Quezada Velez Arturo Jr 118 Morris St New Haven CT 06519</p>		
<p>VEHICLE MAKE : 2012 CHEVROELT CRUZ VIN: 1G1PK5SC7C7110352 LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Carolina Castillo</p>			

LEGALS

**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
WATER / SEWER RATES
SOLID WASTE/CURBSIDE**

The Town Manager of the Town of Southbridge will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 26th , 2025 at 5:00 PM in Town Council Chambers. Hearing to be conducted on the proposed rate changes for

- Water and Sewer Rate effective with bills issued as of July 1, 2025.
- Solid Waste and Recycling Curbside Rate effective with bills issued as of July 1, 2025

Those wishing to speak on this matter will be given the opportunity to do so. The proposed rates are on display on the Town’s website www.ci.southbridge.ma.us

June 12, 2025

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on June 18, 2025, at 7PM on the application of Steven Bressette.

The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the proposed alteration of an existing access drive. The project location is: 30 Hill Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 31-D-6.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
June 12, 2025

**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. WO25C0299CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Mariana Barbosa Aube
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by
Mariana Barbosa Aube of Charlton MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Mariana Oliveira Aube
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 06/24/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Kearny, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 27, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 12, 2025

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on June 18, 2025, at 7PM on the application of Melissa Avedian.

The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the proposed construction of a single-family home, driveway, and associated site work within the 100-ft buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: 0 Old Worcester Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 36-C-5.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
June 12, 2025

**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. WO25C0300 CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Female Roman
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by
Female Roman of Southbridge MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Josephine Romam
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 07/01/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Kearny, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 28, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 12, 2025

**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. WO25C0301 CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
[Blank] Roman
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by
[Blank] Roman of Southbridge MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Jenny Romam
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 07/01/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Kearny, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 28, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 12, 2025

**(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Worcester South, ss
Docket No. 25 SM 001622
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Gregory R. Scanlon and
Michelle L. Scanlon**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*)
CamaPlan FBO H211101-01 HSA claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, MA, 01518, 7 Evergreen Ln., given by Gregory R. Scanlon and Michelle L. Scanlon to National City Bank, dated May 27, 2005, and recorded in the Worcester South County Registry of Deeds at Book 36500, Page 59, 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 07/14/2025 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 5/303/2025
Attest:
Reborah J. Patterson
Recorder
June 12, 2025

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on June 18, 2025, at 7PM on the application of Chris Hansen.

The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the proposed construction of a single-family home within the 100-ft buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: Lot 5 Hiland Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 1A-G-6.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts

of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
June 12, 2025

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 775 Dennison Drive, Southbridge, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Susan L. Bourdelais to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”), as mortgagee, as nominee for One Reverse Mortgage, LLC its successors and assigns and now held by Longbridge Financial, LLC, said mortgage dated April 30, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 48949, Page 119, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 27, 2023, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68899, Page 78, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 12, 2023, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69658, Page 286, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on July 11, 2025 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Land Situated in the City of Southbridge in the County of Worcester in the State of MA.

THE LAND IN SAID SOUTHBRIDGE WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON, SITUATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF DENNISON DRIVE, BEING ON A PORTION OF THE ROAD LEADING FROM THE HOUSE NOW OR FORMERLY OF JAMES MASON TO THE VILLAGE OF WESTVILLE, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED;

BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF IRENE C. DAY; THENCE S. 81 DEGREES 18’ E. BY LAND OF SAID DAY, 180 FEET TO AN IRON PIN;

THENCE N. 3 DEGREES 17’ E. BY LAND OF SAID DAY, 157.1 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE ON WALL AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF GERARD LEMOINE;

THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG WALL BY SAID LEMOINE LAND, ABOUT 420 FEET TO A JUNCTION OF WALLS AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF VICTOR BEAUDREAU ET UX;

THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG WALL BY SAID BEAUDREAU LAND, ABOUT 223 FEET TO AN IRON PIN IN WALL;

THENCE N. 82 DEGREES W. BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF WILLIAM W. POTTER ET UX ABOUT 8 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE IN STONE;

THENCE STILL N. 82 DEGREES W. BY SAID LAND OF POTTER, 453.3 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE;

THENCE N, 8 DEGREES E. BY THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE, 180 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING AN AREA OF ABOUT 2.87 ACRES OF LAND

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 October 20, 1986, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 9915, Page 152.

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.

TENTHOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a 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 by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Longbridge Financial, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage

Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 23-00998
June 12, 2025
June 19, 2025
June 26, 2025

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Holland Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 06/24/2025 in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Request for Determination (RDA) filed by Michael Jacquetin to Raze fire damaged cottage and rebuild Single Family Home. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person and virtual; for virtual meeting login information contact Holland Conservation at conservation@hollandma.org or call (413) 245-7108 x114.

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
June 12, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 166, §22F notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Town Manager on June 24, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, in regards to a petition filed by National Grid for the following Order for JO Pole relocation:
Chapin St.:
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:
Chapin Street – National Grid to install 1 JO police on Chapin Street beginning at a point approximately 280 feet Northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Dresser Street and Chapin Street. Installing police 4-50 for residential service request. Chapin Street – Southbridge, MA.

Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this petition will be given the opportunity to speak.

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
John D. Jovan Jr,
Town Manager
June 12, 2025

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on June 18, 2025, at 7PM on the application of William and Nancy LePage.

The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the proposed construction of a single-family home and driveway within the 100-ft buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: Ramshorn Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 81-B-2.1.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
June 12, 2025

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Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students volunteer for JAK-L Strides 5K



OXFORD — Donita Bytyqi, SPN of Grafton, a practical nursing student was joined by aunt, Matjane Sadriu of Charlton in the JAK-L Foundation Strides for Mental Health 5K Memorial Run/Walk, May 17 at the Oxford Community Center.

Bytyqi was the team lead for the nursing students on their first aid table, distributing mental health first aid flyers, and helped with distributing water for hydration. The JAK-L Foundation mission is to expand mental health awareness

and directly impact the community to reduce the stigma around accessing mental health support. The JAK-L Foundation wants to directly support suicide prevention as part of their work and encourage the community to prioritize mental health.

JAK-L Foundation is a non-profit organization founded to raise money for mental health awareness in memory of Julie Lulu, a beloved daughter, sister, mother, niece, and friend. Directly from JAK-L Foundation's Web site (<https://jak-l.com/>): "We lost Julie to suicide in 2017 after a long battle with her own mental health struggles. Julie was a fierce, loving, and goofy person and that got lost in the midst of her battle at times."

Further stated at the Web site, "We, as a family, know how devastating the loss to suicide is and

our goal is to raise money with the goal of supporting others and their families so that they don't have to experience what we did."

The office of JAK-L Foundation is located at 43 Buffum Rd., Charlton.

Bytyqi stated, "A close friend of mine, who has been a dedicated nurse for the past seven years, has quietly fought a deeply personal battle with depression and suicidal thoughts. There were times when she struggled to see a future for herself, yet even in those dark moments, she never stopped showing up—with a smile on her face and unwavering care for her patients. What's remarkable is that her kindness never wavered. She's the type of person who goes out of her way for the people she loves—including me, countless times, when I needed someone to lean on.

Despite carrying so much internally, she always found a way to be there for others. Mental health is so often overlooked—whether due to cultural stigma, societal pressure, or simple misunderstanding. It's hard to know what someone might be going through, and some-

times the impact of those unseen struggles can be devastating—not just for the person themselves, but for those around them."

Further, Bytyqi added, "She is incredibly strong. She's still fighting. And she's trying—and that means everything. I have

immense respect for her and for anyone who lives with the weight of mental health challenges while still showing up for the world. Being a part of this—of her story, and of raising awareness—has been something truly meaningful for me."

Hannah Lombardo named 2025 Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Commencement speaker

CHARLTON — Hannah Lombardo, RN, of Dudley, will serve as the principal speaker at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's 15th Graduation and Pinning Ceremony on June 20.

"Hannah truly embodies the spirit of caring. It's hard to believe it has been ten years since she graduated with the Practical Nursing Class of 2015," said Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN. "Her unwavering commitment to compassionate care and continued academic advancement serves as an inspiration to all who value the art and science of nursing. We are honored to welcome her back and celebrate her outstanding contributions to the profession."

Currently a Medical-Surgical Nurse at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, Conn., Lombardo delivers holistic, patient-centered care—assessing physical, psychosocial, emotional, cultural, spiritual, and discharge needs. Her role also emphasizes effective communication, both oral and written, with attention to completeness and accuracy of documentation.

Prior to joining Day Kimball Hospital, Hannah served as a High School Nurse and Substitute School Nurse for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District (DCRSD). She also worked as a Clinical Educator for St. Vincent Medical Group in Worcester.

Lombardo earned her Associate Degree in Nursing in 2023 from Quinsigamond Community College through the LPN-to-RN program, graduating with a 3.7 GPA, Dean's List distinction, and recognition as a Commonwealth Honors Student. She began her nursing journey at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, graduating in 2015 as a Clinical Excellence Award nominee.

Hannah joins a proud tradition of Bay Path alumni keynote speakers, including Kellsie Gauvin, RN (Class of 2014), Kalie Hernandez, LPN (Class of 2017), Donna Pope, LPN (Class of 2017), and Kiana McDonald, BSN, RN (Class of 2017).

Local students named to Champlain College President's List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — The following students have been named to the Champlain College President's List for achieving a grade point average of 4.0 or higher in the Spring 2025 semester:

Jillian Goyette of Fiskdale
Layne Holcomb of Wales

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 residential undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain. Additionally, Champlain College Online provides an expansive portfolio of online degrees and certificates, reaching students across all 50 states and U.S. territories, while fostering strategic partnerships with forward-thinking workforce organizations. The College is known for its distinctive and innovative approach to career-focused education and its Upside-Down Curriculum, which helps students be ready for work, ready for life, and ready to make a difference. Champlain is ranked as one of the "Best Colleges" by U.S. News & World Report for 2025, and was named one of the "Best 390 Colleges" by The Princeton Review for 2025, including among its "Best Northeastern colleges." For more information, visit www.champlain.edu.

Positive

fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

And when the results take longer than expected—when you're tempted to give up just shy of the finish line—remember this: consistency beats intensity. Showing up again, and again, and again, even on the days that feel flat or fruitless, is the hallmark of every real achievement. You don't need a perfect day. You just need another try.

As Thomas Edison put it, "Our greatest weak-

ness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

So take heart. Even if you're crawling, you're still moving. Even if it's slow, it's still forward. And in the end, the people who reach their dreams aren't always the fastest—they're the ones who didn't quit.

As Tony Robbins reminds us, "No matter how many mistakes you make or how slow you progress, you are still way ahead of everyone who isn't trying."

Keep going—not

because it's easy, but because it matters.

Because every quiet step is proof that you haven't given up on yourself.

And in the end, that's what separates dreamers from doers—and wanderers from warriors.

You don't need to be the fastest.

You just need to be the one who doesn't stop.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

Pollution

posit on nip bottles, noting there are 12 bills related to this issue now in the Legislature.

The issue in Boston has always been that it makes changes exceptionally slowly, with bills often languishing for many years. The bottle bill expansion is one of them. This cycle, that bill's number is S.2245, which adds several types of containers to the redeemable list and increases the deposit to 10 cents each.

Legislative delay prompted Chair Jamie Goodwin to say, "Mr. Mariano [the House Speaker] has to act on his bill and actually do something on it."

He said he thought the Legislature might be more willing to hear liquor businesses who support this before listening to municipalities, and noted "this needs to be communicated viciously and aggressively to Beacon Hill."

As an interim measure, Jones encouraged the creation of a local program like that in Attleboro, where the city "has a bounty on nips" as part of their "Keep Attleboro Beautiful" program. Yankee Spirits there collects and redeems them and sends the city a check regularly, she said.

Later, the board approved having Town Administrator Robin Grimm work with Jones on a similar "Keep Sturbridge Beautiful" program.

"If we can get people to bring these nips back and get them into recycling, that'd be a huge benefit to everybody," Grimm said.

Jones said several towns have tried to ban them, but "10 of the last 13 failed." One, Plymouth, approved it at their town council, but the voters repealed it at the ballot. In Chelsea, which still has one, several stores closed, and neighboring communities saw their sales rise, she said.

Jones said nips sell for multiple reasons. Some clients are older people seeking a little "for baking or cooking," other are on fixed incomes, and some seek "portion control." In her business, they comprise 8 percent of sales and would be "absolutely devastating to lose," she added.

The other two cited the same figure – 30-35 percent – but on questioning admitted that was a combination of sales where people come in for various items

that include nips. They didn't break out nips themselves.

Brady said she thinks those buyers would just "go elsewhere" if it's banned in town, and the revenue loss could result in layoffs because "every dollar we make matters." To her, the response needs to look at providing "more knowledge of how people are supposed to deal with their trash," more trash bins, higher fines for littering, and more community education.

Patel agreed, claiming nips are "used by responsible people, including seniors and those on a fixed income who prefer an affordable option." He backed putting a deposit on them.

Goodwin said three cities and several Cape Cod towns banned nips. But he expects "we're going to end up in the same place, at least right now, that we're not going to pull the rug out of our local businesses to do this, but it is a problem. ... It's an issue we're going to have to deal with."

Dowling said she did not think this was a decision for the select board, and would want such an idea to go to Town Meeting. She said her intent was simply to get more information on the concept.

Despite that, Mary Blanchard and Chase Kaitbenski moved to specifically say the town would not ban nips. That was never voted on, although the general consensus was against such a ban.

In other business, the board approved a new "Buydown Program" funded by the Affordable Housing Trust, which now has \$400,000 in it. According to Planner Jean Bubon, this uses Community Preservation funds to give up to \$100,000 grants to two homebuyers per year to help them buy homes. Those homes will then become deed-restricted in perpetuity as "affordable." People must meet income levels to qualify, and she noted they can be first-time buyers, seniors, displaced people or single parents.

The board also approved a \$69,000 contract with Tighe & Bond to continue tank rehabilitation work at the sewer plant; approved an entertainment license for the Host Hotel carnival this weekend, a liquor license for the new cinema, and short-term bonding for the Senior Center project; and reappointed several people to various boards. It also heard a request for a water bill abatement, but took no action on it.

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

ATTENDANCE

that person missed three meetings – It doesn't tell that kind of information and I think it's misleading. If I wanted to go a little further, I'd say I think there are far more egregious offenses from current and former members of this board that would warrant tracking

before something like this."

Spiewak continued to promote the idea as a step forward in transparency and accountability noting that these were among the primary concerns of local citizens in a report produced through the Town Administrator's office in recent years.

Selectwoman Barbara Zurawski made a motion to respect Lancette and

Singer's concerns and post the dashboard only after consulting with legal counsel. The motion was approved unanimously. While the board had not publicly released the results of their consultation with counsel, the dashboard has officially been posted on the Board of Selectmen page of the town website reflecting full attendance for all members during all three Board of Selectmen meetings in May.

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MASONS

Twelve Five band which brought so much energy and hits from rock of the '90's to the timeless grooves of the '70's classics, and soulful '60's Motown, jazz from the '50's and much, much more. The atmosphere was exciting. Some men wore tuxedos and ladies in gowns, but most of all the comradery meeting brethren from other lodges throughout Massachusetts and even overseas. Special guests from the Sinim Masonic Lodge from Tokyo, Japan made this long trip to witness mingle and have fun with their fellow brethren for this Golden Gavel Awards ceremony.

There were 101 entries submitted and 16 cate-

gories for the lodges to submit their nomination paperwork for. There are 214 Masonic Lodges in Massachusetts that could participate in this prestigious Golden Gavel Award event. The Quinebaug Masonic Lodge submitted nomination paperwork. One for the "Best Public Relations Project" titled Community Outreach Program. The second nomination paperwork submitted was for the "Best Outdoor/Original Degree" titled Master Mason Degree at Old Sturbridge Village. Each one of these categories had three recipients in each. The Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was chosen to be the best for these two categories and went home with two Golden Gavels.

The Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was the only lodge that evening to win and go home with 2 Golden Gavels awards. What an honor to compete with 214 other Masonic Lodges in the state of Massachusetts. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge would like to thank the surrounding community for all their support and participating in events put on by our local Masonic Lodges and Freemasonry. It is our local communities that keeps us going and thriving. Our Master masons continue to make good men even better. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and find a lodge nearest to you.

Local student graduates from Emmanuel College

NEWPORT, R.I. — Aleah Begg of Charlton was awarded a BS in Finance degree during Salve Regina University's 75th Commencement.

Salve Regina President Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong conferred 508 bachelor's de-

grees, 206 master's degrees 18 doctoral degrees and 11 doctor of nursing practice degrees to members of the Class of 2025.

Located in historic Newport, R.I. Salve Regina is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher

education, founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. Salve offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate

and graduate students from around the world are enrolled at Salve in 48 undergraduate majors, nine master's degree programs, combined bachelor's/master's programs and four doctoral programs. Every undergraduate

student engages in Salve Compass, a transformational four-year program through which they develop the experience, skills and wisdom required for a fulfilling career and to make a positive difference in the world. The Universi-

ty 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.



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Featured Listing
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*3 Bedroom *2.5 Baths

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