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Thursday-Friday, February 29-March 1, 2024

Tantasqua girls capture tournament title after watching boys win

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

WORCESTER — During the Tantasqua girls’ varsity basketball team’s practice on Friday, Feb. 23, head coach Andy Haley talked to the players about the boys’ team’s matchup later that day versus Millbury for the Clark Tournament Large Schools Championship.

“I remember saying at practice, ‘I want you to go to the gym, walk around that place, look at the lines on the floor, watch the teams celebrate and how much fun that’s going to be for us tomorrow,’” said Haley.

That was because the Warriors had a Clark Tournament Large Schools Championship game themselves on Saturday, Feb. 24 versus Northbridge.

“It was so fun. I was in the stands, we were all cheering for the boys and their game was so close,”

Turn To **GIRLS** page **A14**



Nick Ethier

By defeating Northbridge, 40-29, the Tantasqua girls’ varsity basketball team captured the Clark Tournament Large Schools Championship on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Charlton exploring renovations for pickleball court

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Pickleball has become one of the fastest growing pastimes in the United States, with demands for new courts in countless communities nationwide, including Charlton. According to local recreation officials, the

dream of a local pickleball court may not be too far away.

Charlton Recreation Commissioner Diane Doherty touched on the rise in popularity of pickleball during a discussion with the Finance Committee concerning budget priorities on Feb.

Turn To **PICKLEBALL** page **A19**

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Protestors of Southbridge High School’s administration were dealt a setback last week, when the council’s Education & Human Services committee postponed a

proposal to declare “no confidence” in the receivership.

It also postponed a related item to seek a state review of “all Title IX and bullying investigations” over the last two school years, recommending the School

Committee take up that issue first.

The concepts were introduced by EHS Chair Jasmin Rivas, who argued that recent protests show “people want the Town Council to take action.” She said she felt it would present a “united

front” and “show [the students] some kind of action, even if it’s symbolic.” By contrast, she said not doing it would “send a message” to the citizens saying just the opposite.

However, the 3-2 majority sided with an argument voiced by Council Chair Scott Lazo and School Committee Chair Martena Shea from the audience. Lazo said he and others are already working on the issue with officials in Boston, and were to meet with the mayor of Holyoke that Friday. They urged waiting for a couple weeks – the postponement motion specifically delayed it to after March 11’s Council meeting – to see what happens.

“My political savvy tells me this is not a time to do this” because of “all the irons we have in the fire,” Lazo said.

He said he didn’t want to see the situation become “a circus atmosphere” and feared doing this now could actually delay ending receivership because “you just ticked off the people who wanted to help you.”

Shea agreed, saying “We are very, very mad. ... Our community is mad, but you don’t act out of mad. You make a plan and take steps.”

Ironically, both sides argued on behalf of a unified front facing the state. Afterward, a couple of School Committee members noted they have also been speaking to Holyoke and Lawrence. Those are the other two receivership districts; there are also some individual schools in receivership around the state.

Turn To **COUNCIL** page **A14**

Warriors rally past Millbury for Clark Tournament title

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

WORCESTER — The Tantasqua and Millbury boys’ varsity basketball teams know each other, and know each other well. The Southern Worcester County League A Division rivals met twice during regular season play. First, the Woolies took care of the Warriors back on Dec. 18, 54-44, before Tantasqua returned the favor to Millbury, 55-49, on Jan. 22.

The Warriors and Woolies got to renew their rivalry in a rubber match that wasn’t just an ordinary game. Sixth seeded Tantasqua and No. 4 Millbury got to settle it all at the Kneller Center for the Clark Tournament Large Schools Championship on Friday, Feb. 23.

After a slow start where the Warriors trailed at the half, 28-17, they continued to chip away over the next two quarters. The Woolies led, 42-41, before Tantasqua’s James Sciaraffa ultimately hit the game-winning 3-pointer with under 30 seconds to play, lifting the Warriors to a 44-42 victory.



Nick Ethier

The Tantasqua boys’ varsity basketball team defeated Millbury, 44-42, for the Clark Tournament Large Schools Championship on Friday, Feb. 23.

“They didn’t care about anything other than winning. James Sciaraffa made a huge shot at the end, and not one guy on our team cares that it was him and not them,” explained Tantasqua head coach Scott Dion. “We’re all

rowing the boat in the same direction. When you do that, it can be pretty powerful in high school.”

On the winning sequence, Sciaraffa (13 points) received a pass from teammate Elijah Webb near the left elbow.

Sciaraffa looked around, realized how open he was, and confidently sank the 3-pointer.

“I was wide open. At first, I was going to swing it back to (Webb). But I was open, and I had to take it. I was too open,” said Sciaraffa.

The Warriors then survived the final two Millbury possessions. First, Kenny Donnelly’s 3-pointer was no good. The Woolies then got the ball back, and Anthony Phillippo’s layup wouldn’t fall. Jack Rapose secured

Turn To **BOYS** page **A14**

Local Scout troop turns five

STURBRIDGE — In 2019, the Boy Scouts of America opened its flagship program ‘Boy Scouts’ to females and re-named it ‘Scouts BSA.’ The efforts to form Troop 163 began early in 2018, securing a chartering organization, recruiting key leaders, and then promoting the new troop. Their first meeting was on Feb. 3, 2019, and their charter paperwork was submitted to Heart of New England Council, BSA on Feb. 5.

“I knew it was coming as they opened up Cub Scouts to include females in 2018, after that I started looking and asking and making it known we needed a troop and needed to have the ball rolling ready to start as soon as February of 2019 came around,” recalls Chrissy, their Scoutmaster.

The troop started with seven Scouts and eight adult volunteers. It was the first in the area and the first troop to submit their charter paperwork with the Heart of New England Council.

The very first youth members of the troop came from all over, primarily Sturbridge but there were some from Brookfield, one from Charlton, and

even one Scout coming all the way from Fitchburg.

“It was a bit of a misunderstanding,” said Erin, the troop’s first Eagle Scout. “I thought Chrissy said ‘Sterling,’ not Sturbridge.”

Erin and Chrissy knew each other through Scouts, as Erin was a youth and Chrissy an Associate Advisor in Crew 1, based in Gardner.

“I was just excited to be joining a troop, I think I would have traveled even further, but was happy it was only an hour away,” Erin commented.

Much like the Scouts, the leaders came from all over as well, most from Sturbridge, but some of the committee came from Winchendon and Fitchburg.

During their first year, the troop grew from seven to 10 Scouts and had nine adult volunteers. They went to summer camp, at Camp Wanocksett in Dublin, New Hampshire, attended the American Legion Camporee, registered as a Scouts for Equality Unit, earned 35 merit badges, 22 ranks, performed more than 100 community service hours,



participated in more than 25 nights of camping, and became a Gold Level unit under the Journey to Excellence standards. (JTE standards measure program opportunities, membership growth, leader training, and committee commitment.)

Flash forward to Feb. 4, 2024, the troop celebrated its fifth birthday and the accomplishments of their Scouts during that time. There was food, entertainment, guest speakers and presentation. Ranks and badges were presented to Scouts along with a special recognition of those who were founding members of the troop. It all concluded with a big cake, a troop version of ‘most likely to,’ a slide show, and lots of laughs.

The troop has grown to 19 Scouts and 15 adult volunteers. They’re still a regional troop with Scouts coming from Sturbridge and the surrounding towns but also Worcester, Douglas, and Monson. In total, they have earned more than 375 merit badges, more than 150 ranks, participated in close to 1,000 community service hours, more than 130 camping nights, earned JTE Gold every year, and that’s on top of all the other stuff they do. It has produced four Eagle Scouts; another had just recently completed their project and there are two more in the early stages of project planning.

Members of the troop have served on staff at the National Scout Jambo-ree and the World Scout Jambo-ree. They have staff council and district events; several Scouts are on camp staff

and some will be Counselors in Training this summer and many go to summer camp for multiple weeks. Twelve members of the troop are members of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting’s National Honor Society, two have attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference. Nine of their adults have taken Wood Badge, which is an advanced leadership training and seven of their adults also have roles beyond the troop serving the district, council and/or section within the BSA. Coming up this summer two of them are heading to Boulder CO for the National Order of the Arrow Conference, one is heading to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico for a weeklong backpacking trek and twenty-four are heading to the Florida Keys in 2025 for a weeklong ocean adventure which includes snorkeling, ocean kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing, and more.

They have been deep sea fishing, rock climbing, ice climbing; had paint nights, gone bowling, been indoor sky-diving. They’ve visited the State Police for a tour and chat about drugs and internet safety, the Sturbridge Police came to a meeting to teach them basic self-defense strategies and maneuvers, a counselor came to speak to them about dating and healthy relationships.

“The Scouting program is so much more than ranks, badges, and camping. There are so many opportunities out there for them to participate in. We can’t do it all but it’s not up to me to limit their opportunities. I want them to experience as much as possible, and it’s up to us as leaders to show them how much is available to them,” Chrissy said after rattling off a list of troop activity highlights. “Scouting is so much more than a troop meeting, it’s literally a world-wide movement. This year some of our Scouts are hoping to participate in JOTA/I (Jam-

boree over the Air/Internet) where Scouts from all over the world connect via the internet and Hamm radios participating in various activities and events, that’s so awesome!”

As with anything there are good times and then there are the not so good times. Recruitment, membership growth and finding adults to volunteer is always challenging. The biggest challenge to date was Covid. It forced a patrol based, outdoor focused program to re-think and adapt to a new way of doing things. Several units stopped meeting and many saw a drop in membership.

“No way was I going to let [Covid] stop us; we just got started. We always joke about their being 26 letters in the alphabet, if plan A fails, try plan B, C, and right on down the line,” Chrissy said.

The troop did just that, and ended up welcoming seven new Scouts to the troop during and shortly after the lockdown.

“We just kept on going, as safely as possible,” Chrissy explained.

They created guidelines for meetings and activities, the BSA adapted and modified requirements to meet the needs of a lock down, and the troop kept going. They got creative with their fundraising coming up with a drive through baked potato bar, rather than having in person dinners, used online meeting platforms, and met outdoors rather than indoors for meetings.

What’s their key to success? It’s several things: keep it fun, make it meaningful, everything is a learning opportunity whether they realize it or not.

Kalea, current Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, reflected on her time in the troop. Turn To **SCOUTS** page **A19**

WEBSTER-DUDLEY VETERANS SERVICE

PART TIME CLERK POSITION 19 HOURS

The Town of Dudley is seeking a qualified professional to serve as the Veterans’ Services Clerk. This position falls under the direction of the Director of Veteran Services.

Candidate must have excellent organizational skills with the ability to manage time effectively, computer proficiency is required along with writing ability. Knowledge of departmental operations and exercise judgment in responding to the needs of our veterans. Attend veterans-oriented trainings and educational courses as required, assists with community events such as Memorial Day and Veteran Day parades, and helps veterans in completing applications for State and Federal Veteran benefits.

A high school education or GED is required with one year of office experience. Salary is \$20.28/hour.

Please send a cover letter and resume to townadmin2@dudleyma.gov.

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

Friday’s Child



Joziah
Age 15

Hi! My name is Jo^ziah and I want to be a mechanic!

Joziah is a kind, sensitive and loyal friend. He is athletic and enjoys being physically active. Jo^ziah is described as a “sports kid.” He likes to play basketball and other sports with his friends. Jo^ziah has participated in various community sports leagues and wants to continue to have this kind of community involvement.

Joziah is outgoing and likes to engage with staff and peers at school. Jo^ziah also enjoys spending time with his friends outside of school.

Joziah will benefit from a family of any constellation. He should be either the youngest child or

the only child in the home. Jo^ziah can take his time forming strong, trusting relationships, so a family should be patient and supportive during the transition. The right family for Jo^ziah will be supportive of his relationship with his sister and two brothers.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7957>

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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.



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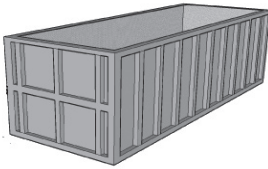


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Courtesy
Staff from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office deliver Random Acts of Kindness goody bags to the staff at the Charlton Public Library.



Courtesy
Staff from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office deliver Random Acts of Kindness goody bags to Tradewinds Clubhouse in Southbridge.



Courtesy
Staff from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office deliver Random Acts of Kindness goody bags to the staff at the Sturbridge Town Hall.

Sheriff's Office inspires kindness one community at a time

REGION — For their third year, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and Worcester County Sheriff's Office staff celebrated the nationally recognized Random Acts of Kindness Week, this year during the week of Feb. 12. The goal of this week is to inspire acts of kindness throughout the county.

To spread joy and inspire kindness, Sheriff's Office staff successfully executed their mission to visit every community in Worcester County during the Random Acts of Kindness week. Staff distributed more than 3,500 goody bags filled with donated items to lucky individuals they met at various public places. The bags serve as a symbol of support and care from local law enforcement.

at the Charlton Public Library, Tradewinds Clubhouse in Southbridge, and Sturbridge Town Hall, as well as a handful of other locations throughout the town.

With its motto, 'Make Kindness the Norm,' the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation was founded during a mid-1990s summer when violence was at an all-time high on the West Coast. Inspiration to start the organization came from a television reporter who noted that people should stop reporting on "random acts of violence" and start 'practicing random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty.' This foundation is now the driving force behind Random Acts of Kindness Week in the United States.

This year, Tito's Handmade Vodka and Polar Beverages were the bag sponsors of the initiative. With the support of the two organizations, the Sheriff's Office, and the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff Association were able to acquire the 3,500 goody bags at no cost.

"Our duty as a law enforcement agency is to build bridges and strengthen the bond between our department and the communities we serve," commented Evangelidis. "Our team takes immense pride in contributing towards the betterment of Worcester County and always looks for ways to spread positivity. We understand the significance of ensuring public safety and are committed to reinforcing that message. Let us all strive to make positivity the focus of this week."

The Sheriff's Office hosts community events year-round to engage the residents that they serve. To learn more about the Sheriff's Office, visit their Web site at www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com, or follow along on social media for consistent updates.

Lions Cartoon Character Breakfast a huge success

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club, hosted its 31st Annual Cartoon Character Breakfast, serving more than 500 kids, families, and friends on Feb. 11, Super Bowl Sunday.

For many families, this is a multigenerational event where parents get to watch their children dance with their favorite cartoon characters, just as they did when they were that age. A hearty breakfast of pancakes and ham was prepared by Lions' members, along with a great soundtrack for dancing and having fun. Among the special guests to make an appearance were Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Spider Man, Batman, Bob the Builder, and Buzz Lightyear just to name a few.

A special thank you goes out to the following friends, businesses, and organizations whose support continually helps make this event the success it is, including Sue Guerin, the National Honor Society and Student Council from Southbridge High School and their advisor Lisa Dyer; the National Honor Society from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, the Bay Path Leo Club and their advisor Kara Donovan, students from the Bay Path Culinary shop, our extra character helpers, Ben Tully, Judy LaRochelle, Big Bunny Market, St. John Paul II Parish, the staff of the Southbridge Community Center, Garelick Farms, H.P. Hood Company, Country Side Farms, The Southbridge News, and Kerrin Graphics.

The success of this event is a result of the overwhelming support we received again this year from Southbridge and our surrounding communities—thank you! All proceeds will benefit local charitable organizations, schools, community events and individuals who need a helping hand.

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Sturbridge selectmen look at staffing, alcohol, DPW issues

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Selectmen took a look at a lot of little items at their last meeting, including staffing, alcohol issues, and the regular DPW report.

Regarding staffing, town Administrator Robin Grimm proposed changes to the recently-created pool clerk's job. She said she intends to split it into two part-time posts in light of the exit interview of Krystal Kowalski, whose resignation was accepted at that meeting.

While there is a need for the various functions of a floater like that, she noted she's seen that “what we were told the needs of the departments are” differ from

what they actually seem to be. The duties seem to concentrate in specific times of day and/or for specific situations (an example she gave is one Kowalski is moving to – part-time election season help), so she'll rearrange the jobs to suit those.

Grimm and the board also discussed the process for hiring a new conservation agent. Grimm said she plans to have herself, DPW Director Heather Blakeley and Planner Jean Bubon interview the candidates, and pass the finalist to the Conservation Chair to see what he thinks.

But when Mary Dowling suggested having a ConCom member on the

interview panel, Grimm said that would make her feel “very uncomfortable” because of the fact the agent works with the board but doesn't work for the board, and Grimm didn't want to create a potential conflict there. She said she might consider having “somebody in that line of work” as an interviewer, but not from Sturbridge; she compared it to hiring a police or fire chief by finding an outside chief to help interview them.

At this point, she added, they've received “several applications,” and the deadline is March 1. Part of what she's seeking is “beyond qualifications. It's also personality and fit” with others in town hall,

she said.

The board added to staff by rehiring Brad Merkel as a police officer. Chief Earl Dessert said he'd served briefly last year before going back to Warren, but had done well here and can hit the road immediately. The chief said the department has one more opening, but has not received any qualified applicants yet.

On the other hand, he also sent the board a letter, read by Chase Kaitbenski, honoring a student who's not yet an officer. Devon Kingman, who's in the current academy class in Holyoke, was recently en route to training with other students when they came across a “serious traffic accident” and responded to the scene until Holyoke EMS could arrive. The chief's letter credited him with a “life-saving

car rescue” and urged him to continue his “strong” performance.

Regarding alcohol issues, the board had two very quick public hearings on changes in ownership and stock interests at Yankee Spirits and Altruist Brewing. Both drew no public comments and were approved unanimously.

On the other hand, a proposal to seek additional package store licenses went over like a lead balloon.

Grimm said a resident contacted her to ask if the town could petition the state for additional licenses, but she said that person didn't even have a location in mind for such a business. Grimm noted it's illegal for the town to “sit on” a liquor license, so even if Sturbridge did seek it, the proponent might not be the one who actually gets it.

Normally, towns get liquor licenses based on their population, but Dowling said Sturbridge has already exceeded its cap twice and has no cap on pouring licenses because of its tourist traffic.

None of the selectmen backed the idea, with Dowling saying she felt it was “being targeted for one individual” and would “definitely” not support seeking two or three such licenses. Kaitbenski agreed, noting the town already has “the largest liquor store in Massachusetts” and several smaller packies.

Grimm said she'd tell the man he can petition Town Meeting to do it, but the board isn't supportive.

Regarding DPW, the board approved a grant-funded contract with the Collins Center to update the town's accessibility plan

as “the first step toward getting our Disability Commission going,” Grimm said. Additionally, they approved hiring Beta Group to update the town's pavement management plan. Blakeley did

the same thing in Southbridge, and said “the program's pretty interactive,” enabling Sturbridge to prioritize roads for various kinds of treatments

Turn To **STURBRIDGE**
page **A19**

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Shepherd Hill Regional High School
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Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

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FISKDALE: 508-347-6486
Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

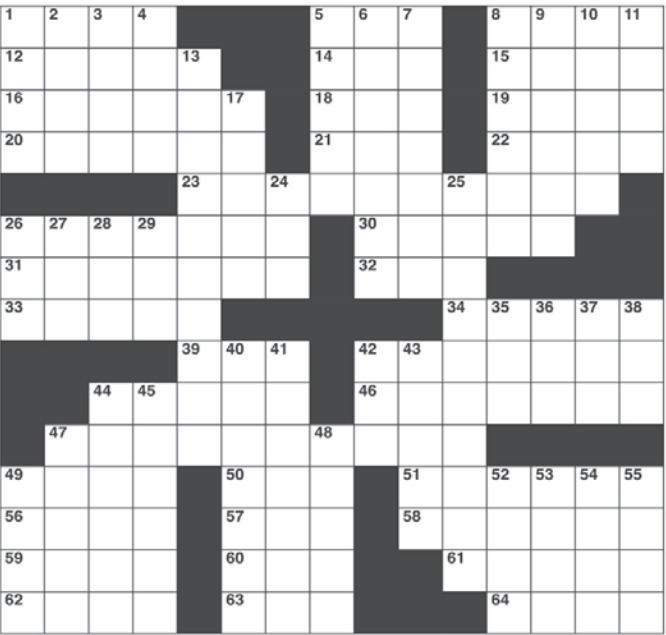
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Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

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Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.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
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale**- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone 508-347-7297
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:30 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church**
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11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky

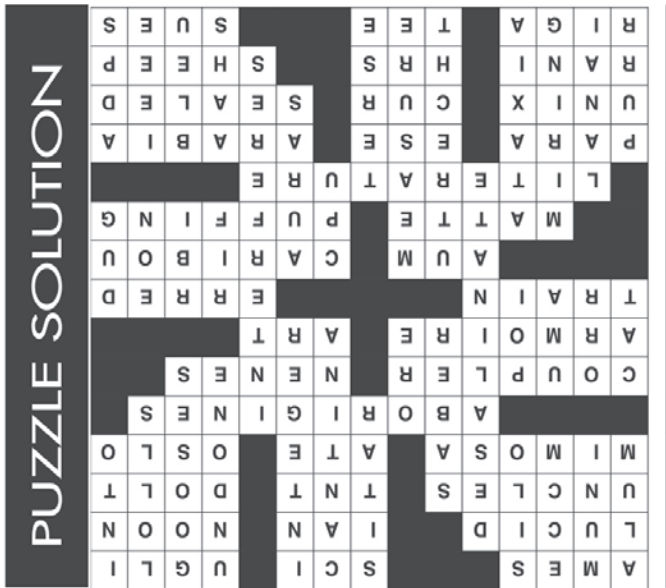


CLUES ACROSS

1. Home of Iowa State University
5. ___-fi (slang)
8. Mottled green and yellow fruit
12. Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly
14. Sports broadcaster Eagle
15. Midday
16. Kinsmen
18. Cable network
19. Simpleton
20. Brunch beverage
21. Fed
22. European capital
23. Native inhabitants
26. Mechanical device
30. Rare geese native to Hawaii
31. Bedroom furnishing
32. The products of human creativity
33. Mass transit option
34. Made a mistake
39. Sacred sound symbol
42. Large N. American reindeer
44. Dull and flat
46. Partner to huffing
47. Written works
49. Monetary unit of Serbia
50. Midway between east and southeast
51. Peninsula of southwestern Asia
56. Widely used multiuser OS
57. Aggressive dog
58. Varnished
59. Hindu queen
60. Time units, abbr.
61. Farm animals
62. Capital of Latvia
63. Where golfers begin
64. Takes to civil court

CLUES DOWN

1. One who graduated
2. An inspired holy person
3. Electronic counter-countermeasures
4. A place to store things
5. Indian instrument
6. Spanish saloon
7. Whole number
8. Not fastened
9. Gives a boost
10. Lounges about
11. Interested in
13. Remove salt
17. Type of sword
24. Naturally occurring solid material
25. Gets involved without being invited
26. Feline
27. Bobby __, NHL champ
28. “Kill Bill” actress Thurman
29. Hawaiian dish
35. Moroccan coastal region
36. Baseball statistic
37. Long period of time
38. Moved earth
40. Central Netherlands city
41. Take stock of
42. Central processing unit
43. Distinctive qualities one generates
44. Getting stuck
45. Loss of bodily movements
47. Veranda
48. Abrupt
49. What cats do
52. Expresses pleasure
53. Type of cheese
54. Professional STEM organization
55. Automatic data processing systems



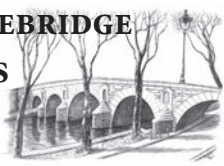
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EDITORIAL

How
about this
weather?

“How about this weather?”

If ever there was an easy, non-challenging conversation opener, this is it. You can be in line at the grocery store, serving jury duty or pushing papers around at work – it doesn’t matter where you are - this line never fails.

Everyone seems willing to talk about the weather. It’s a built-in, slam-dunk, easy topic that allows complete strangers to either commiserate or celebrate, depending on the daily meteorological situation.

So, what is it with the weather? Why do we love to discuss, comment and re-hash it?

Weather is complicated, frustrating and ultimately uncertain. Weather breaks our hearts and lifts our moods and forces daily choices for everyone. Weather drives our decisions, affects our attitudes and makes fellow survivors out of strangers.

Weather is our most true common denominator. No matter what our life circumstances - student, professional, retiree – when you live in the same geographic area, you and your fellow community members have the weather in common.

Weather doesn’t care about politics or sports teams or vacations or the date on the calendar. It is an equal opportunity annoyer and a great equalizer – everyone has to drive in snow, or dash to the car in the rain, or stand in long lines at the fair in the hot sun. Almost everyone has had a picnic cancelled, a vacation spoiled or a ball game rained out.

But weather is also the unexpectedly warm, sunny, sweet-smelling spring morning that causes smiles and banter with co-workers. It’s the light snow flurries that add sparkle to early December and prompts holiday greetings between shoppers. It’s the crisp, snappy feel of fall football games and the slow, sultry, humidity of summer evenings spent on backyard patios. It’s the backdrop of every day of our lives.

So, what is it with the weather? Maybe we love the topic because it’s universal. Maybe we love the excitement of something that will change – either for the good or the bad. Maybe it’s that it is temporary and fleeting and something to either be withstood or enjoyed, knowing that it will not last. Maybe it’s simply because weather is always with us... whether we like it or not.

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

Fast food: A problem for our souls

We have entered a world where eating has become almost a nuisance. Gone are the days of family dinners. Rare are the times of extended family celebrations. We are on the run and dashing from one event to another. Fast food, in the form of drive-thru window dinners, grab and go meals at convenience stores, and quick bites packed in our bags for the road, is the way. We meal plan by considering what we can make and consume fast enough to get to the next thing on our calendar. The problem is that while these quick meals may give us the caloric gas we need to accomplish our tasks; they are absent the human interaction that sit-down meals encourage. Fast food and quick meals are not good for our souls.

In my faith, as in many, eating is a holy and sacred event. It is sacred because of the blessings it reminds us of, and also because it bonds those eating together. In Christianity, there are many stories of Jesus sitting, eating, and sharing in meals. In fact, communal meals are a foundational part of his ministry and his teachings.

Taking the time to sit down and eat mindfully calls to our attention the interconnectedness that life really requires. When we grab and go, we reduce ourselves to Auto-bots: appreciated for what we do and simply fed so that we might do more. To gather for a meal is a time not just to eat, but a time of camaraderie and conversation. Mealtime should be a time not just to savor food but also relationships. Meals offer us a time to reconnect, to share with others our experiences, to listen to others’ per-

BEYOND THE
PEWS
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BY
BY REV. DAWN M.
ADAMS
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
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spectives, and to feel seen and valued. It is a time for soul to be fed as much as our body.

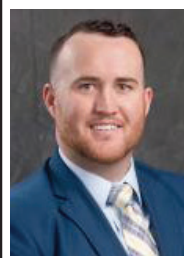
Unfortunately, our meal habits are yet another example of how we are forgetting our human need for connection; and in this forgetting, we are losing our capacity for empathy and our appreciation for the small things. We seem to be caught up in an endless cycle of productivity and personalization such that we are disconnecting ourselves from those around us and, because of that, oddly, also disconnected from our true selves.

Recently, I have been reading a book called “Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating,” and in it, author Norman Wirzba says, “Food is about relationships that join us to the earth, fellow creatures, loved ones and guests, and ultimately god.” When we extract ourselves from these relationships by eating fast and simply fulfilling our dietary needs, we are losing the very essence of life and joy. Eating is more than simply chewing and digesting. It is in the sharing of meals and sitting face-to-face with others that we can find the sacred.

In a world where we are becoming more and more self-contained, from groceries delivered to our house, to private commutes, and personal devices, we need the community table. We need to be reminded that the world is bigger than our concerns, our perspective, our needs. We need the nurture of our shared challenges. We need the comfort of others in our sorrow and their celebration in our joys. Eating together is a great place to facilitate these deeper relationships.

Turn To PEWS page A7

How can women bridge
the retirement gap?



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March 8 is International Women’s Day, a day for celebrating all the accomplishments of women around the globe. But many women still need to make up ground in one key area: retirement security.

Women’s challenges in achieving a secure retirement are due to several factors, including these:

Pay gap – It’s smaller than it once was, but a wage gap still exists between men and women. In fact, women earn, on average, about 82 cents for every dollar that men earn, according to the Census Bureau. And even though this gap narrows considerably at higher educational levels, it’s still a source of concern. Women who earn less than men will likely contribute less to 401(k) plans and will ultimately see smaller Social Security checks.

Longer lives – At age 65, women live, on average, about 20 more years, compared to almost 17 for men, according to the Social Security Administration. Those extra years mean extra expenses.

Caregiving responsibilities – Traditionally, women have done much of the caregiving for young children and older parents. And while this caregiving is done with love, it also comes with financial sacrifice. Consider this: The average employment-related costs for mothers providing unpaid care is nearly \$300,000 over a lifetime, according to the U.S. Department of Labor — which translates to a reduction of 15 percent of lifetime earnings. Furthermore, time away from the workforce results in fewer contributions to 401(k) and other employer-sponsored retirement plans.

Ultimately, these issues can leave women with a retirement security deficit. Here are some moves that can help close this gap:

Contribute as much as possible to retirement plans. Try to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. Your earnings can grow tax deferred and your contributions can lower your taxable income. (With a Roth 401(k), contributions aren’t deductible, but earnings and withdrawals are tax free, provided you meet certain conditions.) At a minimum, contribute enough to earn your employer’s matching contribution, if one is offered, and try to boost your contributions whenever your salary goes up. If you don’t have access to a 401(k), but you have earned income, you can contribute to an IRA. Even if you don’t have earned income, but you have a spouse who does, you might be eligible to contribute to a spousal IRA.

Maximize Social Security benefits. You can start taking Social Security at 62, but your monthly checks will be much bigger if you can afford to wait until your full retirement age, which will be around 66 and a half. If you are married, you may want to coordinate your benefits with those of your spouse — in some cases, it makes sense for the spouse with the lower benefits to claim first, based on their earnings record, and apply for spousal benefits later, when the spouse with higher benefits begins to collect.

Build an emergency fund. Try to build an emergency fund containing up to six months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. Having this fund available will help protect you from having to dip into your retirement accounts for large, unexpected costs, such as a major home or car repair.

It’s unfortunate, but women still must travel a more difficult road than men to reach retirement security. But making the right moves can help ease the journey.

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

Stocking Wallum Lake

I c e fishing on local ponds is about over, as this week’s warm weather pretty much made most ponds unsafe to navigate! A reminder that all fishing on Wallum Lake in Douglas is now closed, as the lake falls under Rhode Island regulations. Wallum will reopen on the second Saturday, April 13 this year!

Hopefully, Massachusetts and Rhode Island will both stock the lake with trout prior to April 13. Wallum Lake provides the only opening day for trout fishermen in Mass., and is one of the most popular fishing spots in the state for trout anglers.

Wallum Lake has provided anglers with some great fishing over the years, and can be fished by fishermen that have a license in Mass. or Rhode Island. Wallum Lake is an interstate body of water that provides some great trout fishing, but also provides some great smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing!

Back many years ago, the popular fishing hole has provided some great memories for many families that enjoy trout fishing. Wallum Lake received some broodstock salmon, which added to the excitement of catching trout during the springtime fishing season.

Wallum Lake went through numerous changes over the years, some for the better and some not so good. Wallum Lake was poisoned by the state many years ago, and was part of the state’s reclamation of numerous ponds in the state.

They were hoping to make Wallum Lake a trout and salmon fishery, but soon realized it was not possible. Acid rain was one of the major problems with the lake.

Mass. & Rhode Island tried to make Wallum Lake a trophy brown trout pond, and it was working well for a number of years. Both states worked to get a smelt population going at Wallum as a good food source for the brown trout. Catching four & five Brown trout was a blast at Wallum for a number



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE



Courtesy

This week’s picture shows this writer’s two dogs Molly the beagle and Twig the yellow Lab. Molly is 13, and Twig is 14 years old. Plenty of exercise and a good brand of dog food has kept them in good physical shape! Twig was still hunting this past fall and my hopes are high for another pheasant season.

of years, but the hopes of establishing a good population of smelt at the lake as a forage fish was not working because of acid rain. Their last effort to provide Wallum with a good population of smelt was dropped, and shoal spawning smelt were introduced into the lake. It was a big success, and their populations are still there. This writer worked with MFW to secure a company called Living Lakes to spread tons of lime into the lake to reverse the acid rain problem, and it worked but the state gave up on the trophy brown trout idea, just when the problem was solved.

Now Mass. is only interested in stocking trout, with no program to have local lakes produce large hold-over trout. More on Wallum Lake in the coming weeks!

The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club is holding trap shooting for members and non-members starting at 10 a.m. every Saturday. Pistol Clay shoots under the lights Wednesday’s and they have opened their membership to 49 new members, for a total of 299 members. If you want to join a fast growing club with all of the club’s activities to enjoy, call the club or visit the club’s Web site. Do not be left out of this great opportunity to join this great club. Pioneer Arms is also giving special discounts to club members. Check it out!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Classic Lenten Recipes

Looking for tasty meatless meals for Lent or dietary reasons? Mid-century recipe files were full of handwritten recipes to help harried housewives come up with interesting dinners – sans the meat! Read on for some authentic boomer recipes that are not only nostalgic – but delicious!

And readers, send in your favorite meatless recipes for a chance to win a three course Dinner for Two at the Publick House in Sturbridge!

Salmon Croquettes

Salmon croquettes, a staple Lenten dish from days gone by, are still a flavorful meatless choice today:

Ingredients (for patties): one cup mashed potatoes; one 6½-ounce can salmon, drained; one egg, beaten; one tbsp. minced onion; 1/4 teaspoon salt; dash black pepper; dash cayenne pepper; 1/4-1/2 cup dry unseasoned bread crumbs;

Ingredients (for dredging): 1 egg slightly beaten; 1/2 cup seasoned bread crumbs

In a bowl, mix the first seven ingredients, adding enough bread crumbs so that the mixture can be handled and is not too sticky. Form patties.

Dip patties into the slightly beaten egg and coat in seasoned bread crumbs. Refrigerate in a single layer for about an hour.

Deep fry until golden brown, (or cook in air fryer until browned). Serve with tartar sauce

Classic tartar Sauce recipe:

Mix together: one cup mayonnaise; one tablespoon sweet pickle relish; one teaspoon yellow mustard; one teaspoon lemon juice.

Crab Cakes

This quick and easy recipe is a throwback from the 1960s that utilizes the convenience of canned fish and Ritz crackers!

Ingredients: 16 ounce canned crabmeat, drained; two tablespoons

olive oil; six chopped green onions; 8 ounces Ritz crackers (about 2.5 sleeves); one large egg; one tablespoon mayonnaise; on teaspoon dry mustard; one teaspoon garlic powder; ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper; ¼ teaspoon Old Bay seasoning; one cup bread crumbs (panko or non-seasoned); olive oil.

Directions: Cook green onions in olive oil until soft. In a bowl mix together the onions; crabmeat, crushed crackers, egg, mayonnaise, dry mustard, garlic powder, cayenne pepper; garlic powder, Old Bay seasoning, salt, and pepper. Form into patties and coat with bread crumbs. Fry until golden brown on each side; drain on paper towel. Or cook in air fryer until browned and crisp.

Shrimp Casserole

Casseroles were common fare for mid-century dinners, and Lent was no exception. This seafood recipe calls for a long, oval casserole dish (yes, they had different shaped dishes for specialty casse-

roles!) but you can use a flat glass baking dish.

Ingredients: 2 ½ lbs. shrimp, deveined, peeled and cooked; 1 cup cooked rice; one cup sharp cheddar cheese; one can condensed cream of mushroom soup; ½ cup green onions, chopped; ½ cup celery, chopped; one stick of butter; 8 lemons, sliced very thin

Directions: Mix together the shrimp; rice, cheese and soup. Meanwhile, saute onions and celery in the butter until softened. Add to shrimp mixture, and pour into a long, flat casserole dish. Overlap lemon slices over the top. Cover and cook in a 375 degree oven for 20-30 minutes.

Broccoli and Macaroni
This was one of my favorite Lenten meals growing up! Easy and delicious, it offers a change from fish on Fridays.

Ingredients: 6 cups broccoli florets; Olive oil (as desired); eight garlic cloves, chopped; one tablespoon salt; one box



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

Ziti macaroni, cooked; ½ cup Romano cheese, grated; two tablespoons Italian flat leaf parsley, chopped.

Directions: Heat about a half cup of olive oil over medium heat, add broccoli and salt to the pan, adding more oil as needed for broccoli to be browned and as soft as you like it. Once done, add garlic and cook for another minute or two; be sure not to burn garlic. Add cooked macaroni to the pot and mix with Romano cheese; garnish with parsley.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in

Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a 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.

Never tell them they're wrong

Enemies. We all have them. Some people are your enemy, and you don't even know it. They may have been motivated by jealousy or envy, or maybe they misinterpreted something you said to them once and felt slighted. Since then, they've been quietly undermining you at worst, and at best, they may just be waiting for their moment.

There are a million ways to make an enemy. Maybe you accidentally took someone's favorite pen, and they've sworn a vendetta. Or perhaps you got the last slice of pizza at a party, not knowing it was earmarked for someone else, sparking a silent, saucy rivalry. Let's not forget the classic "reply all" email faux pas, where you accidentally shared your not-so-flattering opinion on the month-

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

Nobody wants an enemy, do they? I don't. Some say that if you don't have any enemies, then you're not doing it right.

Winston Churchill said, "If you don't have any enemies in life, then you haven't stood up for anything."

He's probably talking about a different type of enemy than what I'm about to present.

While leafing through one of the most popular self-help books ever written, "How to Win Friends and Influence People," I came across one sure-fire way to not make an enemy.

ly birthday cake choices with the entire office. And I'm sure there are some listed elsewhere.

Imagine you're in a team meeting discussing the direction of the upcoming project. You believe that focusing on digital marketing will yield the best return on investment, arguing, "Considering our target demographic spends most of their time online, it's evident that digital marketing is where we should be allocating the majority of our budget."

Your coworker, however, believes traditional marketing methods like print and television ads will have a broader reach, countering, "Our brand's strength has always been its appeal to a wide audience, and traditional media gives us that visibility."

Your ego flares up at this moment, tempted to dismiss their perspective outright. You might feel

inclined to assert, "That approach is outdated and inefficient. Wait until we see the results from focusing solely on traditional methods and missing out on the digital audience. Then we'll see who's right."

Often, our ego comes up, and the ego always wants to be correct. This temptation to prove your point without fully considering their viewpoint can quickly turn a professional disagreement into a personal conflict.

Now, you may be right. Your reasoning may be sound. But you must also consider that other people almost always want to be correct. Whether you know it or not, you insulted their intelligence, and now they're your enemy.

Enemy is a strong word, but whatever the case, they almost certainly see

this as a challenge. Why wouldn't they? You told them they're not seeing the big picture. Now they have something to prove.

Now, you've got a situation on your hands because you were right and made them feel silly about it, and they're now going to want their chance to make you seem foolish.

What's a way to avoid this? Well. It's straightforward. You can begin by saying, "Well, now, look, I thought otherwise, but I may be wrong. I frequently am, and if I'm wrong, I want to put it right. Let's examine the facts."

Nobody will object to you admitting that you could be wrong, and let's examine the facts!

It's a curious thing about us humans: we can change our minds

in a heartbeat over the smallest things, no drama involved. But the moment someone tells us we're wrong? That's when the walls go up, and we stand our ground harder than ever.

Telling someone they're wrong is a dead-end strategy, especially in a way that might make them feel less than brilliant. You could throw every fact and figure their way, and more often than not, they'll stick to their guns, convinced of their rightness, even if it's just in the privacy of their thoughts.

So, how do we navigate this tricky terrain? Dale Carnegie hit the nail when he said, "Show respect for the other person's opinions. Never say, 'You're wrong.'" It's as simple as that.

Gear up for the 2024 garden season

It's never too early to prepare for the garden season ahead. Having the right tool for the job saves time, reduces the frustration of trying to make the wrong tool work, and allows you to garden longer with less muscle fatigue.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Take an inventory of all your tools. Be sure to check the shed, garage, or tool caddy. Make a list of those that need to be replaced or need an update. This is also a good time to clean and sharpen those tools you plan to use in the coming growing season.

As you update your tools, you may want to purchase a few hand tools

with comfortable wooden handles and carbon steel heads. The wood adds a natural aesthetic that goes hand in hand with gardening.

Make sure you have the right shovels for those frequent digging tasks. Perhaps it is time to invest in a long-handled shovel with a narrow head that allows you to dig in small spaces.

Corona's DigMaster Nursery Shovel has a hardened steel blade and a handle for durability and long life. The ComfortGel grip allows you to keep working longer.

Like digging with the right-sized shovel, dead-heading flowers with the right tool makes it easier and you're more likely to get the job done. For those with a lot of dead-heading, select one with an ergonomic design, a finger loop for better control, and an easy-release lock like Corona's Ergo Dead Header Snips.

Late winter and early spring are also the time to do a bit of trimming and

pruning on indoor plants. Pruners and snips with specially shaped blades, like the Corona BP14623 Houseplant Pruner, make trimming individual leaves and stems easier, ensuring you make the cut where planned.

A scoop comes in handy when placing potting mix or fertilizer in containers. The more you use it, the more uses you will discover for scoops like Corona's Multi-Scoop with a stainless-steel scoop and ComfortGel grip.

If you struggle to haul soil, mulch, and plants to the garden bed, it may be time to invest in a garden cart. Wheelbarrows are a traditional favorite but how about a four-wheeled cart with pneumatic tires to make moving the load over rough ground easier? Consider one with sides that fold down for easier loading and unloading. Or perhaps one with a dumping mechanism, like Corona's CR1000 Poly Dump Cart, that makes it easy to empty loads of mulch and soil where it is needed.

And don't forget about the young gardeners in your life. Having their own set of properly sized hand tools, long-handled tools, and of course, a wheelbarrow will make working with you in the garden even more special. Kids, like adults, benefit from spending time in the garden. Give them their own garden patch or row to dig, plant, and tend. You'll all have more fun.

When upgrading your garden tools, consider



Courtesy — Corona Tools

The long-handled Digmaster nursery shovel with its narrow head makes it easy to dig even in small spaces.

donating those that are still in good working order to a nearby community garden, school garden, or master gardener group. They can always use extra tools to help them grow gardeners of all ages. And those that have reached the end of life can be turned into garden art. It's a great way to save memories of gardens' past.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest

Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise in writing this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

PEWS

continued from page 6

For many, the old Sunday afternoon family feasts are no longer possible because family is spread hither and thither, but here we can take a page from the younger generation's friends-giving and create our own chosen family to gather with.

Wirzba says, "Kinship and harmony, mutuality and intimacy are to be the rule of a healthy life together." Part of forming and maintaining these key requirements of life means making regular time to be together, and meals are an excellent place to do that.

While the world may not stop whirling for us to abide in this practice, perhaps we can slow our little worlds enough to make sure that we sit and eat in community at least a couple times a week. Perhaps if enough of us do it, maybe we will see a shift in the wider culture: one where personal in-

teraction is prioritized and time for relationships is seen as a necessary part of life.

Consider this practice on par with, if not more important than, hitting the gym or cramming for a test or completing a work project. Perhaps even the challenge of trying to "fit this in" will be an invitation in your life to reconsider your priorities and notice where bad habits have become ingrained.

It may be hard at first to think of who you might gather to join for such a meal, but be brave. You may be surprised by people's enthusiastic responses. Our world these days is starving. Starving not as much for food (while this is still a concern for many) as for community and connection.

May we each reach out and welcome another to sit, eat, and enjoy. Amen

Rev. Dawn M. Adams is the minister at the First Congregational Church of Brimfield, UCC. To learn more about her or the church, visit BrimfieldUCC.org.

Cornerstone Bank promotes three employees to leadership positions

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, recently promoted three employees to leadership positions. Rachel Briggs of Spencer was promoted from vice president to senior vice president, commercial loan operations. Kyle Hill, a resident of Brimfield, was promoted from vice president to senior vice president, retail loan operations. And Warren resident Jacqueline Croft was promoted from assistant vice president to vice president, Bank Secrecy Act (BSA), risk and security officer.

“We are committed to providing our employees with career growth opportunities, which makes these three promotions especially gratifying,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “Rachel, Jacqueline and Kyle are incredibly valuable to us, and we look forward to seeing their impact grow in their new roles.”

Briggs has been a Cornerstone Bank employee for 24 years. In her new role as senior vice president, commercial loan operations, she will oversee the operations and administration of the Commercial Lending Department, service the commercial loan portfolio and ensure compliance with regulatory and internal audits. Briggs has a B.S. in business administration from Worcester State University, and a certificate in banking and financial support services from the New England School of Financial Studies. As a community volunteer, she provides financial literacy education through Cornerstone Bank, works with local food banks and participates in Habitat for Humanity Playhouse Build projects.

Hill has worked at Cornerstone for 25 years. As senior vice president, retail loan operations, he will oversee and support the production, processing, underwriting, closing and servicing of residential loans. He is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal, state and local regulations, as well as internal policies and procedures, and collaborates with other departments and external partners to achieve the strategic goals of the organization.

Croft has 14 years’ experience in the banking industry, with the last two at Cornerstone. In her new role as vice president, BSA, risk and security officer, she is responsible for managing the bank’s compliance with all aspects of the BSA, Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) and the USA PATRIOT Act. She maintains and implements the BSA/ Anti-Money Laundering (AML) compliance program and security policies and procedures, and her team performs financial crimes investigations across the bank. Croft is a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) and a volunteer educator, providing financial literacy programs focused on fraud prevention for students and seniors.

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tag line, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

He may be gone, but not forgotten!

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBUAG MASONIC LODGE SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday, Feb. 22, the parking lots at Quinebuag Masonic Lodge in Southbridge were packed with Master Masons from seven lodges from the 24th Masonic District and visitors from throughout the state. The brethren were here for the monthly Lodge of Instructions (L.O.I.) class hosted by the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge. One of the main reasons this particular L.O.I. class was important to Quinebuag was to honor a brother who just passed away due to a long battle with Cancer.

This brother was the creator of the 24th Masonic District Traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron. Every month a different lodge hosts our L.O.I. classes in the 24th Masonic District and the Lodge with the most members in attendance takes home the Traveling Chainmail Apron as bragging rights. This enclosed beautiful Chainmail Armor Apron was created by our very own Brother Mike Sgariglia of the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge. The Chainmail apron has a lot of sentimental value to the brethren of our Lodge.

Here is a little history about this Traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron. The beautiful heavy chain link apron was made by Brother Michael Sgariglia of the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge with the permission of Brother Robert Schremser, who was the 24th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) back in 2010. Brother



Courtesy

Brother Mike Sgariglia creator of the 24th Masonic District Traveling Chainmail Armor Apron who will be deeply missed by his Masonic Family.

Mike Sgariglia was making chainmail armor as a hobby before he became a Master Mason and was inspired to make this. He got the idea when he was at another Lodge of Instruction class and saw that lodge’s gave out a prize for attendance and thought of something personal for the 24th Masonic District. Brother Sgariglia made this chainmail armor apron with a pair of pliers in each hand. It took about 30 hours and 3,500 rings to make the chainmail armor apron. It consists of silver and blue stainless-steel rings. The apron weighs approximately five pounds, and can be worn and is presented in a beautiful wooden frame case.

A call went out to the members of the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge for the brethren to attend this L.O.I. class in numbers. We had



Courtesy

Left to right: Brother Jonathan Neitz holding the Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron with Bro. Will Proper and center behind apron, Bro. Gary Watson. Quinebuag won this month’s attendance member apron.

so many members in attendance that we beat our rival lodge The Rose of Sharon Lodge located at the Overlook senior living facility. They came out on a minibus full of brethren and the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge members still beat their attendance, all in honor of our fallen Brother Mike Sgariglia. This is why the apron means so much to the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge. If you would like more information about this great fraternity of freemasonry visit our Web site, www.massfreemasonry.org, and read about this great organization and to find a lodge nearest you.

Bay Path alumna goes from LPN to RN

CHARLTON — Kellsie Gauvin, RN, WCC, of Southbridge is the HBO (Hyperbaric oxygen therapy) Safety Director at the Wound Care Center at UMass Memorial Health Harrington at 10 N. Main St., Charlton.

Gauvin is certified in wound care, serving as a leader and a role model. Certification is the mark of distinction for a specialty. WCC by the Wound Learning Academy by SNF wound care “is an online education platform with content approved by RN and LPN/LVN Nursing Board nationwide, in all 50 states. WCC offers 30 CEU for license renewal.” She demonstrated dedication to the highest standards in wound care management and achieved recognition and elevated her status as a wound care specialist.

According to the Wound Learning Academy, “Wound Care Certification demonstrates specialized and distinguished knowledge in wound management, promoting the highest level of care for all wound care patients.”

Gauvin plays a key

role in managing HBO. She provides wound care education to patients and their families, operates HBO chambers for treatment of non-healing wounds, oversees monthly HBO safety drills and ensure staff members are up to date on their quarterly supervision of HBO dives, and ensure safe operation through weekly maintenance of HBO chambers. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy involves exposing the body to 100 percent oxygen at higher pressures than what one normally experiences. Wounds need oxygen to heal correctly. Exposing a wound to 100% oxygen at higher pressures can, in some cases, speed the healing process.

Gauvin is an alumna of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, PN Class of 2014. She completed the rigorous program, was awarded the Academic Excellence Award, and passed the NCLEX-PN on her first try. While a nursing student, she competed in SkillsUSA Health Knowledge Bowl and earned gold medals in district and state competition making it to



Kellsie Gauvin

nationals and earning a bronze medal.

“I cannot believe that it has been ten years since I graduated from the practical nursing program,” said Gauvin. “Time really does fly!”

Gauvin is also an alumna of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Class of 2011. She graduated as the Class Valedictorian.

In December 2021, Gauvin completed her Associate of Science in Nursing degree at Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester. Before joining UMass Memorial Healthcare at Harrington, Gauvin was an LPN

Nursing Supervisor at the Overlook (2015-2021). She was with Spectrum Health Systems briefly before joining UMass Memorial Healthcare at Harrington as a Registered Nurse. She became the Hyperbaric Safety Director in January 2022.

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

The program is a 40-week (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing (www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn) and is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education (www.council.org). For more information, visit www.baypath.net.



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OBITUARIES

Roger R. Ford, 85



Ocala, FL/Southbridge: Roger R. Ford, 85, formerly of Southbridge, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 22nd, in his home in Ocala, FL, after a long illness.

His wife of 54 years, Marguerite C. “Peggy” (Chenier) Ford, passed away in 2014.

He leaves his wife of 8 years, Michelle L. (Chenier) Ford; his two daughters, Sharon Ford of Southbridge and Jessica Buteau and her husband Jeremy of Southbridge; his three sisters, Lorraine Pelletier of Ocala, FL, Doris Vaillancourt of Ocala, FL and Shirley Simpson of Southfield, MI; his four grandchildren, Jamal Blyther, Alex Belanger, Latisha Blyther and Valentine Reddick; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his three brothers, Albert Ford, Donald Ford and Russell Ford and his eight sisters, Leona Cournoy-

er, Thelma Lamoureux, Mildred Stanhope, Ruth Farraher, Beatrice Budrow, Rita Renaud, Dorothy Theodoss and Ida Czyzewski. He was born in Southbridge the son of Wilbert and Rose (Girard) Ford. Roger was a US Army Veteran of the Vietnam War era.

Roger was a longtime Firefighter for the Southbridge Fire Department, retiring in 1991. He also owned and operated The Hook and Ladder Restaurant in Southbridge and later owned and operated the Fork in the Road Restaurant in Southbridge. He enjoyed helping anyone and giving back to the citizens of Southbridge. In his younger years loved to dress up as Santa and would go to the hospital on Christmas eve and visit all the patients, dropping off a gift to all the children. He would then go to the nursing home and visit the elderly. Being a resident of Southbridge all his life, and working on the fire department and the public he knew many people so when visiting Santa knew their names and they would get so excited cause Santa knew them. To those who knew him he was always there to help and try to guide them in the right direction. Changing a flat tire, giving them a ride, helping chief Alva at the elderly picnics and always helping with town ac-



tivities. He will be greatly missed by his wife, children, grandchildren, sisters, in-laws, and friends for the love, support, caring and friendship. Roger always wished for peace and that everyone could get along.

Roger’s funeral will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, from Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in St. Mary’s Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 267 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will be in New Notre Dame Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home will be held on Friday, March 1st, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

COUNCIL

continued from page 1

Mike Montigny said he supported the “no confidence” idea overall, but said it would have “no weight” and voted to delay it. Regardless of what happens now, he said, there’s no way the receivership ends before July, but “their backs are against the wall now” and he wants to see what new Education Commissioner Russell Johnson does in the next couple weeks.

To Montigny, the situation is “a game of chess. You don’t throw our queen into the middle of the board [yet].”

Citizen Stephanie RIVERS agreed, being the first to propose having the School Committee make the formal requests to end receivership and investigate those issues. She noted that’s what Holyoke and Lawrence did, and the law clearly states that’s allowed (although it doesn’t clearly say what the state has to do about them).

To School Committee member Kathy Lapriore, though, the vote was important now as a way to let the students, teachers and parents “know

we have their backs and aren’t putting it off.” Former teacher Olga Lopez, whose dismissal sparked these protests, agreed, saying she thought students and teachers are “feeling stepped on and mistreated” and “it would break them to feel they’re not being supported.”

Nicole Duffey noted some of the acts students and teachers have alleged are “straight out against the law” and must be investigated now, regardless of the politics. That prompted Town Manager Jack Jo- van to ask if 51A reports have been filed with the state and what happened with them; he said he’d talk to the police chief about it.

“We will follow up to make sure it’s done appropriately,” he said.

Later, regarding the overall issues, he added, “We’re here leading. Give us a chance to get this through. ... Come with us and make sure we get it done.”

No one from the school administration attended the meeting.

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



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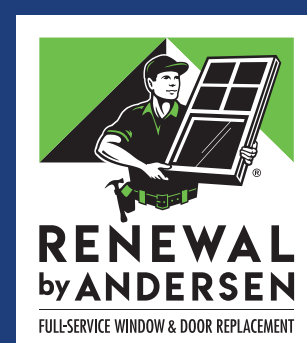
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Gus Steeves
Family members of young artists peruse their creations.



Gus Steeves
Simone Germain shows off her favorite of the projects, the milk-bottle owls.



Gus Steeves
Somewhat abstract, cartoony paintings formed one wall of the show.

Budding artists bask at art center



Gus Steeves
Even the sun is amazed at the large flock of owls.



Gus Steeves
Larry Day and Kevin Provost talk as one of the suns looks on.



Gus Steeves
Jade Ofori talks to a friend at the snack table.

GUS STEEVES

SOUTHBRIDGE — Art shone like suns and flew like owls Saturday, as the Ruth Wells Art Center displayed the creations from its February vacation kids’ art classes.

Lead teacher Simone Germain said they had about

38 participants in two groups this year. As usual, they found unique ways to reuse material that would other just get recycled, including collages, milk-bottle owls, cardboard painted suns, and more.

The center has similar classes a few times a year, plus the “Strings and Things” jam every Monday, Open Studios every Thursday, and other events. Among them, it’s hosting a Record Hop March 23.

AIC names students to Athletic Director's 3.0 Club

SPRINGFIELD — American International College (AIC) congratulates its student-athletes who have been inducted into the Athletic Director's 3.0 Club for the Fall 2023 semester.

AIC Athletics Director Jessica Chapin recognized more than three hundred student-athletes who have achieved a cumula-

tive GPA of 3.0 or better after one or more years enrolled at AIC. The primary objective for these students is to stand as academic role models, inspiring fellow student-athletes with their achievements and dedication!

Kaitlyn Boone of Sturbridge, majoring in Health Science.

Benjamin Lazo of Southbridge, majoring

in Athletic Administration and Leadership.

Jackson Haker of Uxbridge, majoring in Health Science.

Grace Boisvert of Uxbridge, majoring in General Business.

Morgan Martellio of Uxbridge, majoring in Health Science.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a

private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

Charlton Garden Club meets March 11

CHARLTON — The Charlton Garden Club’s Monday, March 11 meeting will feature Brian Aho from Bartlett Tree Experts. He will be speaking on “Pruning with a Purpose.”

Charlton Garden Club meetings are

open to all interested in gardening and related themes. Whether you’re a novice or accomplished gardener, the Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting,

and to share your gardening tips and experiences. This meeting will be held at 7 pm at the Charlton Public Library. If interested in joining the Garden Club, please contact Co-Presidents, Virginia Charette at (508) 248-7300 or Marcia

Liedigk at (508) 434-0506.



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Charlton Cultural Council announces grant recipients

CHARLTON — The Charlton Cultural Council is excited to announce our 2024 grant recipients. The following people and organizations have been allocated funding to promote cultural programming in our community. We are pleased to be able to support such talented local artists and creatives. Please watch for these events as they become available.

All the Possibilities Inc.
All the Possibilities Inc Drama Program
Davis R. Bates III
Celebrating the Season: Celtic Songs & Stories
Zachary Benton
Melodious Zach Presents Music of the 1960s
Charlton Arts and Activities Center
Concert at the CAAC
Charlton Council on Aging
Charlie Chaplin, The Circus

Charlton Historical Commission
Replacement of Local History Information Signs
Charlton Historical Commission
Restoration of Salem Towne Russell Portrait
Charlton Public Library
Theatrical Literary Production
Charlton Public Library
Quilt Program: Before and After - Repeating Patterns
Francis Hart
The “Beat Generation” - A Cultural Review of the 1950s Through Music
Le Note Diverse
Stories of Fortitude: Women Composers of the Baroque II
Gregory Maichack
The Jellyfish: How to Pastel Paint
Mass Capoeira Culture Center

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New kennel going up at DPW property

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE
—The town has been

talking about building a new animal control kennel for years, and approved funds for it months ago.

Last week, the building committee voted to finalize its location on

the grounds of the DPW barn on Guelphwood, after considering the town-owned Trahan building

on South Street and looking at some properties that were for sale. The project now goes into design phase, which will largely entail revising existing plans intended for a site on Evergreen Street that had sparked significant opposition from some councilors last spring.

“When we go to design, we’ll move quickly,” chair Scott Lazo said.

Previously, he’d noted, “I want the chief to see this before he retires,” referring to Police Chief Shane Woodson, who has been pushing for this nearly 10 years. (Woodson said retirement would be in “4.5 years.”)

Project engineer Chris McClure said he preferred the DPW site because it’s lockable, frequently visited by the police and other staff, and already has parking and utilities. The only thing it needs is natural gas, which Town Manager Jack Jovan said the town is already planning to extend to the DPW building.

By contrast, building an access road and other site work at the South Street site “would cost more than what it’d cost to build this building at Evergreen,” McClure said. (The fact that South Street was on the agenda drew almost all of the citizens who came to the meeting; they departed as soon as the committee voted to reject it.)

He described the DPW site as “a no brainer. It hate to use the word, but it really is.” Jovan basically agreed, saying he wasn’t “married” to any site, but expected DPW to be the best one for several reasons.

Going forward, however, the project will need to make sure the section it builds on lacks wetlands and isn’t PCB contaminated. Most of the property’s PCBs have been concentrated into a large, plastic-covered mound near the entrance, and the town has been awaiting state and federal finalization of plans to encapsulate or remove them. That process has been ongoing for many years, as the government repeatedly sends Southbridge requests for more information and changes to its proposed solutions. Southbridge earmarked funds for final remediation years ago.

For the kennel, the primary issue at this stage is ensuring it meets state requirements for animals, so it’s largely in the hands of ACO Kaitlyn Jewell and McClure. Among the various things they discussed were the need for designated exits for quarantined animals, kennel sizes and numbers, spaces for small animals separated from dogs, and using the “sally port” (the drive-in entrance) as noise insulation for the office areas. She specifically noted that Oxford’s building is the same size, but needs larger kennels because “dogs are injuring themselves by wagging their tails into walls.”

In response to an audience question, Jewell said the site can handle most dogs, cats and smaller animals, but she has agreements with nearby farms to house farm animals, horses and the like. In emergencies, the fire department has a protocol for housing animals with their humans at the senior center.

For a while, the committee threw around whether to build the kennel with a goal of renting extra space to other communities. Lazo said he saw it as “a revolving account that’s helping taxpayers with money coming in” and noted they should look into it now because trying to add to the building later would be a problem. Councilor John Daniel, from the audience, said, “as building costs continue to escalate, it might be wise to keep it to Southbridge” and urged “designing it to 110 percent of what Southbridge needs” instead.

George Chenier dubbed the original plans “the taj mahal of taj mahals” and “a hotel for dogs.”

“I wanted a basic kennel that met the rules ... and gave the ACO a comfortable place to work out of,” he said.

They didn’t come to a decision. Jewell said the current plan “is just for Southbridge,” and the number of animals she deals with now varies greatly.

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

Second mock code scenario held at Bay Path

CHARLTON — The Practical Nursing Class of 2024 Mock Code Team (MCT), under the guidance and leadership of Professors Cheryl Cahill, Jennifer DeFilippo, Angela McGrath, and Rianna Romano, prepared and executed the Term 2 Mock Code Scenario.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy’s MCT and Simulation Training improves response to code events. During cardiac arrests, the quick response of a code team requires cohesiveness, timely defibrillation, and clearly defined roles. It is important for members of the healthcare team to intuitively know their role as part of the response team especially during code situations when seconds count.

Photo shows members of the 2024 MCT from left Ashley Urbain of Paxton, Julie Dodson of West Brookfield, and Patrick Njunge of Worcester demonstrating initial steps in response to a code situation. Other members of the MCT include Victoria Boateng, Melissa Nale, Richard Nsiah, Samantha Stanikmas, and Cynthia Zaya Torres.

“It was a great night. The Mock Code Team was amazing and everyone really did a fantastic job!” shared Professor DeFilippo.

“We firmly believe in using simulation training



to improve performance,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director.

“We are blessed to have the continued guidance, experience, and expertise of Professors Cahill, DeFilippo, and Romano. We welcome Professor McGrath’s assistance this year!” Bolandrina added.

The timely use of defibrillation and empowered, confident nurses result in a positive response to code events. According to the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines (GWTG) resuscitation program, time to first shock is one of four achievement metrics. The guidelines state that hospitalized patients exhibiting ventricular fibrillation or pulseless

ventricular tachycardia should receive defibrillation within two minutes to improve outcomes.

In 2017, the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy MCT was formed to improve resuscitation skills and comfort levels for practical nursing students. The MCT meets for a full day of preparation, with members practicing as much as possible. On Mock Code Day, the MCT runs the code scenarios multiple times. The formation of the MCT increased mock code opportunities and participation three times in an academic year. Participation in mock codes increases the comfort level of practical nursing students. An effective code team is one that acts safely, and efficiently, and saves lives. The MCT aims to

be proficient with skills and knowledge, effective with communication, and highly organized.

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing, 239 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800 or www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 www.council.org Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges. 209 Burlington Rd., Suite 201, Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 www.neasc.org

Freshmen named to Bay Path honor roll

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 9 on being named to the honor roll for the second quarter of the 2023-2024 school year:

High Honors
Lillian Araujo, Kennadie Balcunas, Brett Beltzer, Alyssa Bonneville, Missage Budimbu Mpolo, Bella Calnan, Miya Chauvin, Keziah Chipman, Jenna Cianci, Ian Clark, Aidan Clyne, Trinity Crompton, Benjamin Cryan, Molly Dwyer, Aria Fournier, Brooke Fuller, Vikram Jha, Kelsey Karłowicz, Finnian Keefe, Owen Kennedy, Jayme Kenney, Benjamin Labbe, Sang-ey Lama, Ethan Lemire, Apollo Logan, Emily Malia, Ava McKellick, Alexis Moore, Kaiya Murphy, Thomas Nault, Johnny Nhan, Anastasia Nieuwenhoff, Daniel Nowlan, Katie Putnam, Ava Rennie, Jason Richard, Jordyn Sabotka, Ella Schofield, Kayla Schoreder,

Isabella Sepulveda, Travis Tong, Eskil Tranes, Kara Trevarthan, Kyle Twombly, Brady Weeks, Lucy Zaleski

Honors
Salette Alves, Lacie Andrews, Winifred Aucoin, Collin Bachand, Riley Baillargeon, Vincent Balducci, Nolan Barton, Benjamin Bassett, Liam Beals, Lyla Beauchene, Samantha Belanger, Kayleigh Bissell, Alexandria Blancard, Alexia Brown, Clara Burlingame, Ariana Byrnes, Evalynn Cedillo, Morgan Chlapowski, Dominic Cincotta, Liam Colon, Naomi Cooper, Madelyn Creelman, Maya Cronin, Liam Cuniff, Eric Day, Hunter Defosse, Ariana Dolan, Nathan Donnelly, Madisson Drewry, Brianna Dwomoah, Elizabeth Eccleston, Jackson Edwards, Ava Erkoć, Marcus Feliciano, Haley Ferrara, Dylan Filipkowski, Samantha Flect, Luciana Flores, Jinnette Goguen, Adrian Golemo, Liam Greenwood, Emma Grensavtich, Emma Har-

rington, Julia Holton, Ryan Hurley, Dominik Ignatovich, Ella Komsisi, Alexander Kowski, Abena Kwarteng, Owen Lemansky, Jaxon Leonard, Andrew Levitzky, Perry Lima, Jared Magnusson, Julie-Anna Marchetti, Jack Maroney, Christopher Martin, Aaron Mazur, Shaun McGrath, Colin McIlvaine, Joshua McLaughlin, Johannys Melendez, Nicholas Meneguzzo, Jose Mercado Lopez, Jayden Minardi, Miles Moriarty, Miguel Mosqueda, Nathaniel Munson, Melany Ngo, Corey Ntim, Aylah Patraw, Mayli Pedersen, Kiera Pederson, Iban Pelaez, Grace Perron, Jacob Perry, Kyla Pierre, Isabella Richard, Evan Roberts, Jake Roemer, Leilani Rohena Torres, Jennavicia Roseberry, Jaelynn Royea, Genevieve Salinas, Owen Sanford, Logan Schoff, Michael Scott, Jnessa Sepuka, Julia Simpson, Zachary Sirard, Hadleigh Splaine, Skyla St. Francis, Alexander St. Jacques, Amelia St.

Peter, Cayden Stewart, Rachel Torres, Nicholas Tremblay, Isabella Vangel, Connor Walsh, Dashiel Williams, Jazelle Wolverson, Nicol Yacavace, Jackson Young, Payton Ziemski

Principal’s List
Cathlen Adames Mieses, Anais Alamo-Abad, Trevor Amaral, Boden Barrell, Benjamin Boulmetis, Gavin Boyd, Olivia Burgos, Leianna Collins, Emma Comforti, Anthony Correnti, Brayden Eisnor, Nicholas Erickson, Tobias Falco-Foreman, Corbin Fredette, Aliyah Gauvin, Ely Gemboski, Maximillian Lapriore, Brooke Leoni, Damon Libby, Selena Mayoral Leon, Sarah O’Donnell, Kaelyn Renaud, Trevor Rose, Korban Roy-Bouthillette, Cayden Sexton, Lucas Silva, Addisyn Skeates, Allison Smith, Hailey Sprague, Logan Stake, Dylan Strzelewicz, Elijah Tamborini, Arianna Thomas, Bryce Vautour

Local students named to Tufts University Dean’s List

MEDFORD — Valen Burke, Class of 2027, of Southbridge and Trevor Wallace, Class of 2026, of Charlton were named to the dean’s list at Tufts University for the Fall 2023 semester. Dean’s list honors at Tufts University require a semester

grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universi-

ties in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span

all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university’s schools is widely encouraged.

Local students named to Bryant University President's List

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement and have been named to the Fall 2023 President’s List.

The President’s List is an academic distinction reserved for Bryant’s highest achievers who earn a GPA of 4.0 for at least 12 semester hours of work.

Aidan Cook of Uxbridge
Ramsha Gul of Uxbridge
About Bryant University

For over 160 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,700 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron’s. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

SPORTS

Scoring in transition helps Minutemen defeat Lynn Tech
Bay Path then wins State Vocational Championship over BVT

CHARLTON — The Bay Path girls' varsity basketball team has had a very busy postseason, first participating in the Clark Tournament and then hosting the Massachusetts Vocational Athletic Directors Association (MVADA) Large Schools Tournament. The MVADA first sponsored vocational tournaments in 1996-97. The 14-6 Minutemen, the tournament's top seed, took on No. 4 Lynn Tech (14-6) on Friday night, Feb. 23.

Back in December, before the first regular season game, Bay Path head coach Randy Schulman shared his team's goals: Clark Tournament, Voke Tournament, and State Tournament, and these goals became reality. Prior to the game with Lynn, Schulman said, "At this point in the season every team in every tournament is good and will be a hard-fought battle. My girls are excited and ready for the challenges."

Bay Path came out ready to play, as they used their full-court press to disrupt Lynn Tech's game plan. Bay Path found their transitions from defense to offense with little effort, putting 20 points on the scoreboard to capture the first quarter lead, 20-8.

The Minutemen maintained the lead going in and out of the second quarter by connecting on quick passes for quick baskets, adding 16 points this quarter and holding the Tigers to 5. The Minutemen hustled after every loose ball and at the half Bay Path was on top, 36-13.

Lynn Tech found the basket throughout the third quarter, putting 20 points on the scoreboard. But Bay Path stuck to their game plan, with smart defense and aggressive drives to the basket on offense, and they put up 18 points of their own, as Bay Path led at the end of the third, 54-33.

After a minute into the fourth quarter, Lynn Tech had put up 5 quick points to Bay Path's 2, Schulman called a timeout to settle his team. Bay Path then worked the clock and



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones
Bay Path's Anika Ferrantino goes up between two Lynn Tech defenders.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones
Kortnie Adams prepares to take a free throw for Bay Path.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones
Bay Path's Maggie Mullaly puts up a shot from inside the paint.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones
Allison Welton dribbles toward the basket for Bay Path.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones
Bay Path's Hannah Cavan scans the court for an open teammate.

and made a conscious effort to do that. Very proud of how they played and will now get ready for the Championship game."

The State Vocational Championship game was held back at Bay Path on Sunday, Feb. 25 against Colonial Athletic League rival Blackstone Valley Tech, the third seed, who previously defeated No. 2 Southeastern in a semifinal. The Minutemen were able to top the Beavers for the title, 54-43. Check back next week to read about Bay Path's championship win.

The Minutemen are next headed into the MIAA's Division 2 State Tournament, where they are seeded 38th. Bay Path will take on No. 27 Holliston after press time. This is Bay Path's first year in Division 2, previously participating in the Division 4 tourney.

Shepherd Hill fights hard in tough task against Medway

WESTBOROUGH — On Tuesday, Feb. 20 at Westborough High, the Shepherd Hill girls' varsity basketball team faced Medway in the semifinal round of the 21st Annual Westborough Girls' Basketball Tournament Invitational.

Shepherd Hill head coach Maura Hackenson spoke about the match-up saying, "Medway is a very successful girls' basketball program. This year's team is made up of a combo of under and upperclassmen. They have a balanced attack of guards and forwards."

Shepherd Hill, the tournament's fourth seed, made it to the semifinals by beating No. 5 Westborough, 57-55, on Sunday, Feb. 18. Hackenson went on to say, "We hope to pick up where we left off Sunday. With pressure defense and getting offensive contributions from every single player that steps on the floor. They (Medway) play in a tough league (similar to us) and are ready for high pressure games."

Commenting on the Lady Rams, Hackenson concluded with, "Our young squad has come together nicely in a short amount of time and I am beyond proud of them."

Shepherd Hill was first on the scoreboard three minutes into the game. The Rams played aggressive defense, gaining possession on defensive rebounds, but offensively couldn't work the ball through Medway's strong zone defense. Medway — the tournament's top seed, who defeated No. 8 Saint Paul in the first round — went on to score 12 unanswered points. Coach Hackenson called a timeout with 3:33 left in the quarter to calm her players and reiterate their game plan. The first quarter ended with Medway ahead, 12-2.

Medway increased their lead through the second quarter, 30-11. The Mustangs were able to break through the Rams' press and benefited from an open player down court. The Rams were able to find the basket this quarter, but the mountain of



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones
Shepherd Hill's Shayley Szela collects the ball on defense and heads up the court.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones
Heidi Jarosz lays one up from inside the paint for Shepherd Hill.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones
Shepherd Hill's Jaizzy Santiago works around a defender.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones
Ashley Dickhaut of Shepherd Hill looks for a teammate to pass the ball to on an inbounds play.

points the Mustangs added made it a daunting challenge going into the half for the Rams.

Medway took control of this game forcing Shepherd Hill to adjust their style of play. The Mustangs were not giving the Rams a chance to settle into the game, pushing the ball quickly up and down the court. The Mustangs led 43-20 at the end of the third quarter.

Shepherd Hill worked hard through the final whistle, but it was Medway's night, as the Mustangs moved onto the final with the 51-31 win. Medway then defeated No. 6 Algonquin for the championship on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 49-36.

Heidi Jarosz put up 12 points and gathered 15 rebounds for the Rams. The Hill will next be on the court participating in the Division 2 State Tournament. The Rams, seeded 29th, will host No. 36 Somerset Berkley in the Preliminary Round, after press time.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones
Shepherd Hill's Kaitlyn Sullivan shoots a free throw.

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SPORTS



Nick Ethier

James Sciaraffa of Tantasqua looks to drive the ball on Millbury defender Jimmer Donnelly.



Nick Ethier

Tantasqua's Elijah Webb uses the entire length of his 6-foot-8 frame to defend Millbury's Anthony Phillippo.



Nick Ethier

Adam Howe of Tantasqua looks to make a pass outside as two Millbury defenders converge.

BOYS

continued from page 1

the rebound, and he was fouled.

Although Rapose missed both ensuing free throws, there was less than two seconds remaining on the clock. Rapose emphatically blocked Phillippo's desperation three-quarter court heave, and Rapose and his teammates celebrated with the nearby Tantasqua fans.

This was the Warriors' first Clark Tournament title in their eighth appearance, and defense paved the way to victory: Millbury scored just 14 second half points after scoring 14 in both the first and second quarters.

"Our defense helped us flip the switch, so then we went on a run and started hitting our shots more. Everyone forgot about the first half and focused on the next half," said Sciaraffa.

"We pride ourselves on it. That's kind of our bread and butter," added Webb, who also got the team going offensively with a 3-pointer just before halftime before adding 8 of the Warriors' 17 third quarter points.

"I started off a little bit cold, but we pride ourselves on starting and ending halves fast, so we go into half-time down 11, so we're just keeping our mental and chipping away throughout each quarter," said Webb,

who finished with 15 points.

Dion pointed out that Rapose was responsible for guarding Donnelly, Millbury's explosive scorer. Donnelly finished with 14 points, but only three of those came in the second half on a third quarter 3-pointer.

"Jack Rapose is just a gamer. He was guarding Kenny. We've played them twice already and Kenny has gotten into the 20s in both games. Today, Jack took it upon himself to make sure that one, he could take away his 3-point shot, and then he gave him fits when he tried to put the ball on the floor," explained Dion.

For Dion, winning a Clark Championship was a dream come true.

"I was at Prouty for 11 years. I took the Tantasqua job, and I thought that dream of winning a Clark was done because Tantasqua wasn't a Clark eligible school at the time. Now we're a Clark eligible school, so this is quite a surprise and quite a treat for me personally," said Dion. "Growing up in Spencer and seeing the history that Prouty had and then we got there a few times when I was the coach, and we could never get past the semifinals."

The Warriors (14-7) will now turn their attention to the Division 3 State Tournament. Tantasqua, the No. 9 seed, will host No. 24 Dennis-Yarmouth in the



Nick Ethier

Tantasqua's Jack Rapose scans the interior of the court, looking to make a pass.

Round of 32. That game will be played Friday, March 1 at 6:45 p.m.



Nick Ethier

With enough room to shoot, Tantasqua's Sophie Webb launches a deep 3-pointer.



Nick Ethier

Maya Gidopoulos of Tantasqua eyes the hoop before taking and making a 3-pointer, drawing a foul, and connecting on the free throw for a rare 4-point play.

entire second half.

"This team, we sometimes go in droughts, but one thing that we always do is play good D. If you can play good D long enough to go on a little bit of a run here and there, and stay the course and not get down, eventually we'll go on a little (scoring) spurt," said Haley. "But it really stems from staying the course on defense."

The Warriors found their points in the aforementioned spurts, with Scanlon's spurt coming in the fourth quarter. Scanlon scored 10 points, with 7 coming in the final frame.

"In the fourth quarter, we knew we needed to get up," said Scanlon, as Tantasqua held a slim lead of 27-22 with eight minutes to play. "I see the openings and I just take them. It started opening up more in the fourth. In the beginning it was hard to find lanes to drive. When I see a lane, it's nice to be able to drive and get the foul call or get the make."

All of Scanlon's fourth quarter points came on drives, as she made two layups and three free throws.

"She knew," Haley said of Scanlon taking charge late. "She's done that a bunch of times this year. She kind of knows she's the leader on the floor."

In addition to Scanlon's contributions, starters Maya Gidopoulos (11 points) and Sophie Webb (10 points) also reached the double-digit scoring plateau. And Sophie Ezzo came off the bench and scored 7 very important points.

"She is a very tough kid. She doesn't get a ton of minutes, but when she's out there she plays hard," Haley said of Ezzo. "I thought tonight she gave us a real spark. For her to be able to come off the bench and be ready to go, it was so helpful."

Northbridge head coach Jeff Kozik thought that the Warriors getting points from so many sources was a key to their victory.

"They got a lot of contribution from a lot of different people. They spread it around and they had some players hit some big shots at some big moments. So, credit to them to be able to step up," said Kozik.

For the Rams' points, the vast majority came from Molly Gahan. She finished with a game-high 21 points.



Nick Ethier

Tantasqua's Nicki Vejack bounces a pass past Northbridge defender Rachel Sawyer and into the interior.



Nick Ethier

Gabby Scanlon of Tantasqua draws the foul on a layup attempt.

"She's going to get hers. She's just so physical," Haley said of Gahan. "If she catches the ball in the red area it's over, and you kind of know that. If you can keep her from getting the ball, you're in better shape."

Haley credited Nicki Vejack and Webb — who watched her brother, Elijah, win for the boys' team a day prior — with guarding Gahan, as the other Northbridge (15-6) players combined for just 8 points.

Tantasqua improved to 17-4 with the win.

"It's such a good atmosphere and experience for the girls. Plus, it's a little boost as we go into the postseason, too," Haley said, citing the upcoming Division 3 State Tournament.

The Warriors received the No. 13 seed in that tourney and will host No. 20 Dennis-Yarmouth (16-5) in the Round of 32 on Friday, March 1 at 5 p.m.

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LEGALS

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
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Docket 24 SM 000608
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:
Ben Wright; Heather Wright
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2021-NR1,
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, numbered 8 Simpson Street, given by Ben Wright and Heather Wright to Champion Mortgage, a Division of Keybank National Association, dated November 25, 2005, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37952, Page 128, and now held by 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 March 25, 2024, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on February 12, 2024.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
20-006878
February 29, 2024

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 February 28, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Kendall Homes, Inc.
The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the proposed installation of a sewage disposal system, house, and well for a new home. A small portion of breakout fill is within the 100-foot buffer zone, no work is proposed in the 50-foot buffer zone. The project location is: Lot 54 Jennings Road, Charlton, MA 01507.
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, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjIMZG1hUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lWZz09>
Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
February 22, 2024

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 March 13, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Paul Gauthier.
The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the proposed replacement of a septic system in the side yard area (same approximate area of existing septic system). The resource area is greater than 50 feet from the work area. The project location is: 308 Partridge Hill Road, Charlton, MA 01507.
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, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjIMZG1hUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lWZz09>
Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
February 29, 2024

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE Board of Selectmen Public Hearing
National Grid has made a petition to the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen to install 5 SO Poles on Podunk Road beginning at a point approximately 60' feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Putnam Rd and Podunk Rd and continuing approximately 1,000 feet in a southwest direction.
National Grid also requests permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways. The pole hearing will take place on **Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:35 p.m.** at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.
February 29, 2024

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 March 13, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Tom Corbett.
The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the proposed construction of a battery energy storage system, access drive, transformers, inverters, meter, underground electric and appurtenances, within the buffer zone and existing disturbed areas. The project location is: 288 Southbridge Road, Charlton, MA 01507.
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, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjIMZG1hUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lWZz09>
Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
February 29, 2024

Town of Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing Notice Special Permit Tsantinis, LLC
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:35 PM at the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Tsantinis, LLC.
The applicant is requesting a Special Permit pursuant to Article XVIII §300-18.2 (2) and Article XI §300-15.2 of the Zoning Bylaw to change the use of the existing non-conforming structure and lot to a mixed-use retail and residential use and to continue use of the pre-existing non-conforming parking lot. The existing residential unit upstairs will remain and the unit downstairs will be converted into a small retail shop containing 873 square feet. In accordance with the plans and application submitted, the only exterior changes will be the construction of a handicap ramp, new signage, and the relocation of the existing wooden planters to accommodate the full length of the parking spaces on site. No new pavement or grading is required or proposed. The existing parking lot contains five (5) pre-existing parking spaces and the applicant has a shared parking agreement with 428 Main Street for three (3) spaces for a total of eight spaces where 6 are required. The property is located at **5 Snell Street**.
The proposed request can be viewed at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/recent-filings> or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508)347-2508 or by email at jlacy@sturbridge.gov.
Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191. It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, notice and a link shall be posted on the ZBA website. Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.
Diane Trapasso, Chair
Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
February 29, 2024
March 7, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Scott R. Leduc to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Mackinac Savings Bank, FSB, dated July 13, 2010 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46054, Page 185, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing LP, FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP, recorded on June 28, 2012, in Book No. 49198,

at Page 363
Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing LP, FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, recorded on December 22, 2016, in Book No. 56507, at Page 264
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, recorded on December 22, 2016, in Book No. 56507, at Page 267
Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC to Bayview Dispositions IVB, LLC, recorded on February 19, 2020, in Book No. 61910, at Page 365
Bayview Dispositions IVB, LLC to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., recorded on February 19, 2020, in Book No. 61910, at Page 368
J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust, recorded on October 22, 2021, in Book No. 66355, at Page 241
for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on March 25, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 153 New Boston Road, Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:
The land in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, situated on the northeasterly corner of New Boston Road and Field Drive, being Lot #120 on Plan of Glen Ridge by R.O. and G.G. Dingman, Engrs., dated November 19, 1949, filed with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 164 Plan 3, bounded and described as follows:
NORTHERLY by lot 121 on said plan, 174.36 feet;
EASTERLY by New Boston Road, 90.19 feet;
SOUTHERLY by Field Drive 180 feet; and
WESTERLY by lot 119 on said plan, 90 feet.
For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 24876, Page 160.
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
25069
February 29, 2023
March 7, 2024
March 14, 2024

For Legal Advertising Information Call 508-909-4127 email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO23P3581EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Doris P Gendreau
Date of Death: 08/12/2021**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jacqueline L. Carroll of Brookline MA** that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Jacqueline L. Carroll of Brookline MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration** .
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/12/2024.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 09, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
February 29, 2024

**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 March 13, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Edward Wahib.
The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the proposed construction of a gas station and convenience store. The project location is: 16 Sturbridge Road Charlton, MA 01507.
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, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjJlMzZGhUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJL3lWZz09>
Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
February 29, 2024

**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. WO24P0547EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Gail L. Saradarian
Date of Death: 08/30/2023**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Anthony Abdella of Colorado Springs CO** that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:

Patrick M. McAvoy of Melrose MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration** .
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/26/2024.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 21, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
February 29, 2024

**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. WO23P3585EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Bertrand J Gendreau
Date of Death: 08/12/21**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jacqueline L. Carroll of Brookline MA** that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Jacqueline L. Carroll of Brookline MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration** .
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/12/2024.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 09, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
February 29, 2024

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
STURBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD
PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS**
In accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Sturbridge Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing in the second floor meeting room at the Center Office Building – 301 Main Street, Sturbridge on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6:50 PM to consider amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaw.
The proposed amendments will clean up inconsistent terms, typographical errors, missing text and improper footnotes that were noticed after using the bylaw as revised during the

Codification Project in 2021. Simple language amendments will be made to Article XI – Accessory Dwelling Units, §300-11.4 Accessory dwelling unit standards, Article XIV – Intensity Regulations, §300-14.1 A to correct typographical errors and missing text. Article XIV – Intensity Regulations §300-14.2 Table of Standards will be amended by cleaning up the numbering of the footnotes, and §300-2.2 Terms Defined, §300-15.8 Trailer coaches, and §300-3.4 Floodplain District G. G will be amended to clean up inconsistent terms (manufactured home, trailer coach, trailer coach park, campground, dwelling and manufactured housing community).
A copy of the zoning bylaw proposal can be inspected on the Sturbridge Town Website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/webforms/proposed-zoning-bylaw-amendments> or arrangements can be made to view the zoning bylaw proposal by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508) 347-2508 or by email at jlacy@sturbridge.gov. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877>
Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.
Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
February 22, 2024
February 29, 2024

**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. WO24P0422EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Stanely J Czyzewski, Jr.
Date of Death: 12/19/2023**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Linda J Czyzewski of Southbridge MA** that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Linda J Czyzewski of Southbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration** .
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/12/2024.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 09, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
February 29, 2024

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
Board of Selectmen
Public Hearing**
National Grid has made a petition to the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen to install 8 JO Poles on Podunk Rd

beginning at a point approximately 900' feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Putnam Rd & Highway 49 and continuing approximately 5700' feet in a north direction.
National Grid also requests permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways. The pole hearing will take place on **Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:40 p.m.** at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.
February 29, 2024

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
Board of Selectmen
Public Hearing**
National Grid has made a petition to the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen to install 3JO Poles on Podunk Rd beginning at a point approximately 120' feet southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Putnam Rd and Podunk Rd and continuing approximately 280' feet in a southwest direction.
National Grid also requests permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways. The pole hearing will take place on **Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:40 p.m.** at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.
February 29, 2024

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
Board of Selectmen
Public Hearing**
National Grid has made a petition to the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen to install 2 JO Poles on Charlton Road beginning at a point approximately 230' feet southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Picker Rd and Charlton Rd and continuing approximately 147' feet in a southwest direction. National Grid also requests permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways. The pole hearing will take place on **Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:35 p.m.** at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.
February 29, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO23P3104PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION EXPAND THE POWERS
OF A CONSERVATOR**
In the interests of:
Susan Reilly of Southbridge MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by
**Carol A Childress of Sturbridge, MA
Melissa A Labelle of Holland, MA**
in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:
Expand the powers of a Conservator of the Respondent
The petition asks the court to determine that the powers of the Guardian and/ or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of appointment.
The original petition is on file with the court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/12/2024.**
This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 12, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
February 29, 2023



REAL ESTATE


hope2own.com
508.943.4333

 Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker
 Licensed in MA, CT & RI

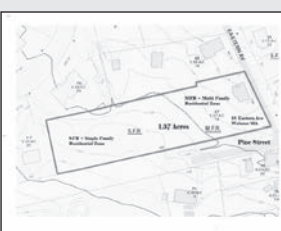
**We Want
Your Listings!**

June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Matthew Ross * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II


ON DEPOSIT
Featured New Listing
WEBSTER - 26 NORMANDY AVE.

First Time Offered! 1960 era One Level, Spacious 3 BR Ranch Home on a large, near level, 10,000 SF Lot! 14x28 Carport (or Large Covered Patio as needed :-). Municipal water & sewer. Hardwood floors in the Living Room and all 3 BRs. New Electrical Service Panel.

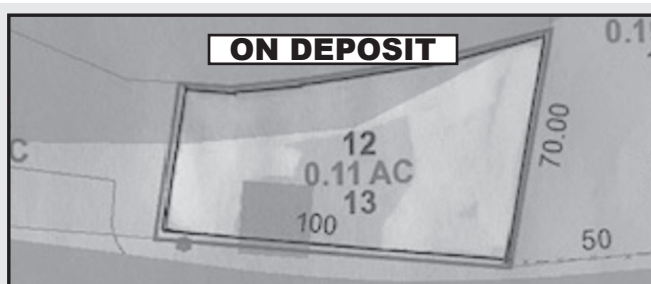
\$322,000
THOMPSON - 47 FABYAN-WOODSTOCK RD
OPEN HOUSE
SAT & SUN 11 TO 1

 A Unique Opportunity to Own a Rural Farm-house on 2.52 Acres! Home has 1,978 Sqft +/-, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths. Total 8 Rms. Farm is in full operation with Goats, Sheep, Pony, Donkey, Duck, Chickens, soo much More! **\$450,000**
WEBSTER - 18 EASTERN AVE.
Featured New Listing

 TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THIS ONE! This property offers a whole lot more than meets the eye! 2 Family that served the same family for over 65 Years. 2 BRs & 1 Bath, 1st flr. 1 -2 Brs & 1 Bath 2nd flr. Offers a shared front entry porch & a separate finished side entry porch for the 1st floor apt only. A rear open porch provides a private space & scenic views for the 2nd floor. It's situated on an acre plus++ (1.37 Acre) of land on the corner of Eastern Ave. and Pine St. 480' on Pine St. which has DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL. **\$399,000.**
WEBSTER - 17 BRODEUR AVENUE

 BEING BUILT!! SPRAWLING 2000 SF ONE LEVEL RANCH HOME! Situated on a level 1/2 acre Lot! OPEN FLOOR PLAN. Living room, dining room, upscaled kitchen with 8' island, 3 bedroom, 2 baths, Beautiful Hardwood Floors! central air. 2 car garage, & shed. **\$615,000**
WEBSTER - NEW ENGLAND COMMONS

ON DEPOSIT

 NEW ENGLAND COMMONS ADULT 55+ COMMUNITY! This Half Duplex home features one level living at its best w/ 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, & 1,274 sq/ft of living space! Gleaming hardwood floors can be found throughout! Cabinet packed kitchen w/breakfast bar and tile floor! Large master bedroom w/ tray ceiling, walk-in closet & full bath w/ low step in shower! Low monthly HOA fees! **\$369,900**
On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg
Webster Lake
13 South Point Rd.

 100' of frontage on the water & road. An old cement block garage is located on the property.. Land area surveyed, DEP approval to build. Property suitable for small craft dockage/off season storage. Town Water & Sewer available **\$195,000**

*Your Lake
Home
Here!*

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Sturbridge Historical Society talks walls

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Richard Paradise drove about 100 people up the wall last Thursday – in a good way.

He was talking to the Historical Society about stone walls at the Publick House.

“No one ever built a stone wall in the middle of the woods,” he noted. “It was always a field.”

Of course, as many people know, a lot of New England's stone walls are now deep in the forest. When they were built, mostly between 1810 and 1840, the region was about 70 percent open fields for farming and grazing. But after the Civil War, many New England farmers who had served in the army decided it'd be a lot easier to farm elsewhere, leaving their walls behind; it has since reverted to 75 percent forest.

Those walls come in many forms, some based on function, some on the stones themselves. Paradise noted the farmers had two basic kinds of stone to work with – the native flat granite and the rounded stones deposited by the glaciers. After colonists cleared the trees, they found stones literally rising out of the soil – some thought they were coming from the devil, he said.

Of course, there's a scientific reason for that phenomenon. The presence of a large stone causes the soil under it to freeze before the soil along its sides does, so the expansion of the water pushes the stone up about an inch annually.

Since those glaciers dropped a lot of rocks

around here, farmers had to do something with them. So they built walls, as much to get them out of the way as to contain animals and protect crops.

Paradise said they defined four categories of rocks: “one-handers, two-handers, assisted stones” – the ones that take extra help to move – and “leave-its” that are too big to move at all. Combined, they became the roughly 250,000 miles of walls that wandered through New England by about 1850. Many still exist, but some have disintegrated over time due to action of both nature and theft.

Despite such impacts, Bob Briere noted even forest-hidden walls are still very visible from the air by LIDAR, for which the Mass GIS website offers maps.

Most such walls are “dry-laid,” meaning they have no mortar; building one requires “enormous skill” and “a very strong back.” While most are only a couple feet high and would have had fences atop them, a few are much taller. Sometimes they exist to be animal pounds; the one at Old Sturbridge Village, for example, “was used to capture the animals that escaped all the other walls.”

Some are specifically designed to keep sheep in or out. They're called lace walls, as one audience member noted, because “they're so loosely constructed you could see daylight through them.” Because they contain rocks that are tilted specifically to move when touched, they discouraged the sheep from crossing them.



Gus Steeves

A stone wall comprising the border of Opacum Land Trust's Morse property on Lebanon Hill, Southbridge.

Many of those sheep were a legacy of the Napoleonic Wars. In 1808, Napoleon invaded Spain and captured Merino sheep, which he sold to finance his campaign. The US ambassador to Portugal at the time had

a large farm in Vermont, so he imported about 4000 of them. Over the next several decades, more than 1 million Merinos were raised in Vermont, 600,000 in New Hampshire, four million in Connecticut and some unknown number in Massachusetts. The market, however, collapsed in the 1840s for various reasons, including the fact “Merinos don't do well in New England winters. Even though they have that wonderful wool, they don't do well in the cold,” Paradise said. (Merinos are actually native to North Africa, having been imported to Spain by the Arabs nearly a millennium earlier.)

Others, however, are

entirely decorative, to show off their owners' wealth. One audience member cited one near Mt. Wachusett he said was about 10 feet high and thick, but didn't go anywhere. Paradise called that kind a “dress wall,” noting “somebody got paid a lot to do it.”

Although there were a few professional wall masons, the majority of them were part-time efforts, usually built for a few days in early spring before planting and in late autumn before first frost. “Over generations, you get a lot of stone walls [that way],” he noted.

Paradise said one researcher calculated that a 50 mile radius

of the tri-state marker at the Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island corner contains more stone walls than anywhere else in the US. Almost all of them are in New England for a basic geological reason: “they stop about where the Hudson River is because the stone's too soft [beyond that], and the glacier ground them down to nothing,” he added.

The oldest stone wall is just west of Portland, Maine, where “a failed version of Plimoth Plantation” was attempted around 1607. The colonists soon found they couldn't farm it, he said.

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

STURBRIDGE

continued from page 4

based on how much use they get, condition and other factors.

Blakeley said this winter's rapid freeze-thaw cycles without sustained cold has been a problem for the roads, especially dirt and gravel ones. They haven't been able to do much pothole

filling on such surfaces and cannot legally grade them, because doing so “will make it worse” when muddy or icy without good drainage.

Despite that, though, she urged citizen to call DPW with potholes and other issues – “Don't assume we have eyes everywhere.” She said the department is filling them when they can, now with cold patch and

with hot patch when it's warm enough.

Additionally, Water Superintendent Shane Moody said his department's being required by state and federal agencies to survey Sturbridge for lead pipes. He said that will require homeowners to either take photos of their lines themselves or give staff permission to enter their properties to do

so.

“I've never seen one in the 18 years I've worked here,” and his predecessor had not either, but he's not 100-percent certain lead pipes don't exist in town, Moody said. Everything he's seen is copper or plastic.

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

SCOUTS

continued from page 2

saying, “Through Scouts, I have learned confidence and how to work as a team. In my troop there have been challenges, such as teaching knots. These have helped to shape me into someone who can work with anything thrown my way.”

“Scouting has opened up many opportunities and activities that I would have never done other-

wise,” added Peyton, Troop 163's most recent Eagle Scout.

“Joining the troop has helped me and the other members of the troop become better leaders,” said Ali, current Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

We wish to congratulate Troop 163 on their first five years as a troop, and wish them many, many more!

Troop 163 meets most Sunday

nights from 4-6 p.m., and is open to any female age 11-17. A few of their upcoming events include a 21-plus Dinner and Music event on March 22 from 6-10 p.m., a Waffle Dinner on April 18th from 6-8 pm, their next can drive is June 2 from noon-3:30 p.m. If you'd like more information on the troop, their fundraisers, or on how to join, contact Chrissy, their Scoutmaster, at ChrissyCSM163@gmail.com or head over to their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/troop-163sturbridge>.

PICKLEBALL

continued from page 1

21. Doherty said plans are in motion to revitalize a court at Charlton Middle School to make it suitable for pickleball, which utilizes a much smaller court than tennis or similar sports.

“We're working on it. We're really excited. We're taking bids right now and hopefully you'll see something in the

spring or summer take place over there,” said Doherty.

The Finance Committee joked that they were surprised there was no formal proposal in the recreation budget to embrace pickleball on a larger scale considering the rapid growth of the sport. The committee later noted that a proposal for a new senior center included pickleball courts which they

believe could be satisfied by the refurbishment of the court at the school. Doherty said they do have some funding set aside for the project and are hoping the facility will be heavily used by students and citizens alike.

“We have partial funding of it, but it's going to be costly to actually re-do the courts. It's the two tennis courts that are over there and

then the schools can also use them in their gym programs. It'll be open to the public when school is out and on school vacations. The public has been asking for some pickleball areas and there's just not any land to do it so we're excited,” said Doherty.

The Recreation Department is continuing to seek ways to fully fund the project. Talks with the Town Administrator

have included the possibility of utilizing money from Amazon's contribution to the town to support the renovations. A local Eagle Scout has also embraced the opportunity to help raise funds to support the repairs as well as potentially add benches and landscaping near the court. While the possibility of exploring indoor pickleball courts was briefly mentioned, Doherty implied they

are not considering that option at this time.

There is no set timeline for the pickleball court renovation nor were exact financial goals presented as the bid process was still ongoing. Any questions regarding supporting the cause should be directed to Charlton's Recreation Department or Town Administrator's office.

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Elm Street Church announces Lenten service schedule

SOUTHBRIDGE — Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge, announces the schedule for Lenten services:

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday service at 10 a.m.

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday commemoration of the Last Supper at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31, service is at 10 a.m.

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