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Friday, July 3, 2026

Waves & well-wishes: A summer of projects at BVT



Courtesy

BVT administrators, teachers, and staff waved goodbye to students and bus drivers on the last day of school, wishing them a happy summer as the final buses of the school year rolled out.

UPTON — The final morning of the school year brought sunshine and smiles. On June 15, Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) teachers, administrators, and support staff gathered outside to wish students a happy summer. With cheerful waves, they watched the last school buses roll out.

At BVT, the Last Day Wave is an annual tradition that marks the end of a successful school year. It also signifies the start of summer projects. As teachers and students embark

on a well-deserved respite, administrators, support staff, and the facilities team will tackle numerous tasks, projects, and routine maintenance during the

Turn To BVT page A10

Manning promoted to Fire and Ambulance Chief in Douglas

DOUGLAS — The Town of Douglas has promoted Kelly Manning to Chief of the Douglas Fire and Ambulance Department. She will be the third person to serve as Chief since the Department began delivering full-time service in 2017, and the first woman to earn the top spot. The Department provides 24/7 fire coverage and Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance services with a full-time trained staff of 10 supported by more than 30 active call members.

Manning started as a call firefighter in Wellfleet in 2004. She earned her EMT-Paramedic status as a university student in 2006, the year she joined the call department in Douglas under then Chief Don Gonyor. She worked for the Amherst Fire Department for 3 years, over 9 years as a career firefighter in Southbridge and two more in Westborough while she climbed the ranks of the Douglas call department. Chief Kent Vinson hired her as Assistant Chief in Douglas in November 2020 after town meeting created the position. Manning was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2024 by Chief John Furno.

Douglas Town Administrator Matt Wojcik noted, “Kelly is highly qualified to serve as Chief. In addition to her experience, she has a master’s degree in public administration, numerous certifications including hazardous materials response, SCUBA, fire training and instruction, fire prevention, and emergency management, and she is a registered nurse. She has had the last three years to work with retiring Chief Furno, whose more than forty years of public service and experience as a manager provided a perfect example of leadership from which to draw.”

Furno noted, “In her role as Deputy Chief, Kelly has been a tireless advocate for health and safety, professional development, and operational readiness. She embodies the definition of public service—selfless, dedicated, and deeply committed to helping others. This is truly the best job in the world and I will miss working full-time with a team who will overcome any obstacle to fulfill their calling.”

Manning commented, “It is both an honor and a privilege to serve alongside and support the dedicated men

Turn To MANNING page A10

Northbridge Senior Center welcomes summer with festive Hello Summer Party



Nikki Erskine

NORTHBRIDGE — The Northbridge Senior Center recently kicked off the summer season in style with its lively and well-attended Hello Summer Party, bringing together community members for an afternoon filled with music, food, fun, and celebration.

Guests were treated to a wonderful summer-themed dining experience from Creedon and Company featuring a delicious seasonal menu, and a dining room transformed into a festive summer paradise. Colorful decorations including flamingos, beach balls, leis, ukuleles and flip-flops helped create a cheerful atmosphere that perfectly captured the spirit of the season.

A highlight of the event was a performance by the popular four-woman rock band, the Driveway Chicks. Performing to a packed dining room, the Driveway Chicks entertained the crowd with an eclectic spectrum of music spanning multiple genres and eras. The talented group combined drums and percussion, bass guitar, and rich vocal harmonies that complemented their melodies simultaneously, creating a dynamic and engaging musical experience. Needless to say, the Driveway Chicks were a

Turn To PARTY page A10

ValleyCAST announces key appointments, summer events



Courtesy

WHITINSVILLE — ValleyCAST, the arts and culture arm of Open Sky Community Services, today announced the appointment of Nikki Erskine as Director following the upcoming retirement of Director of Community Outreach Cristi Collari.

Erskine has more than two decades of experience in arts administration, marketing, and event planning to support independent artists and accessible cultural programming. As Director, she will spearhead arts and gallery administration, event management, community engagement, grants, and communications for ValleyCAST. Through collaboration with local partners and creators, Erskine will aim to further sustain and expand the region’s diverse cultural opportunities.

David Wolfe has been appointed to the position of Coordinator, and will support Erskine with community outreach, arts programming, and



Cristi Collari

event management to connect the Blackstone Valley with the arts. He has nearly a decade of experience working with nonprofit, community-focused organizations as a graphic designer and communications specialist.

In her nearly two-decade tenure at ValleyCAST, Collari served as an Artist-in-Residence and in various administrative roles, ultimately taking the reins as Director in 2015. She consistently prioritized art as a pathway to inclusion, expanding gallery exhibits, diversifying the summer concert series, and launching community initiatives like the Whitin Mill Mural Project and the Freestyle Weaving Studio.



David Wolfe

“We hope the community will join us to celebrate Cristi’s legacy and send her off in style,” said Erskine. “Taking the helm of ValleyCAST, with its rich history of breaking down barriers through the arts, is truly a privilege. I’m looking forward to meeting our neighbors, collaborating with local creators, and finding new, accessible ways to bring people together – starting with a great night of art and live music!”

Collari’s final event as Director of Community Outreach will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at Alternatives’ Whitin Mill. From 5 to 8 p.m., ValleyCAST will welcome the general public for a gallery reception and kick-off to its summer music series:

INFORMAL – an art exhibit running through Aug. 20 at the Spaulding R. Aldrich Heritage Gallery, will feature the works of a wood sculptor, a

Turn To VALLEYCAST page A10

PET of the WEEK




MEET Big Bertha

Big Bertha is a new arrival at Baypath, and while we're still getting to know her, she's already won us over with her sweet, happy personality! This adorable Bulldog is friendly, social, and loves spending time with her people. She greets the world with enthusiasm, enjoys being part of the action, and has a playful, active side that keeps life fun. Whether she's joining you for an outing or simply soaking up attention, Big Bertha is happiest when she's surrounded by friends.

One of Big Bertha's most charming qualities is the collection of hilarious snorts, snores, grumbles, and other uniquely Bulldog noises she makes throughout the day. Her expressive personality and entertaining sounds are guaranteed to keep you smiling!

As a brachycephalic (short-nosed) breed, Big Bertha is looking for adopters who understand the special needs that come with Bulldogs. She'll need a family that can help keep her safe and comfortable during warm weather, monitor her activity level, and provide the care these lovable breeds require. As we learn more about Big Bertha, we'll continue to update her profile. For now, if you're looking for a sweet, social companion with a big personality and an even bigger heart, come meet Big Bertha and see if she's the perfect addition to your family!

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DCR offers free July hikes and nature programs across Blackstone Valley

UXBRIDGE — The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation is inviting residents and visitors to explore the natural and historic resources of the Blackstone Valley through a series of free recreational hikes and interpretive programs scheduled throughout July.

Programs are open to the public, require no registration and offer opportunities for participants of all ages to learn about the region's ecology, history and outdoor recreation.

The recreational hike series, designed for ages 12 and older, features guided walks through several state parks and forests in the Blackstone Valley. Children are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

The July schedule includes:

Sunday, July 5, 2 to 4 p.m.: Skull Rock Lock Loop at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park. Participants will hike approximately 2.5 miles over rugged forest terrain with mild inclines. The group will meet at the Skull Rock Lock parking area.

Sunday, July 12, 1 to 4 p.m.: Nuthatch Loop at Upton State Forest. This approximately 4.5-mile hike follows loose gravel trails with steep inclines. Participants should meet at the CCC Camp parking area. Restrooms will be available.

Sunday, July 19, 2 to 4 p.m.: Reservoir Loop at Douglas State Forest. The approximately 4-mile route includes rugged forest trails and gravel surfaces with steep inclines. Participants should meet at the Route 16 parking area.

Sunday, July 26, 1 to 4 p.m.: Whitehall Reservoir Loop at Whitehall State Park in Hopkinton. The approximately 5-mile hike features rugged forest and gravel trails with steep inclines. Participants will meet at the Highland Street parking area, 300 Wood St., Hopkinton.

The recreational hike series will continue throughout August with additional guided hikes at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Upton State Forest, Douglas State Forest, the Blackstone River Greenway and Blackstone Gorge.

In addition to the hikes, Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park will offer several educational programs at the River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge.

Each Friday from 10 to 11 a.m., children ages 3 to 6 can participate in Kidleidoscope, a weekly story time and hands-on nature activity. Siblings are also welcome.

Special Saturday programs include:

July 4, 1 to 2 p.m.: Woodlands and Waterways Tour, a one-mile guided walk along the Blackstone Canal exploring local wildlife and watershed conservation. The program is appropriate for ages 6 and older.

July 11, 1 to 2 p.m.: A Shuttle into the Past, a presentation tracing the journey of wool from fleece to woven fabric while exploring the history of textile production in the Blackstone Valley. Recommended for ages 12 and older.

July 18, 1 to 2 p.m.: Building the Canal Tour, a two-mile guided walk highlighting the construction and historical importance of the Blackstone Canal and its role in the Industrial Revolution. The program is appropriate for ages 12 and older.

Participants in all programs are encouraged to dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear and bring insect repellent. Bathrooms and drinking water are not available at many hike locations unless otherwise noted.

Programs may be modified or canceled due to weather or other conditions.

For the latest schedule or additional information, call 508-278-7604 or visit bit.ly/blstupdates. Reasonable accommodations are available with advance notice by contacting Moneesha Dasgupta at 617-645-0358 or by email at moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

University of Hartford congratulates Class of 2026

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 1,093 students were awarded graduate and undergraduate degrees this spring as part of the Class of 2026.

Please join us in congratulating:

Emily Warner - Uxbridge - Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration
Jada Gonzalez - Douglas - Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Congratulations to all our graduates for their hard work and academic success!

The University of Hartford blends raw passion with emerging talent, offering intentional preparation across six career-focused schools and colleges so every student can thrive. Located on a 350-acre campus neighboring Connecticut's capital city and positioned midway between New York City and Boston-the University is home to approximately 4,300 undergraduate and 1,700 graduate students from 42 states and 53 countries. Here, students are guided to discover their place, their people, and their purpose.

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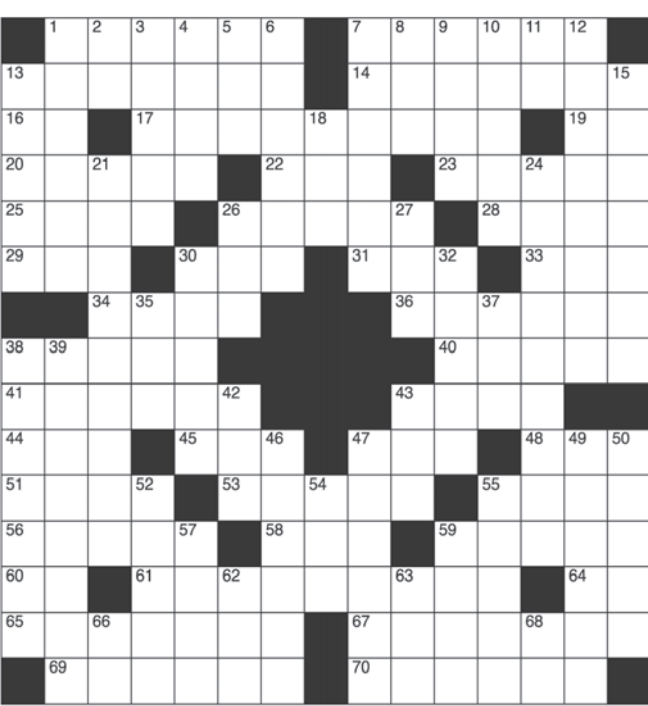
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CLUES ACROSS

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| <p>1. Mended</p> <p>7. Hymns</p> <p>13. Commercial transport of goods</p> <p>14. Poked holes in the ground</p> <p>16. They precede C</p> <p>17. Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth</p> <p>19. Larry and Curly's pal</p> <p>20. Injured</p> <p>22. Popular type of dance</p> <p>23. Moon crater</p> <p>25. American state</p> <p>26. Places to lock valuables</p> <p>28. Stalk that supports the capsule</p> <p>29. Keyboard key</p> <p>30. '___ death do us part</p> <p>31. A type of cage</p> <p>33. A place to sleep</p> <p>34. Annual music awards show</p> <p>36. Made over</p> <p>38. Hard, stony substance</p> | <p>40. Incantations</p> <p>41. Long-legged, wading bird</p> <p>43. Breathe noisily</p> <p>44. Congressman</p> <p>45. Rip off</p> <p>47. Golf score</p> <p>48. Popular pickup truck</p> <p>51. Where infants sleep</p> <p>53. Music term</p> <p>55. Small opening in a surface</p> <p>56. Musical term meaning "very"</p> <p>58. Soviet Socialist Republic</p> <p>59. Treats with powder</p> <p>60. Email subject line feature</p> <p>61. A British lawyer</p> <p>64. Expression of laughter</p> <p>65. Farmer's calendar</p> <p>67. Seeds used as food</p> <p>69. Eurasian shrubs</p> <p>70. Periods of inactivity</p> |
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CLUES DOWN

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| <p>1. Hard things to kick</p> <p>2. Collective of countries</p> <p>3. Letter of Hebrew alphabet</p> <p>4. One-time Alabama running back Eddie</p> <p>5. One's sense of self-esteem</p> <p>6. Of the teeth</p> <p>7. Treat with care</p> <p>8. Type of whale</p> <p>9. Curved structure</p> <p>10. Emits coherent radiation</p> <p>11. One of the Gospels (abbr.)</p> <p>12. Smallest interval in western music</p> <p>13. Netherlands seat of government</p> <p>15. Gives to charitably</p> <p>18. Lout</p> <p>21. Pastas</p> <p>24. Release from restrictions</p> <p>26. Female sibling</p> <p>27. Title of respect</p> <p>30. Silver coins</p> | <p>32. Region in India</p> <p>35. Partner to cheese</p> <p>37. Dark or dusky</p> <p>38. Pacific Northwest tree</p> <p>39. Exaggerate</p> <p>42. Toddler</p> <p>43. Touch lightly</p> <p>46. Fundamentals</p> <p>47. Jeopardies</p> <p>49. Curved structures</p> <p>50. Isolated, flat-topped hills</p> <p>52. Forming the bottom layer</p> <p>54. Reciprocal of sine</p> <p>55. Genus of Old World birds</p> <p>57. New York college</p> <p>59. Cloak</p> <p>62. Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)</p> <p>63. Vietnamese offensive</p> <p>66. "The Great Lakes State"</p> <p>68. "___, myself and I"</p> |
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DOUGLAS

\$670,000, 11 Douglas Hill Way, Connors, Marie L, to Germaine, Joseph M, and Germaine, Claire B.
\$532,000, 8 William Dr #8, Button Jr, William J, and Byron-Button, Pamela J, to Langille, Evan Christophe, and Crawford, Mackenzie S.
\$429,900, 4 White Ave, Germaine, Joseph M, and Germaine, Claire Bremer, to Sanzone, Deidre J, and Sanzone, Charles John.

NORTHBRIDGE

\$1,200,000, 49-59 Taft St, Depot Road Rt, and Gavin, Suzann, to Wellons, David H.
\$975,000, 104 Alana Dr, Kamishlian, Dale L, and Kamishlian, Nicole, to Matthews, Emily, and Matthews, Kevin.
\$745,000, 151 Hickory Ln, Osullivan, Charles M, and Osullivan, Linda E, to Machmouchi, Ahmad, and Omran, Siham.
\$304,900, 112 Heritage Dr #112, Kandula, Hemanth, to Farrington-Gouchie, Linda, and Gouchie Jr, Donald S.

UXBRIDGE

\$675,000, 107 Henry St, Dias Ft, and Dias, Joseph, to Wood, Jonathan M, and Wood, Sallie A.
\$365,000, 63 Power St #63, Reeves, Lucy A, to Sam, Miranda, and Sam, David.
\$345,380, 5 Highland Pk #7, Seven Hls Cmnty Svcs Inc, to Cruz, Jonathan.
\$245,000, 117 Quaker Hwy, Macgregor, Jaime, and Macgregor, Kristin, to Mcpherson, Lynne.
Ware
\$430,000, 105 Shoreline Dr, Gelinias, Mark C, and Gelinias, Susan M, to Moskowitz, David, and Kim, Sarah.
\$45,000, Crescent St, Mountain Stream LLC, to Degale, Mark.

Local students honored at SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference

ATLANTA, Ga. — Career and technical education students were recognized with a certificate of accomplishment at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) held June 1-5 in Atlanta. An all-time high of 7,000 students competed in the 2026 SkillsUSA Championships at NLSC, which is the largest gathering of the future skilled workforce.

As an indicator of proficiency, Skill Point Certificates were awarded to SkillsUSA Championships competitors who met a predetermined threshold score for their respective competition. Students can add this certificate, an indicator of career readiness, to their employment portfolio.

The following students from your area are Skill Point Certificate recipients:

* Caroline Brown, from N. Grafton and a student at Blackstone Valley RVTHS (Upton), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Advertising Design.

* Autumn Gromelski, from Northbridge and a student at Blackstone Valley RVTHS (Upton), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Restaurant Service.

* Team AG (consisting of Hunter Savard, James Thibault), from Blackstone Valley RVTHS (Upton), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Additive Manufacturing.

To be invited to the SkillsUSA Championships, students first had to win their state-level competition, demonstrating their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills. The national competition featured state champions from middle school, high school and college/postsecondary divisions across the country in 115 hands-on career and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance, public speaking and more.

"This showcase of career and technical education demonstrates SkillsUSA at its finest," said SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis. "Our students, instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels."

The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.79 million square feet, equivalent to 31 football fields or 41 acres. It's supported by leaders from 850 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions who planned and evaluated the competitors against their industry standards. More than 2,000 industry judges and technical committee members also volunteered their time to ensure a successful event.

The next NLSC will be held June 21-25, 2027 in Atlanta. Learn more about SkillsUSA,

the No. 1 workforce development organization for students, at www.skillsusa.org.

About SkillsUSA SkillsUSA is the #1 workforce development organization for students, empowering them to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members. SkillsUSA represents more than 440,000 career and technical education students and teachers in middle schools, high schools and college/postsecondary institutions nationwide. Those members represent 130 in-demand occupational areas, from 3-D animation to welding. A vital solution to the skills gap, SkillsUSA has served over 16 million members since its founding in 1965. Learn more at skillsusa.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn.

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall. This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

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Whitin Intermediate School announces honor roll

UXBRIDGE — Whitin Intermediate School has released its honor roll for the third term of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors

Grade 6: Lukas Ambrosino, Rain Anwer, Zachary Bromberg, Teagan Caffrey, Zander Castonguay, James Charron, Aria Clement, Alexis Coger, Gabrielle Connors, Makenna Creighton, Kailey Czubyk, Leighton D'Alessandro, Brayden Daley, Shae Desmeule, Connor Dion, Gabriella Ellis, Austin Escalera, Theodore Foley, Benjamin Ford, Eloise Gauthier, Dharahas Gurram, Isabel Heldenbergh, Connor Hendricks, Hadley Ivanoski, Quinn Kaferlein, Jack Lavallee, Ivy Leaming, Grace Leone, Timothy Longenbaker, Henry Lucius, Madelyn Manzov, Daniel Mastroianni, Grayson Matthews, Sadie Matulewicz, Molly Mitchell, Samira Mohamed, Sophia Morreale, Emmett Norman, Scarlett O'Toole, Ahmad Pagganwala, Cholbe Rosborough, Jack Ryan, Gabriella Sawash, Jackson Searle, Savannah Sokol, Jacob Soucy, Lillian Spratt, Liliana Weir, Emma Whitten, Hunter Wilson

Grade 7: Brayden Affonce, Riley Barnicle, Zachary Black, Mia Blanchard, Benjamin Brauning, Jackson Buckley, Tatum Burke, Cameron Cote, Oliver Coutu, Annalee DeBalsi, Angelina Ekladious, Nathalie Gomes, Lauren Gover, Sri Gurram, Jason Hutchinson-McLellan, Mya Jackman, Amyra Jalotra, Madeline Jansen, Kaitlyn Johnson, Tuiafetoa Kruse, Miller Neshe, Vidhya Patel, Olivia Racki, Drew Rollins, Robert Turcotte, Ella Twomey, Charlotte Vanderzicht

Honors

Grade 6: Gracie Almquist, Bentley Belanger, Drew Benson, Brody Boucher, Ryder Boucher, Lily Bristowe, Molly Cann, Cooper Charron, Gabriella Collazo, Dean Cuniff, Arianna Demery, Jacob DeToma, Breklynn Deveau, Robert Do Rosario, Jacob Dubovsky, Patrick Freiwald, Shawn Garcia, Aiden Hatch, Aubrey Huth, Kaiden Kelly, Dayton Lopez, Natalie Lynch, Harrison Martin, Hadley Morrisette, Landon Mushel, Liam Narbeth, Jaden Ouwinga, Kaydence Pasacane, Rylin Pellegrino, Olivia Reneau, Sophia Rivera, Juliana Sobrinho, Cody Timmerman, Georgia Vanderzicht, Arianna Vickers, Isshaan Vishnu Kumar, Waverly Wood, Frank Zaik

Grade 7: Jaxton Bates, Roma Bradstreet, Willow Brayman, Liam Brodeur, Ike Burns, Sadie Cahill, Carsyn Cammuso, Jordan Charon, Virginia Clinton, Ariella Correia, Anna Desouza, Mya Fano, Nathan Fark, Madelynn Fitzgerald, Maverick Fitzgerald, Aiden Forss, Logan Kustan, George Lalakidis, Matthew LaPorta, Samuel Lavergne, Benjamin Lynch, Brayden McGrath, Owen McSweeney, Nathan Moore, Bayla Morris, Mila Pachomski, Jordan Poirier, Saket Rathod, Parker Rollins, Riley Studley, Shivaan Trivedy, Brianna Troland, Peyton Whitlock, Rowan Woodall

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Brookfield Water Department
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Water Superintendent/Primary Operator

The Town of Brookfield is seeking a full time MA DEP Licensed Water Superintendent/Primary Operator dedicated to water system operations, with additional duties as directed and assigned.

The Superintendent/Primary Operator will work under the direct supervision and authority of the Brookfield Water Commissioner. This position is responsible for all aspects of supervision, planning, administration, operations-maintenance and customer service of the Brookfield Public Water Department, D1/T1 system.

In accordance with MA DEP regulations, the Superintendent/Primary Operator must be available to the system within one hour travel time.

For more information and a copy of the Position Description, please contact the Brookfield Water Department at 508-867-2930 X17 or via email: hchisholm@brookfieldma.us

Friday's Child



Richard
Age 14
Registration #8694

Richard is an engaging, energetic, and friendly boy with a great sense of humor. He enjoys playing video games, watching movies, and participating in sports. Richard has built many positive relationships with both peers and adults at school and is known for being kind, respectful, and easy to connect with. Those who know Richard describe him as compassionate, intuitive, and exceptionally polite. He cares deeply about others and strongly believes in standing up for people when needed, while also advocating for himself. Richard's caring nature, strong values, and outgoing personality make him a joy to be around.

He would benefit from a supportive and encouraging family that can continue to help him grow and thrive.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21181269059>

Can I Adopt?

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

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.





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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Leadership earned through service

Leadership in public safety is never measured by a title alone. It is measured by the confidence of fellow firefighters, the trust of a community, and years of preparation for moments when decisions must be made quickly and correctly. The appointment of Kelly Manning as Chief of the Douglas Fire and Ambulance Department reflects all of those qualities.

Her promotion marks an important milestone. She becomes the first woman to lead the department and only the third chief since Douglas transitioned to full-time fire and ambulance service in 2017. Those facts are certainly noteworthy. But the greater story is not about making history. It is about earning responsibility through years of dedication, education and service.

Manning's career did not begin in the chief's office. Like so many in the fire service, she started as a call firefighter, balancing training, education and the demands of emergency response. Over more than two decades, she built experience in multiple departments, earned advanced certifications, completed a master's degree in public administration and became both a paramedic and a registered nurse. Each step added another layer of knowledge that will serve both the department and the residents of Douglas.

Just as important, she has spent the past several years preparing specifically for this role. As assistant chief and later deputy chief, Manning worked alongside Chief John Furno, whose long career has helped guide the department through years of growth and change. Leadership transitions are most successful when knowledge is intentionally passed from one generation to the next. Douglas appears to have embraced that philosophy, creating continuity while allowing new ideas and perspectives to emerge.

The challenges awaiting today's fire chiefs are considerable. Modern departments do far more than extinguish fires. Emergency medical calls often make up the majority of responses. Hazardous materials incidents, technical rescues, disaster preparedness and community risk reduction all require specialized training and constant readiness. Recruiting and retaining firefighters has also become increasingly difficult for departments across Massachusetts.

Meeting those challenges requires a leader who understands both emergency operations and organizational management. Manning's background suggests she brings both. Her emphasis on professional development, operational readiness and the health and well-being of department personnel recognizes that strong emergency services begin with well-trained, well-supported people.

It is also encouraging to hear her speak about strengthening community partnerships. Fire departments are among the most trusted public institutions because their work extends well beyond emergency calls. Fire prevention programs, public education, CPR training, smoke detector installations and outreach to seniors all contribute to safer neighborhoods long before sirens sound.

For young people, especially girls considering careers in emergency services, Manning's appointment carries additional significance. Representation alone should never be the reason someone earns a position, but seeing barriers broken can inspire others to pursue opportunities they may not have previously imagined. The best legacy of any milestone is opening doors that eventually become ordinary.

As Chief Furno steps into retirement after decades of service, Douglas also has an opportunity to recognize the importance of thoughtful succession planning. Communities benefit when experienced leaders invest in preparing those who will follow them, ensuring stability even as leadership changes.

The residents of Douglas deserve a fire department prepared for whatever tomorrow brings. Judging by the experience, preparation and commitment Kelly Manning has demonstrated throughout her career, the department begins its next chapter on solid footing. The badge of chief is more than a symbol of authority. It is a promise of service. That promise appears to be in capable hands.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A toast to George

To the Editor:

"In America, the impossible is what we do best." Who said that?

This has been true since our beginnings in 1620. A small bedraggled group of Puritans, devoted to God and the Bible, some ailing, some not so religious, landed in America to begin the Great Experiment in freedom and self-determination.

They persevered. In the 1700's, many great Americans were born. They just didn't know it yet. Benjamin Franklin, born in 1706 in Boston. Sam Adams, born in 1722 in Boston. John Adams, born in 1735 in Braintree. Thomas Jefferson, born in 1743 in Virginia. George Washington, born in 1732 in Virginia.

At this birth, Washington was an improbable hero. No one could imagine that he would one day be the leader of our military and first President. No one could imagine his success or the success of the colonies against the British Empire.

Did you know that Washington's actions became Presidential traditions? When he was elected President and took the oath of office, he added "So help me God" to the end of the oath. Every President has sworn the oath in that manner ever since.

It was his idea to be called "Mr. President" instead "your Excellency" or "your most Majestic leader," as some had suggested, including humble John Adams. The others in the Continental Congress mocked Adams: "the Monarch of Braintree!"

The two term limit for the Presidency originated with Washington. Instead of waiting for the voters to get sick of him, he got sick of Washington D.C. and left.

We can only wish that our Congress would be so noble. How cleansing it would be to vote out the entrenched Gerontocracy: Biden (45 years in office), Nancy Pelosi (age 84, 38 years in Washington, wealthy due to insider trading), Ed Markey (age 80, 60 years as a politician. Never had a real job). Jim McGovern of Worcester, never had a real job, 29 years in Congress. They just refuse to give up the power, the money, the privileges, the limos, the TV spotlights. They must be shown the door and pushed out. We need term limits. Two terms and you're out!

Washington's education ended at age 15. He did not attend college. John Adams, Sam Adams and John Hancock all attended Harvard - back when it meant something. Washington's widowed mother did not have the money.

Washington defied death several times. While traveling to the West Indies in 1751, he contracted smallpox in Barbados. It

enabled him to walk through the camps of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War unscathed, while smallpox was ravaging the army. His soldiers thought he was invincible. Anointed by God.

From George Washington's Mount Vernon Web site, we learn that in the Battle of Monongahela on July 9, 1755, during the French and Indian war (1754-1763), two horses were shot out from under him. There were four bullet holes in his coat and one in his hat. Men and officers were shot and fell all around him. One Native American chief saw this and said that some higher power was guiding Washington's life. Indeed! American Exceptionalism!

In December 1776, the year of the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776), our Patriot cause looked bleak. Washington, a genius risk-taker, had his men led by Colonel John Glover of Marblehead row across the ice-choked Delaware River. He staged three battlefield victories starting on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve!

At the Battle of Princeton (January 3, 1777), Washington rode to the front of the lines on his white charger. He was tall, a big target. His army feared for him. Instead, he shouted: "Parade with me my fine fellows, we will have them soon!"

In 1781, Washington and Rochambeau marched from Newport to Connecticut and down to Yorktown to confront Lord Cornwallis. If you drive down Maple Valley road in Coventry, R.I., you will see new road signs indicating the path of Washington and Rochambeau. We all know what happened in Yorktown. We won!

Our 1620 landing and success was near impossible. Winning the Revolutionary War was impossible. The signers of the Declaration were sure to hang. Winning the Civil War looked doubtful. Hitler's storm through Europe looked invincible. An Allied victory looked impossible. Europeans coming to the U.S.A. for FIFA 2026 and raving about America's greatness! Impossible! A lesson in our 250th.

"In America, the impossible is what we do best." So said President Trump in his second inaugural speech. "Many people thought it was impossible...But I stand before you as proof that you should never believe that something is impossible."

The success of Washington was impossible to believe in 1776. This July 4, be upstanding, raise your glass, and toast the General. Imagine the impossible.

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

The mark of providence

To the Editor:

Two hundred years ago, our nation prepared itself for its first Jubilee. For the truly glorious 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence would soon be upon them. The words of that legendary certificate of our Lady of Liberty's birth were set to be read aloud at about one o'clock in the afternoon all across the land, most especially in Virginia. That timing set by the historical record of when it all actually transpired.

The bells would ring out by the six o'clock hour, doing so into the sunset. Transporting, some might even say propelling them all into reliving through that same darkness that so beset George Washington, his troops and their supporters. With the War of 1812 still fresh in their minds the immortal messages of their highly respected twilight's last gleaming must have meant more to them than ever.

Within a week, it would all repeat itself in the most bizarre of all coincidences. Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams had passed away on the day of the Jubilee itself.

The Pennsylvania Weekly Tribune published the news thusly:

"The venerable John Adams and Thomas Jefferson are no more. Full of years and full of honors they have gone down to the dust,

the blessings of a nation on their heads, the warm aspiration for its continued freedom in their hearts."

The mournful intelligence of this double calamity reached Harrisburg on the 10th ... confirmed on the 11th, when preparations were immediately made to pay the tribute of woe. The bells were tolled from six o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday until sundown; proclamation was made through the streets, and a general meeting of citizens took place in the evening, when suitable measures were devised to express the respect of our citizens for the memory of the departed."

Like many other publications of those ensuing days, the article goes on to list many of the other oddities the two men had in common. Both served as Vice Presidents of the Union, as well as Presidents. Both were members of the Congress of '76. Both were members of the committee to draft the Declaration and so on. With this summation as good as any on their nation's mutually perceived nature of it all:

"Seldom have the marks of a superintending providence over the affairs of men been more broadly set forth, than in the lives and death of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson."

STEPHEN GAMBONE
NORTHBRIDGE

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.

Small habits help shape a stronger financial future



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

**DENNIS
ANTONOPOULOS**

Financial security doesn't have to come from a big salary, a lucky investment or some dramatic turning point. For most people, wealth is built more simply, through small habits repeated many times over.

If you're like many young people, you may feel you don't have enough money to start investing. The reality is that you're in a great position to build the small habits that will help you create lasting wealth. Here are five tips to help you get started.

Automate savings before you spend. One of the most powerful financial habits you can build is among the easiest. Set up an automatic transfer such as by contributing to an employer retirement plan or exploring if you can direct part of your paycheck to a savings or investment account.

This helps remove the temptation to spend that money instead of saving it. Even setting aside 1 to 5 percent of your income can help build momentum over time.

Watch the small stuff. It's easy to dismiss a \$15-a-month streaming service or a \$6 coffee twice a week. But those small purchases add up. Forgotten subscriptions, food delivery fees and impulse buys can quietly drain your bank account.

"Just \$25 a week, if invested well, can grow into the thousands in a few short years." Scan your recurring charges regularly, cancel what you don't use and put that money to work instead.

Don't let your lifestyle outpace your income. When you get a raise or bonus, it's tempting to upgrade your apartment, car or everyday spending. This "lifestyle creep" can be a significant hindrance to building wealth.

Here's an alternate approach: Every time your income goes up, increase your savings rate before anything else. Even saving half of a raise while spending the rest puts you ahead.

Start now, even imperfectly. Don't wait to start investing. Even if you can only set aside a small amount each month, do it. Starting just five to 10 years earlier can result in significantly more wealth down the line, even if the early contributions are small, thanks to compounding.

Compounding means your contributions earn interest, and even that interest earns interest. Over decades, that snowball effect can make a world of difference.

Stay aware, not obsessed. You don't necessarily need to track every dollar you spend. But you do need to be aware of your money habits. A quick weekly or monthly check-in on your accounts, spending patterns and progress toward savings goals can help you catch problems early.

Financial awareness also means protecting what you build. An emergency fund covering three to six months of total expenses keeps one bad month from becoming a financial crisis. Avoiding high-interest debt does the same. These defensive habits make everything else possible.

Your financial future likely won't be shaped by one big decision. Instead, it will probably be built by small choices you make every day. And the best time to start making good choices is now.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forgive my lack of patriotic enthusiasm

To the Editor:

Personally, it would be a waste of my patriotic enthusiasm to in any way celebrate the 'most imprisoned person who could write most eloquently about freedom.' That's high theater, considering that the most 'imprisoned' person held over 600 slaves and never freed them, but deserves high praise because 'he was its most celebrated theorist of liberty.' He deserves credit for writing about American ideals and helping shape this country. But he was a coward. He chose the colonist white man's way of keeping the slaves, keeping the comfort, keeping the lifestyle, and after his death, because of his personal financial negligence, slave families were broken up. No, I will skip any patriotic enthusiasm for a man who could have changed his lifestyle if he had a mind to. Guess living without slaves wasn't an option for a man of his distinction.

Nor do I plan to celebrate Jefferson's blaming England. I will celebrate when we stop perpetuating these myths about our origin story. Slavery was not handed down. Like it or not, the colonists were very responsible for institutionalizing slavery in this country. By the "1660s, colonial lawmakers in Virginia, Maryland, and other colonies had passed laws deliberately defining enslaved Africans and their children as property for life — a legal innovation the colonists created themselves." Britain didn't force them to do this. "Colonial legislatures wrote the slave codes. The 1662 Virginia law made slavery hereditary. North and South colonial financiers, ship owners, and traders liked the proposition and benefited from it. Selected forefathers wrote protections for slavery into the Constitution. All 13 colonies before the 'Revolution' had legally defined slavery."

Or how about this? "The colonials put everything on the line, the Revolutionary line." Stats about this time indicate a different story. America was divided from the beginning. The best available info suggests that only about 40 percent of the colonists were patriots who put everything on the line. Another set of colonists — loyalists were about 20 percent of a two million population, and about 40 percent were considered neutral or fence-sitters, including Quakers and Mennonites. There were likely about 400,000 enslaved Africans, and about 20 percent of those individuals took up arms for the British, with about 5,000 free Black men serving in the Continental Army. Many Native Americans sided with the British. So, suggesting that all colonials put everything on the line is another part of the patriotic enthusiasm I will forego. What we should be celebrating is our diversity and still coming together as one country.

But there is a place for patriotic enthusiasm for Pepperell in 1777, voting to compensate the women of the Guard, making them among the 'first American women ever paid for military service.' But there was a much wider pattern of contributions by women that also deserves thanks: (National Park Service)

Daughters of Liberty — Organized boycotts of British goods, spinning their own cloth as a political protest

Camp followers — As many as 10,000

women followed the Continental Army, cooking, laundering, nursing, and foraging; Washington himself acknowledged the army could not survive without them

Spies and couriers — Women passed intelligence under the radar because they were underestimated by British authorities

Combat roles — Margaret Corbin and Mary Ludwig Hayes ("Molly Pitcher") manned cannons when their husbands fell in battle

Political writers — Mercy Otis Warren wrote political satire and propaganda;

Soldiers — Deborah Sampson of Massachusetts disguised herself as a man and fought for nearly two years before being discovered

I have much less patriotic enthusiasm for the fact that, though women were part of the 'Home Front revolution,' performing the following:

"Managed farms, businesses, and plantations entirely alone, often for years at a time

Made homespun cloth as a deliberate political act — boycotting British textiles was one of the Revolution's first organized protests, and women were its engine

Raised funds and gathered supplies for the Continental Army

Housed and fed soldiers as troops were quartered in private homes — both Patriot and Loyalist women had little choice in this

Endured raids and threats — many watched their homes burned, livestock stolen, and family members threatened or killed

Buried the dead and nursed the sick and wounded in their own communities"

And despite their enormous contributions, the Revolution largely failed to extend its ideals of liberty to women. "Abigail Adams famously pleaded with John Adams to 'remember the ladies'. But Historian Rosemarie Zagari at Case Western notes that the men in charge 'considered women dependents of men, much like children and slaves', and that view did not change as a result of the Revolution."

And I have absolutely no patriotic enthusiasm for the distinction that 'clever folks' are now making. What claptrap. There are at least 8 logical fallacies and little support for that 2-sentence paragraph, including snob appeal, name-calling, hasty generalization, false cause, loaded language, etc.

The term American War of Independence has been around for a long time. The Encyclopedia Britannica: "The American Revolution (1775–83), also called the United States War of Independence or American Revolutionary War, was a war in which 13 of Great Britain's North American colonies won political independence and went on to form the United States of America." The encyclopedia noted that both terms have been in use since the 18th century. Neither is a modern invention. Britain originally coined it, not the Ivy League. The writer just had to find one more way to fit in the word "communist" as part of her 250th-anniversary patriotic enthusiasm rhetoric.

Amidst the extended use of logical fallacies, there is a valid point. In fact, John Adams made the point. From a letter John Adams wrote to Thomas Jefferson on Aug. 24, 1815: "As to the history of

the revolution, my ideas may be peculiar, perhaps singular. What do we mean by the revolution? The war? That was no part of the revolution; it was only an effect and consequence of it. The revolution was in the minds of the people, and this was effected from 1760 to 1775, in the course of fifteen years, before a drop of blood was shed at Lexington." "The Online Library of Liberty notes that during his retirement years, Adams was fond of saying "the War for Independence was a consequence of the American Revolution" — not the same thing."

So whether it's called the Revolutionary War or the War for Independence is moot. Let's pay proper patriotic enthusiasm for the Revolution that was in the 'minds

of the people.' Or we can waste more time calling people like John Adams a Communist, Ivy Leaguer, part of the clever people.

Reminds me of the Daniel Day-Lewis movie "Last of the Mohicans."

Hawkeye: Chingachgook, he warned me about people like you. Cora Munro: Oh, he did? Hawkeye: He said, "Do not try to understand them" — and "do not try to make them understand you. That is because they are a breed apart and make no sense."

LINDA LACKI
NORTHBRIDGE

The freedom found between the fireworks

Every Fourth of July seems to arrive with the same familiar soundtrack.

Somewhere in town, someone is already testing

**LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET**
By CHARLES

works a few nights early. Flags appear on front porches that looked bare only a week before. The grocery stores suddenly have mountains of hamburger buns stacked where the breakfast cereal used to be, and every weather forecast becomes the most important broadcast of the week.

In Massachusetts, Independence Day has always carried a little extra weight. We live where so much of the nation's story began. We grow up hearing about Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill and the Boston Tea Party. Schoolchildren memorize dates that happened just down the road from where they ride bicycles today. This year, as the nation marks its 250th birthday, those connections feel even closer. Communities across the Commonwealth are celebrating not only with fireworks and parades, but with historical programs that remind us how much of America's story started here.

Yet, I suspect most of us don't spend the Fourth thinking about history books. Instead, we remember our own traditions.

Maybe it's the neighborhood parade where every kid decorated a bicycle with crepe paper. Maybe it's sitting on a blanket waiting for darkness while trying to guess where the first fireworks will appear. Maybe it's a backyard filled with folding chairs that have somehow become family heirlooms. There is comfort in traditions that don't need improving.

Every year, someone insists they know the perfect way to grill corn on the cob. Every year someone burns the hot dogs while insisting they're "just getting flavor." Every year someone forgets the bug spray until it's too late. Some things are worth repeating.

The older I get, the more I think Independence Day isn't really about the fireworks at all. They're beautiful, certainly, but they're over in half an hour. The holiday lasts because of everything surrounding them. It's neighbors waving from across the street. It's children staying up far later than they should. It's veterans quietly standing when the national anthem is played. It's grandparents explaining to curious youngsters why the holiday matters without turning it into a lecture. Those moments don't make headlines, but they make communities.

Our towns have changed over the years. Storefronts come and go. Schools expand. Roads are rebuilt. New families arrive while others move away. Yet on the Fourth of July, peo-

ple still gather in the same parks, line the same sidewalks, and spread blankets across the same fields their parents and grandparents once used. That's a remarkable kind of continuity.

We spend much of the year talking about what divides us. Turn on the television for ten minutes and you'll be reminded of every disagreement imaginable.

Then Independence Day arrives. For one evening, we all look in the same direction.

Nobody argues about whether the red burst was prettier than the blue one. Children don't care who their parents voted for. The only debate that matters is whether the grand finale has started or if the biggest shells are still coming.

Perhaps that's the lesson hidden beneath all the celebration. A community doesn't become stronger because everyone thinks alike. It becomes stronger because people choose, again and again, to share the same spaces, the same traditions, and the same hopes for tomorrow.

So this weekend, enjoy the parade. Eat one too many hamburgers. Wave to someone you haven't seen in a while. Stay for the fireworks, even if you've seen hundreds before.

And when the last echo fades into the summer night, remember that the brightest part of Independence Day was never what exploded overhead. It was the people standing beside you, looking up together.



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DOUGLAS ADULT SOCIAL CENTER

331 Main St.
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Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to noon

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.

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

Tuesday: Walking club 9am, Cribbage 9:00am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology class 1pm (call to make an appt.)

Wednesday: Balance & strength 10am, Darts 11:30am, Mahjong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm

Thursday: Walking club 9am, Pitch 9:00am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Tai Chi 10:45am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm

Friday: Balance & strength 10am, Zumba 11:15am

Cooling Center: The center is open as a cooling center all summer long. Feeling hot? Come on in enjoy some free ice cream, or a free cup of coffee and a pastry. We have tons of activities going on every day or if you like could sit read a book, play a game on one of our tablets, color on our poster table or put some pieces in the puzzle at our puzzle table. The staff and the patrons are a friendly bunch! Stop in to say hello and to cool off anytime.

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend, we offer free rides to & from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee is necessary.

July Lunch Menu:

Tuesday 7/7: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, corn & chocolate cream pie

Thursday 7/9: Sub sandwich, chips & ice cream sundae

Tuesday 7/14: Spinach & cheese quiche, English muffins & fruit

Tuesday 7/21: Stuffed peppers, carrots & ice cream

Thursday 7/23: Cheese lasagna, salad, garlic bread & cake

Tuesday 7/28: Salad bar w/ grilled chicken & fruit

Thursday 7/30: Fish sticks, tater tots & ice cream

Friday Shopping Schedule: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.

Hannaford: 7/24

Walmart: 7/3 & 7/17

Price Chopper: 7/10

Rider's choice: 7/31

JULY EVENTS: The center will be closed on Friday July 3rd in observance of Independence Day.

There will be no Zumba class on Friday July 17th.

WELLNESS CLINIC DATES: Monday July 13th & Tuesday July 21st. Clinic is open from 10 am to 12 pm.

Thursday July 9 @ 11:30: The Beatles presented by Fran Hart. A cultural & historical reflection of the 1960's through the music of the Beatles. Lunch is \$4.00 per person, sub sandwich, chips & ice cream sundaes. Sign up by 7/6.

Thursday July 16 @ 12:00: The Sunshine Club invites you to Stamp painting w/ John. Grandparents bring your grandchildren in for a fun afternoon. We will supply the paint, stamps & canvas. Bring your own t-shirt, canvas sneakers or whatever you would like to paint on. Refreshments will be served. Sign up by 7/10.

Thursday July 23 @ 11:30: Interdimensional presented by Ronny LeBlanc. Explore the unknown, share the journey. You may have seen him the Discovery channel, Expedition Bigfoot or Paranormal caught on camera. Lunch is \$4.00 per person, lasagna, salad, garlic bread & cake. Sign up 7/17.

Thursday July 30 @ 11:30: Lunch & a movie, we will be watching Remarkably Bright Creatures. Lunch is \$4.00 per person, fish sticks, tater tots, & dessert. Sign up by 7/27.

Attention Veterans of America:

FREE FOOD IS AVAILABLE TO YOU!

Yes, it's true, this is not a gimmick. We have an organization that wants to thank you for your service to our country.

Have you heard of Central Massachusetts Veterans Support Inc.? They are located on 135 Worcester-Providence Turnpike, Millbury, MA 01527.

To tell you a little about this great organization; Central Massachusetts Veterans Support Inc. (CMVSI) is a non-profit organization registered under section 501(c)(3).

Their aim is to provide essential support to military personnel and veterans in Central Massachusetts. Their mission is to assist these selfless individuals with necessities such as food, clothing, comfort care, and other essentials.

They are passionate about our cause and believe that, as a community, they can positively impact the lives of those who have served our country. They strive to honor their service and make a difference in their lives.

They welcome you to join us in our mission to support these courageous individuals who have served or are currently serving our country. They feel honored to serve them.

They ensure that 90% of all donations made to Central Massachusetts Veterans Support Inc. (CMVSI) go directly to their mission of helping veterans.

If you have never, been it's worth a trip just to see what this organization has to offer. Free food, & a free ride why not check it out? Bring a shopping bag, if you do not have one, they will provide you with one.

THE ADULT SOCIAL CENTER TRANSPORTATION VAN WILL BE GOING ON THURSDAY JULY 16th @ 1:00 PM. VAN PICK UP TIME WILL START @ 12:30. PICK UP TIME WILL DEPEND ON NUMBER OF PEOPLE GETTING PICKED UP. YOU MAY TAKE THE VAN FROM THE CENTER OR YOUR HOME. YOU MAY CALL THE SOCIAL CENTER TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT, 508-476-2283. VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES ARE INVITED.

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DRIVERS LICENSE WITH A "V"

DD214

ANY OTHER VETERAN'S IDENTIFICATION

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

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

PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland Street in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events. Please call the main office to sign up for special events and programs, so we can plan accordingly.

Medical Drivers

We are in need of medical drivers for out-of-town medical appointments. This is a very important service that we provide for seniors who cannot drive themselves to their medical appointments. If you are interested and can spare any time, it would be most appreciated. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage. For more information, please call the main office.

Regular Programs:

Meditation with Kelly:

Every Thursday morning at 9:30am

Book Club:

Third Wednesday at 10:30am

Please call Kelly for more information.

Brew Crew:

No Meetings in July and August

Dull Men's Club:

No Meetings in July and August

Scrabble:

First and Third Mondays at 9:30am

July 13th and 27th

Women's Collective:

2nd Thursday at 10:00am

July 9th ~ Guest Speakers: Heather Carr Reiter and Abbie Jackman

Tallent from Carr Funeral Home

August 13th ~ No meeting

Please call Amy for more information.

Writing Your Way:

2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2:00pm

Please call Lori for more information.

Highlights of Boston Red Sox History

Thursday, July 9th

1:30pm-2:30pm

This program will showcase the team's colorful seasons of success (and also some of the years of frustration) and focus on star players that were fan favorites, such as Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, Carlton Fisk, Luis Tiant, Pedro Martinez, and David Ortiz. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up in the main office.

Joe Fusco Jr. ~ Worcester County humorist/stand-up poet

Tuesday, July 21st

1:30pm-2:30pm

Joe is the author of six books of semi-amusing poems and essays: "Here We Go Again (2026)", "Random Thoughts from a Curmudgeon (2023)", "Pondering the Pandemic during The Rust Years" (2021); "Hmm...That's Different" (2020); "Three Score" (2014); and "The Lost and Found Essays" (2012), all available at local bookstores and Amazon. Joe's musings have appeared in Damfino Press, Ballard Street Poetry, Worcester Review, Asinine Poetry, Soul Lit, and the e-zine Clean Sheets. He was a co-winner of the Jacob Knight Poetry Award in 2002 and was named Best Poet by Worcester Magazine readers in 1999 and 2002. Joe is a Humor Columnist for Worcester Magazine and the last Worcester Mega-Slam winner in 2017. He features at bookstores, libraries, clubs, and coffeehouses throughout Central Massachusetts and Belgium. He is the host of The Poetry Extravaganza at The Mill in West Boylston and The Richard Fox Poetry Series in Worcester. Sign up in the main office.

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host this fun and enlightening presentation based on his book, "The Greatest Sitcoms of All Time!" He will show funny video snippets from many shows, challenge patrons with sitcom trivia, discuss criteria he has used to rank 70 years of sitcoms and talk about how they have evolved. This program is really entertaining so join in on the fun! Sign up in the main office.

What is Alzheimer's Dementia?

Come and learn the strategies to help cope with both symptoms and behaviors.

Tuesday, July 28th

1:30pm-2:30pm

We will explore what the term dementia means, look at changes in the brain, review how diagno-

ses are made, investigate possible symptoms, and share coping strategies. Presented by Salmon Health and Retirement Sign up in the main office.

TRI-Valley Nutrition Presentation: "Healthy Eating on a Budget"

Wednesday, July, 29th 1:00pm-2:00pm

Rising gas prices, along with increasing food and household costs, are putting pressure on our everyday budgets—but eating well doesn't have to be out of reach.

Join us to discover practical, money-smart shopping strategies that support both your health and your wallet. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up in the main office.

Local residents to participate in Pan-Mass Challenge to support cancer research

NEEDHAM — This August 1 and 2, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) will bring together more than 6,000 cyclists and 4,000 volunteers on August 1-2 to raise money for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Participants from local communities will be among those helping support the PMC's mission to fund lifesaving cancer research and treatment.

Local participants include:

Joseph Grant of Whitinsville

Anas Abdulwahab of Whitinsville

Cathy Grant of Whitinsville

Mike Tonry of Whitinsville

Kelly Rush of Whitinsville

Samantha Suss of Whitinsville

Meredith Rush of Whitinsville

Leo Sullivan of Uxbridge

Tim Orr of Uxbridge

Jeffrey Smith of Uxbridge

Leah Martel of Uxbridge

Brian Pidgeon of Uxbridge

Sally Selvidge of Uxbridge

Isaac Curley of Uxbridge

Robert Mahoney of Uxbridge

Cheryl Vasquez of Uxbridge

Karen Curley of Uxbridge

Molly Curley of Uxbridge

Susan Corman of Northbridge

Samuel Corman of Northbridge

Benjamin Corman of Northbridge

Charles Watler of Northbridge

Karen Plantinga of Northbridge

Dan Stomski of Northbridge

Alice Corman of Northbridge

Teresa Byrne of Northbridge

Paul Byrne of Northbridge

Rachel Trosclair of Northbridge

Deanna Pavone of Northbridge

Mia Hupprich of Douglas

Randy Smith of Douglas

Lisa Parella of Douglas

Peyton Manyak of Douglas

Joshua Aguiar of Douglas

Joe Gibree of Douglas

Chris Aguiar of Douglas

Lori-Ann Hippert of Douglas

Kelli Tower of Douglas

Bruce Thomas of East Douglas

The PMC, which raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraiser in the world, is aiming to raise more than ever this year, with a fundraising goal of \$79 million.

This year's PMC comes at an especially critical time, with federal research support shrinking, grant approval rates reaching historic lows, and cancer cases continuing to rise.

For the 20th consecutive year, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar will go directly to Dana-Farber, one of the nation's top three hospitals for cancer research and care.

"The theme for this year's PMC, which is 'now, more than ever,' underscores the paramount importance of every single dollar raised in fueling the search for a cure," said Billy Starr, founder and chairman of the PMC.

"We are endlessly grateful to every rider, volunteer, donor, and sponsor who makes the PMC possible. Because of their training miles, long hours of volunteering, generous support, and unwavering commit-

ment, we are moving ever closer to a world without cancer."

Since its inception in 1980, the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber, making it the organization's largest single contributor and accounting for 67 percent of the annual revenue of The Jimmy Fund, Dana-Farber's community-driven fundraising arm. This unrestricted annual funding has empowered and accelerated advancements in cancer research, deeply benefitting patients across the world.

During each annual PMC weekend, thousands of cyclists and volunteers come together from across the world, hailing from 47 US states and 12 countries, with a shared purpose of raising as much money as possible for Dana-Farber. Cyclists ride routes ranging from 25 to 177 miles. Included among these participants is the PMC Living Proof community, riders and volunteers who were previously treated or are currently undergoing cancer treatment and serve as Living Proof of the progress made through raising funds for cancer research and treatment.

There is still time to participate in this year's Pan-Mass Challenge. Folks interested in getting involved can learn more and register at PMC.org.

About the Pan-Mass Challenge

The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is a bike-a-thon that today raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the world. Founded in 1980 by Billy Starr - who remains the event's founder & chairman, an annual cyclist, and a fundraiser - the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund. As Dana-Farber's single largest contributor, the organization generates 67 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar goes directly to fueling cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber. In addition to its two-day bike-a-thon across Massachusetts, the PMC is powered by further "spokes in the wheel," with initiatives including the PMC Winter Cycle, an indoor spin event; PMC Unpaved, a gravel bike ride; and PMC Kids Rides, mini bike-a-thons for children ages 2 to 15. The PMC attracts riders and volunteers from 47 states and 12 countries and over 300,000 individual donors. Across events, the PMC has successfully melded support from

Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

HISTORY ON PARADE

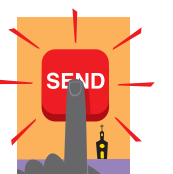
As part of Sutton's celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary, residents held a Living Timeline Parade on Saturday, June 27.



SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@stonebridgepress.news



NORTHBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

NORTHBRIDGE — Northbridge High School has released its honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Students are recognized for their academic success with a quarterly Honor Roll. This is determined shortly after the close of each of the four quarters. This recognition is based on their quarter grades and is determined as follows:

· **HIGHEST HONORS:** Term GPA is 4.0+

· **HIGH HONORS:** Term GPA is between 3.3-3.9

· **HONORS:** Term GPA is between 2.7-3.2

Highest Honors

Grade 12: Olivia Choumanivong, Danielle Chrabaszcz, Polina Conio Patselueva, Lorelai Drapeau, Reed Dziekiewicz, Natalie Fasold, Kylie Grazulis, Sonja Hastings, Aedan Holcomb, Penelope Houpt, Kathleen Leonard, Ellory Manning, Effielyn Marrero, Gisel Morrissette, Emma Oosterman, Vidhi Patel, Owen Pollock, Brendan Riche, Audriana Roby, Elly Schofer, Caleb Smith, Sofia Smith, Kayleigh Szerlag, Kallie Tevepaugh

Grade 11: Kayla Briggs, Jacqueline Cammarano, Lillian Donahue, Emily Kelly, Abigail Leveille, Ashley Papa, Bryce Rogozenski, Isabella Saad, Elizabeth Tubbs, Austin Kee, Samuel Corman, Meghan Frieswick, Olivia Stanick, Ava Mandelenakis, Carly Brett, Bryce Ryan, Emily Billmyer, Cecilia Laviolette, Vahan DerKosrofian, Alexandra Corey, Lillian Sabourin, Bryce Lundquist, Zahra Rith, Julia Fisher, Cayleigh Foley, Leah Gallerani, Nathan Kuras, Dawson Kramer, Jason Bolduc

Grade 10: Ereeny Gohar, Taylor Alden, Gohar Arakelyan, Chloe Barnatt, Kayla Bolduc, Paisley Comeau, Brady Dorenzo, Gage Doble, Kallie Dunn, Emily Flauto, Landon Gerardi, Cailey Graceffa, Jessica Haberski, Kara Helinski, Savannah Hendricks, Katherine Hernandez, Cassandra Mendoza, Cassandra Higgins, Arabella Kosciak, Kathleen L'Hommedieu, Anna Lavallee, Chi Le, Molly Leonard, Ashley Ann Lucena, Lila MacDonald, Maya MacLeod, Madelynn Nowak, Shane Paulhus, Avery Riche, Marissa Roadman, Madison Scungio, Audrey Siemaszko, Isabelle Stanley, Ava Strazzulla, Kaitlyn Szerlag, Brooklyn Thibeault, Keelyn Touhey, Boluwatife Vera-Cruz, Amanda Waterson, Lexi Wilson

Grade 9: Maci Coe, Leah

Fasold, James Flaherty, Reese Hendricks, Callie Kaska, Florissa Lundquist, Lexie Paulhus, Madelyn Pellegrino, Mason Richard, Kalina Rolan, Natasha Souvanna

Grade 8: Levi Buehler, Giovanna Bufaino Rocha, Kelsey Desousa, Klara L'Hommedieu, Vrinda Patel, Charlotte Supernor, Sawyer Woods

High Honors

Grade 12: Lucas Babiy, Jason Calles, Addyson Crothers, Hailie Cullen, Antonio D'Alfonso, Luke Davis, Nathan Falconer, Jacoby Gallerani, Alexander Goodrow, Grace Haden, Stacia Hilditch, Nadia Kotwica, Trisha Lange, Callum Lax, Mong Le, Isle Malik, Sienna Mastroianni, Maxwell

Mazzarelli, John Mazzarelli, Aiden Mulcahy, Sophia Nicholatos, Zixuan Qiao, Trevor Roadman, Jake Rogers, Logan Sansone, Nicollas Silva, Leticia Silva, Gabriel Smart, Taden Stanovich, Tyler Strazzulla, Jacob Tomaino, Jenna Tomasetti, Dayanara Torres, Braedan Tracy, Colby Trudeau, Kelsey Tucker, Angel Wesson

Grade 11: Brendan Aldrich, Kalintra Bailey, Skyla Boucher, Barbara Brooks, Brooke Cammarano, Christina Chiras, John Donahue, Tanner Haden, Jillian Krula, Anthony Mooradian, Hayden Murphy, Aidan Payen, Michael Potter, Mia Prosser, Lily Proto, Zoey Rith, Georgia Robinson, Danika Schofield, Brooke Shumate, Mia Smith-Hale, Michael Tubbs, Kaylee Vakoc, Kayla Whitney

Grade 10: Ella Arias, Kirra Arsenault, Alexander Austin, Quin Austin, Hannah Bacon, Olivia Caira, Taryn Conway, Aleina Cortes-Crespo, Trevione Evans, Jaxon Gabriela, Taylla Victoria Goncalves, Ashlyn Gonyea, Mark Henin, Aiden Jenkins, Thomas Krause, Joshua Kuras, Rory LaMonda, Vincent Lomonaco, Karibella Matuszak, Julia McKenna, Connor McLaughlin, Ryan Parker, Olivia Pollock, Abrielle Richards, Samuel Samuel, Jade Thomas, Stephany Villanueva Juarez

Grade 9: Anna Andresen, Nevaeh Ayala, Renji Bailey, Mya Bassett, Nathaniel Borges, Maggie Caron, Zoe Corey, Andrew DeCiero, Arayelix Esquilin Cruz, Giovanna Ferreira, Willow Hogan, Jameson Kaska, Payton Kaska, Teagan Koopman, Evan LaChapelle,

Tianna Lavallee, Cooper Mandelenakis, Hailee Martin, Zoe Matuszak, Kole Melanson, Marshall Munhall, Abbygale Novinger, Logan Overfield, Alexander Picard, Jolene Poulin, Zakiiya Rawson, Aubrianna Theroux, Addison Trotter, Christian Vacca Rivera, Maxwell Zyra

Grade 8: Deric Alicea, Sophia Baldwin, Cameron Brouillard, Emily Desousa, Kaylee Desousa, Bella Drury, Lucas Frieni, Kenneth Gauthier, Abigail Gorman, Aliana Jimenez, Ariana Juarez, Reese LaMonda, Avianna Mejia, Jordan Paradis, Wyatt Piegorsch, Camren Poulin, Zuliany Rodriguez, Brayden Ryan, Owen Sanford, Joseph Seaver

Honors

Grade 12: Maija Beaupre, Lily Bilodeau, Natalie Clark, Kevin DiMuzio, Jeffrey Doyle, Askibus Dubois, Teagan Flannery, Keondre Gaines, Arabella Hakani, Ginson Jeres Guaman, Joel LaChapelle, Charlotte LaTour, Cameron Lavallee, Chase Lawson, Luke Lewandowski, Keith MacEachern, Marcus MacLeod, Nina McElreath, Kenna McMahon, Landon Naughton-Bolduc, Hayden Naylor, Smit Patel, Kayleigh-Ann Pomeroy, Ryan Reyes, Dayli Reyes Fuentes, Lara Rivers, Emily Scholl, Lui Silva Garcia, Jarissa Sylvestre, Nicholas Thomas, Saxon Zona

Grade 11: Quinn Driscoll, Max Frazer, Alfredo Garcia, Christian Gomez-White, Samuel Gorman, Bailey Kee, Gabriel Leveille, Jadel Ortiz, Jordan Priore, Dylan Saster, Parker Stanick, Tyler Tran, Alexander Zanchi

Grade 10: Grace Alicandro-Kinney, Ethan Alvarado, Anita Comforti, Victoria Concepcion-Cruz, Brady Connolly, Elizabeth Garcia, Adrianna Goncalves, Dylan Kelly, Layana Lee, Colton Lotfy, Sophia Maracle, Cody Miller, Rafael Montalvo, Sadie Nephew, Adrianna Racz, Shiloh Stewart

Grade 9: Sanaya Barros, Jackson Bates, Logan Blood, Nathan Boisvert, Calli-Ann Bolduc, Myra Briggs, Krishna Mae Caugusan, Bryan De Lima, Parker Falvey, Jayden Foley, Miles Gorman, Alexis Hardy, Emmanuel Jimenez Suarez, Angelina Keddy, Logan Lemarr, Devyn Nicholson, Chase Pichel-Daigneault, Ethan Searles, Ethan Sidavong, Landon

Tucker, Jack Vallee, Sasha Vidinha, Jacob Ware, Blake Wenc

Grade 8: Ryen Alexander, Brayden Barnatt, Rylie Bartusek, Aria Beaupre, Teagan Cain,

Benjamin Ciani, Isaiah Clemente, Benjamin Comforti, Isabella Farrand-Antobenedetto, Erin Geary, Jonah Gendron, Kayla Haggett, Evan Holcomb, Morgan Jenkins, Landon Joubert, Jaxon L'Esperance,

Alex McKellick, Aditree Nayak, Brayden Neyland, Addison Onorato, Charlotte Pitts, Mia Reed, Tyler Reyes, Davian Salvi, Savannah Shumate, Logan Theberge, Finnian Trites, Declan Trites

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 8

High Honors: Sophia Aldrich, Myah Anderson, Blaze Baldwin, Olivia Balicki, Charley Beland, Lila Berard, Owen Black, Charlotte Braun, Dylan Carter, David Chappel, Hunter Chappel, Reece Clinton, Enzo Colonna, Bailey DeMarco, Jacob Derouen, Quinn Gilmore, Sierra Gomes, Evan Goryl, Erin Guertin, Emily Guilherme, Ethan Hamilton, Kellyn Hankey, Aurora Hawkins, Tycen Jones, Kingsly Kaiser, Ruth Keane, Ella Lafontaine, Henry LeBlanc, Jaelyn Loja, Avery Lynch, Abigail Mandile, Tyley Martin, Khloe Martins, Julie Mikhaeil, Avery Mitchell, Julia Nakazano, Jayden Nazareno, Keira Nicoll, Julia Olson, Gavin Pezzullo, Madeline Pidgeon, Emma Ramos, Carlo Roffo, Nicholas Rota, Ella Ryan, Aryan Saini, Kyrie Sannicandro, Curtis Sockwell, Olivia Spiecker, Emelia Tibbo, Ayla Troland, Colton Trotter, Brayden Vaidya, Lekshara Velmurugan, Tristyn Woodall

Honors: Kaylee Almy, Kingston Baldwin, Ezra Burbank, Talia Chinappi, Nathan Costigan, Jack Cutone, Maisa DeSousa, Daniel Donahue, Dominic Harlow-Freeman, Isabela Hernandez, Landyn Jastremski, Phoebe Keniston, Hudson Kirshenbaum, Lily Labrecque-Brodeur, Emma Malloy, Leslie Mendoza, Parker Osper, Max Petruzzelli, Julia Rodrigues, Sophia Vadenais, Cayden Welch, Nola White

Honorable Mention: Emma Bruyere, Eleni Demetroules, Edith Doe, Jayden Dubois, Gavin Ferreira, Isaiah Frometa, Julius Kumah, Joseph Lemire, Corey Marchand, Jacob Mastroianni, Clara O'Neill, Kweneth Paul, Xavier Rego, Owen Shay, Lucas Spratt, Isabella Turbayne, Kali Webb, Flynn Wellington, Macin Wilczewski

Grade 9

High Honors: Kylie Alicea, Amelia Belanger, Oscar Berard, Alice Black, Patrick Brauning, Michael Brosnahan, Madeleine Buckley, Michael Caffrey, Julianna Casper, Emily Charbonnier, Thomas Charron, Gavin Dwyer, Calum Fortin, Max Gaudet, Shane Hamm, Cameron Hendricks, William Khondker, Joseph King, Mackenzie Matthews, Evelyn Palumbo, Cole Pezzullo, Edward Pino, Guilherme Resende, Greyson Rollins, Thomas Rosborough III, Caroline Roxo, Isabel Roxo, Abigail Simonds, Hailey Thompson, Kamiela Torqu, Armen VonRueden

Honors: Trevor Barbuto, Jacob Dubois, Dylan Gallagher, Samantha Gaultz, Benjamin Gergous, Kamryn Lachapelle, Nathan Loveless, Mila McElreath, Adrianna Mone, Ayla Moore, Luan Moreira-Sardinha, Ethan Najarro Rivera, Adriana O'Connor, Gia Polselli, Nathan Smith, Skyla Sokol, Willie Wilson

Honorable Mention: Kaiden Aponte, Hadleigh Avila, Miguel Freire, Sean Freiwald, Thomas Johnson, Ryan Lavergne, Corey Levesque, Alexander Livingstone, Mia Manning, Leo Pino, Brynn Power, Jake Scott, Alexanna Soter, Olivia Stoico, Lucas

Wills

Grade 10

High Honors: Cayden Almy, Evan Bourgeois, Emily Bousquet, Cooper Burdick, Kendra Cabana, Emily Cabral, Matteo Casasanta, Jaidyn DeLuca, Lily Derouen Jacob Dzivasen, Bryana Fernandes, Paige Foley, Emily Geshelin, Eliot Gnatek, Liam Gover, Everett Hazel, Benjamin Johnson, Ashton Khondker, Jessica Labonte, Bronwyn LaChapelle, Katelyn Laflamme, Matthew Lambert, Madyn Lame, Abigail Livingstone, Ryder Lovell, Clayton Maracle, Olivia Mazzola, Carly McKay, Nathan Najarro Rivera, Thomas Newhall, Nadia Nolan, Elijah Norman, Connor Osper, Ishani Patel, Allie Patnode, Shea Paxton, Marissa Pirrotta, Zoey Pominville, Julianna Remuck, Gabriel Rodrigues, James Sadd, Lily Savoia, Emmett Sharr, Benjamin Snyder, Mason Soucy, Abigail Spiecker, Hope Tibedo, Lile Twohig-Mann, Haley Walsh, Avery Wood, Matthew Yarger

Honors: Taylor Anderson, Cooper Bartlett, Desmond Botelho, Emily Calderon, Ryan E. Fitzgerald, Logan Fleming, Kelly Greene, Emma Harney, Sarah Logan, Blake Mace, Kevin Marchand, Julia McDonnell, Reagan Moriarty, Ava Rosborough, Blake Rosborough Benjamin Rota, Piper Sullivan, Jaxon Thomas, Lily Trotter, Malik Uddin, Kevin Vietro,

Honorable Mention: Kaylee Arsenault, Liam Avila, Chanthina Chhun, Anthony Dos Anjos, Bradley Dwight, Casey Griffiths, Logan Fleming, Aiden Jennings, Logan Leshinski, Jacoby Martins, William McClintock, Isaac Nagle, Hayden O'Toole, Logan Rosado, Lincoln Sheard

Grade 11

High Honors: Carolina Adarve Alonso, Ammar Alomar, Bradley Anderson, Iain Andrews, Clarah Avery-Boyer, Aaron Barry, Aubrey Beland, Gabriela Belanger, Aubrey Bouchard, Cahill, Madison Cammuso, Susana Casper, Isabela Chapman, Aiden Costigan, Skylar Daniels, Joao Pedro DeSouza, Dylan Demers, Parker Dery, Miranda ElTurkmani, Daniel Ferreira, Alyssa Friis, Brianna Fuoss, Allie Gauthier, Olivia Gauthier, Nathan Goryl, Brian Guertin, Mallorie Hallfelder, Jordan Hilgenberg, William Hinchcliffe, Samantha Huth, Lyla Jordan, Tyler Joyce, Brooklyn Kaferlein, Emrie Kling, Madison LaBonte, Sydney Loiselle, Mary Lowrey, Braelyn Matheson, Lilianna McClintock, Benjamin O'Neill, Blake Oliver, Mia Ouellette, Vibhav Patel, Emma Pelloquin, Aidan Power, Katherine Pratt, Charlie Roy, Eliasa Roy, Hannah Samolinski, Noah Samolinski, Chawanvit Sillapachairuang, Maddilyn Silva, Lelia Sjogren, Annabel Smutok, Sarah Stark, William Stark, Gabriel Stone, Samuel Weeks,

Honors: Addie Blood, Blake Burr, Austin Clancy, Kerry Desruisseaux, Ethan DeVito, Savannah Gassett, Caleb Gaultz, Cameron Gray, Nolah Jean Philippe, Amir Julien, Maxwell Kammerer, Grace Kibe, Damien Natola, Nathan Oliveira, Nicolas Polselli, Natalie Silva, Kole Silvestro, Lukas Tierney, Zachary Veneziano, Erik Ward, Benjamin Yoffe

Honorable Mention: Connor Brooks, Joseph Cascella, Xavier Chan, Cole Choquette, Josiah DeMontigny, Lindsay Genoa, Elaina Horgan, Stephen Jackman, Mathias Lalakidis, John Lannigan, Dawson Levesque, Elizabeth Moriarty, Arianna Pare, Emmanuel Ramla, Samuel Trotter

BUMA
FUNERAL HOMES
Uxbridge • Whitinsville • Milford
www.bumafuneralhome.com



Jackman Funeral Home
7 Mechanic St. Douglas, MA
12 Spring St., Whitinsville, MA

Tancrell-Jackman Funeral Home
35 Snowling Rd., Uxbridge, MA

(508) 278-2200 - Reaches All Locations

JackmanFuneralHome@yahoo.com ~ JackmanFuneralHomes.com

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. W026P1989EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate Of:
Geraldine Anita Herman

Date of Death: May 9, 2026

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner

**Thomas M. Herman of Worcester
MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Thomas M. Herman of Worcester

MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal

procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

July 3, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court**

**225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. W025C0401CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:

**Henry Rondina Lymneos
A Petition to Change Name of Minor** has been filed by
Henry Rondina Lymneos of

Uxbridge MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Henry Rondina

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 07/21/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 10, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

July 3, 2026

Roger Williams University announces Spring Dean's List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

- Olivia Deluca of Douglas
- Connor Fleming of Douglas
- Sophie Kay of Uxbridge
- Alex Quaranta of Northbridge
- Jonathon Spiller of Whitinsville
- Molly Stinchfield of Douglas
- Emily Wildfeuer of Northbridge

About RWU
Roger Williams University offers professional studies and liberal arts programs, with campuses in Bristol and Providence, Rhode Island. We provide real-world learning that empowers students to become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

Roger Williams University announces 2026 graduates

BRISTOL, R.I. — The following students received their degrees in May as part of the Class of 2026.

- Cora McComiskey of Northbridge
- Alex Quaranta of Northbridge

About RWU
Roger Williams University offers professional studies and liberal arts programs, with campuses in Bristol and Providence, Rhode Island. We provide real-world learning that empowers students to become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

Local students earn Dean's List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the spring 2026 Dean's List.

Dean's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. To be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

The following local students have achieved Dean's List honors for the spring 2026 semester:

- Brennan Jones of Douglas
- Jonah Duncan of Douglas
- Alexandria Patterson of Uxbridge
- David Sanchez of Uxbridge
- Tyler Richardson of Uxbridge
- Christian Rachiele of Uxbridge
- Shane Okenquist of Uxbridge
- Anthony Tomasetti of Whitinsville

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

Local students earn President's List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the spring 2026 President's List.

President's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

The following local students have achieved President's List honors:

- Victoria Symock of Douglas
- Erin Wyndham of Northbridge
- Chloe McDonald of Uxbridge
- Cameron Burdick of Uxbridge
- Ella Haker of Uxbridge

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

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PARTY
continued from page A1

huge hit among concertgoers, who enthusiastically enjoyed the band's energy, musicianship, and diverse repertoire.

The Northbridge Senior Center extends its sincere gratitude to the organizations that made this special performance and event possible.

Funding for the musical performance was provided in part by a grant from the Northbridge Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Additional support for the Hello Summer Party was generously provided by the Friends of Northbridge Elders (FINE), Unibank, and Home

Instead. "The Hello Summer Party was a wonderful opportunity for seniors to gather, celebrate the season, and enjoy outstanding live entertainment from the Driveway Chicks," said Amy Cowen, program and volunteer coordinator. "We are grateful to our funders and community partners whose support allows us to offer enriching programs

and events like this throughout the year." The Northbridge Senior Center provides a wide variety of programs, outreach services, educational opportunities, and social events designed to enhance the quality of life for older adults in the community. For more information about the Northbridge Senior Center, please call (508) 234-2002.

VALLEYCAST
continued from page A1

metal sculptor, and two painters: Michael Bourque, Nathan Bourque, Madeleine Lord, and Derrick Te Paske. They each have distinctive styles, influences, and outcomes, yet the artists have discovered intriguing commonalities through sharing exhibit space. Find more details at <https://www.openskycs.org/event/valleycast-presents-informal/>.

The 17th Annual Summer Concert Series, free and open to the public, kicks off with singer-songwriter duo Ash & Eric, followed by the Blackstone Valley Community Concert Band. Through September 3, 2026, local bands, dancing and food trucks will fill the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza for an inclusive community event every Thursday night. For the full season lineup, visit: <https://www.openskycs.org/event/valleycast-presents-the-2026-free-summer-concert-series/>.

About ValleyCAST
Located at the historic Whitin Mill in Northbridge, ValleyCAST is the arts and culture arm of Open Sky Community Services. From creative workshops and art exhibitions to community gatherings, outdoor concerts, and staged productions, ValleyCAST develops, produces, and hosts a wide range of events and activities for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to enjoy together. Learn more at ValleyCAST.org.

About Open Sky Community Services
Open Sky Community Services is a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency based in Worcester that has been helping individuals in our community achieve more than they imagined possible for over 50 years. The agency provides a wide range of services throughout Central Massachusetts for children, adults and families with mental health challenges, intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges. Open Sky Community Services has over 1,300 dedicated employees and nearly 150 programs throughout the region, supporting over 8,000 individuals annually. Open Sky is committed to equity and belonging and promotes a trauma-informed, whole-person care culture. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.org.

MANNING
continued from page A1

and women who provide fire, EMS, and all-hazards response to the Town of Douglas as your Fire Chief. I look forward to continuing to build strong community partnerships, embracing innovation, and ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of our personnel as we move into the future."

The Douglas Board of Selectmen were set to consider Manning's appointment and employment contract formally at a special meeting at the Douglas Municipal Center at 6 p.m. on June 30. She will be pinned as Chief at a 7 p.m. ceremony and begin her new role the morning of July 1.

BVT
continued from page A1

eight-week summer break. "Our annual task list is always ambitious by design," said BVT's Facilities Manager Robert Dolegiewicz. "We maximize every minute to address routine preventive maintenance and capital projects. A few projects on this year's list include renovations to the boys' locker room, continued site work behind the MRS building, baseball field irrigation improvements, an Automotive Technology air system upgrade, phone and fire alarm system upgrades, the HVAC building project, a renovation of a Science Room, a Culinary Arts renovation, and a 60,000-square-foot roof replacement project."

These seasonal projects are supported by in-house talent and grant funding, helping reduce costs while protecting and maintaining the facility.

Blackstone Valley Tech will welcome the Class of 2030 and their families at a cookout for incoming freshmen on Thursday, Aug. 20. Freshmen Orientation Days will be held Aug. 20 and 21. The first day of school for all BVT students is Aug. 24.

Until then, have a fun, sun-soaked summer!

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Millford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills. For more information about the school, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us.



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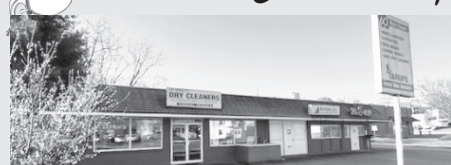
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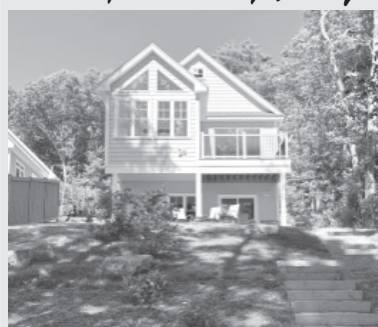


Meticulously maintained Colonial, 2,042 sf +/-, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 baths, 2 car garage, conveniently located on a park-like one acre, picturesque views. Kitchen is a culinary enthusiast's delight, elegant formal living/dining rms offer a sophisticated ambience enhanced by hardwood flrs, crown moldings & custom built-ins.

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MLS#73542689

\$1,650,000.

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom
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Webster - 18 DiDonato Ave



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MLS #7353410

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Webster - 24 Cooper Rd

New Construction - Craftsman Style home



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 3 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bath, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage
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Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



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Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

A National Grid worker comforts an injured owl in Millville last week. The Millville Animal Control Officer, Kevin Sullivan, transported the owl to Tufts University.



Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

Artist Sheryl Estelle begins work on a mural commemorating the 300th anniversary of Uxbridge. The mural is being painted at Koopman Lumber in Uxbridge.

UXBRIDGE KICKS OFF 300TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

UXBRIDGE — The Town of Uxbridge kicked off a year of events commemorating the 300th anniversary of its founding last weekend with a community bonfire and Colonial muster.

Over the next 12 months, culminating on July 27, 2027, a number of additional events are planned, including a golf tournament, walking tours and lectures, a time capsule, a 300th anniversary parade, fireworks, Fire on the Falls, a 300th Gala, and Lanterns & Legends storytelling.



Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

Patriot minutemen with Uxbridge Police.



Above: Residents gather at the bonfire.

At right: Rep. Joe McKenna and Rep. Mike Soter present Uxbridge Town Officials with a copy of the Declaration of Independence.



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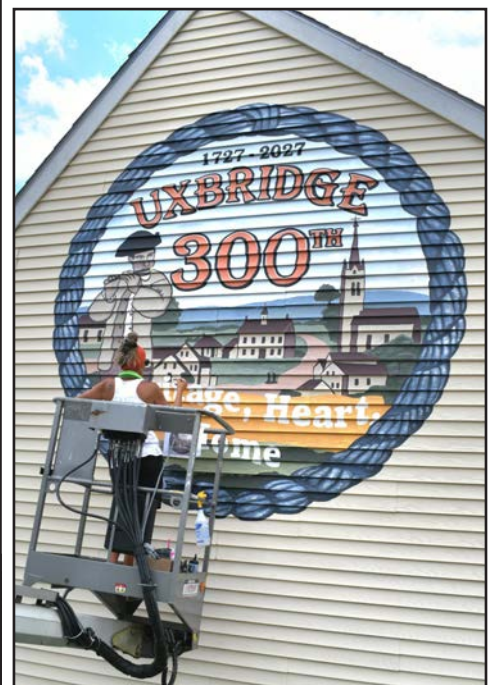
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Uxbridge artist Sheryl Estelle puts the finishing touches on the Uxbridge 300th Anniversary mural at Koopman Lumber.