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Friday, November 29, 2024

Northbridge High School students see justice in action

NORTHBRIDGE — On Wednesday, Nov. 6, the Northbridge High School Law class and members of the Social Science Pathway got to visit the Uxbridge District Court to see justice in action.

While in the courtroom, students were able to watch several arraignments and hearings for restraining orders, drug possession, operating without a license, operating under the influence, and other criminal acts, which the judge moved through rapidly.

After a recess, the students were moved into a smaller courtroom where they were quickly greeted by a Victim Services Advocate who provides support, infor-



mation, and advocacy to crime victims, witnesses, and their families. She detailed how she helps victims through the process of filing for orders of protection and gets them needed services. This is often a nerve-racking process because the victim is frequently accusing a family member or a former romantic partner of a crime. The protection orders make it easier for the police to arrest a suspect if a call or complaint is made because the suspect has already been officially warned to stay away. Students also learned that it is common for those under orders to re-offend, so these cases often contin-

Turn To **LAW** page 10

Blackstone Valley Gardeners to welcome Henry Schmidt of Weston Nurseries

WHITINSVILLE — Now that the leftover turkey is gone, you will not want to miss an inspiring evening with Henry Schmidt as you contemplate your holiday decorating. Schmidt is a long time favorite of the Blackstone Valley Gardeners. He is a talented designer, horticulturist, and all-around Renaissance Garden Man, skilled in all phases of things that make our gardens, and our homes, special places all year long.

Schmidt brings decades of experience and a special touch to holiday decorating. Enjoy his sprightly commentary as he weaves his magic into holiday creations for your front door and beyond. And the best part? All of his work will be raffled off at the end of the evening. You may even go home with your holiday decorating problems

solved!

The Blackstone Valley Gardeners meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 61 Linwood Ave. in Whitinsville. For easy access, enter through the parking lot that is behind the shops on the south side of Church Street, and use the rear entrance to the church. A brief hospitality gathering will proceed Schmidt's presentation.

Gardeners from throughout the Valley are welcome as guests for \$5 a meeting, or may become full-fledged members for \$25 a year. First timers can always attend without charge. The BVG was



begun more than 30 years ago, and is dedicated to the advancement of horticulture at home and in the community, as well as to the conservation of the environment.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of holiday spirit.

Holiday decorating with natural materials will be the theme at the December 1 meeting of the Blackstone Valley Gardeners.

Bay Path Academy Director attends Books for Pinoy Foundation Gala

WARWICK, R.I. — Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol (formerly of Dudley and Douglas), Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton was joined by her husband, Joseph Bolandrina in the second annual Books for Pinoy Foundation (BFP) Nov. 9 Foundation Gala at University Ballroom of the Double Tree by Hilton. The mission of Books for Pinoy's Foundation (<https://www.booksforpinoy.com/index.php>) is to build a library which will serve as a hub to different provinces in the Philippines. BFP is a 501c nonprofit organization 87-1616616 designed to help educate children in the Philippines. BFP have been sending books to less fortunate children, schools, and libraries across the Philippines.

Turn To **BOOKS** page 10



Recent rain may help "critical" statewide drought

BY GUS STEEVES
 CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Last Friday, state and local officials started a series of online conferences to address the current drought conditions. Although our region saw some rain straddling that meeting, the amount received hasn't done much more than dent the drought in place since August.

According to mass.gov's Drought Management page, all of Massachusetts but the Cape and Islands was in a Level 3 "critical" drought as of Nov. 19.

"Over the past 30 days, most of the state received less than an inch of rain, which is three to four and a half inches below normal," it states. "Many areas recorded their lowest rainfall ever for this time of the year. Since August, when dry conditions began, all regions except the Cape and the Islands have seen an eight- to 11-inch rainfall deficit."

On federal drought maps, that situation has made the northeast one of the driest parts of the US despite not being hot.

"The onset has been fast, it has moved fast, and it has intensified fast," Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Vandana Rao told the more than 400 people who attended Friday's meeting. She said this drought's "particularly unprecedented" progression "has reshaped our thinking" of how droughts develop and affect the state.

Its most notable impact has been in brush and forest fires. According to Department of Conservation and Recreation Fire Marshal Dave Celino, the total number of 1,226 fires for 2024 is about average, but the 4202 acres burned is "historical," as is November's total of 2,800-plus acres. He noted November's average for number of fires is 20-21, but we've seen 433 this year.

"The numbers are very impressive for us. We've

never been here in decades," he said.

Later, he added, "these fires are going to burn deep, they're going to burn long" because of how dry the conditions are. That makes them hard to fight, because "we've had fires break out of containment. ... Every ember can cause a fire to blow out on us."

On average, Celino said, the state is tracking "10 priority fires a day" and had 21 active fires on Thursday. But he noted some of them were receiving rain and/or snow that would help the effort to control them.

The largest fire was the Butternut Fire in Great Barrington, which had burned 1388 acres and had a two mile perimeter. Its geography was partly responsible — it started on a ridge, burned to the top and then started burning down both sides. But Celino noted Thursday's precipitation included snow in that area, helping to control it.

Besides fire, the drought has had serious effects on water, both in terms of water bodies and drinking supply in some areas. Department of Environmental Protection's Kathleen Baskin said DEP's water withdrawal permits normally just limit "non-essential" water uses from May to September, but in light of this drought, the agency is going to look at making that last all year.

The mass.gov drought page has a fairly long list of "recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within Level 3 — Critical Drought Regions, including those utilizing a private well." For households, those include checking for water leaks frequently, limiting showers to five minutes or less, stopping "all non-essential water use," and only running dishwashers and washing machines full. For communities, it encourages keeping people informed about drought conditions, using "increasingly stringent penalties" to enforce restrictions,

and "strongly discourage or prohibit" such washing such things as driveways.

Among other things, the list also warns people to "refrain from outdoor cooking and heating" and "use caution with lawnmowers, leaf blowers, all-terrain vehicles, and other power equipment."

Regarding conservation issues, Baskin said certain parts of the Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Act change in declared droughts. Specifically, land developers cannot use current low- or no-flow conditions in rivers and streams to define them as "intermittent," nor can they base buffer zone delineations on them, among other things. She urged commissions and others with questions to contact DEP.

Generally, surface water supplies are still good, with the MWRA-run reservoirs holding at least five years' worth, Rao said.

However, some areas are seeing groundwater concerns. The most recent state hydrological report (for October) listed central Mass as having the lowest median streamflow value of any region statewide at just 4 percent, lake levels of about 21 percent, three of the region's eight monitoring wells with water levels below 30 percent of normal, and just 17 percent of average precipitation. By then, our region was already in Level 3 drought, and those levels got worse in November, although the monthly data wasn't yet online by deadline. October's report is here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2024-october-hydrologic-conditions/download>.

Out in the woods, those issue manifest as trails so dry as to be dust or sand, most smaller streams and many wetlands being completely waterless, major brooks being very low, lakes and ponds having notably low shorelines, and all of the leaf litter, dead plants and other ground material being extremely

Turn To **DROUGHT** page 10

Greater Milford Ballet Company presents "The Nutcracker"

MILFORD — You won't want to miss this holiday season's 44th annual "The Nutcracker" which returns to the Milford High School stage and is being presented by the Greater Milford Ballet Company on Dec. 14 and 15 at 2 p.m. at Milford High School auditorium, Milford. The Greater Milford Ballet (GMBA) and the Deane School of Dance were founded by the late Miss Georgia Deane.

This state-of-the-art ballet production includes local dancer and performer talent from Bellingham,

Blackstone, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millville, Uxbridge and Wrentham and Cumberland and Newport, R.I. The production is under the Artistic Direction and Choreography by Cynthia Marnik and Susanna Vennerbeck.

This production has been a traditional favorite for many who return yearly because every year something new is introduced such as a new costume, new set feature or new character to add to the element of surprise. The adult cast members and young dancers in the production play multiple roles in the production dancing in scenes and corps numbers often requiring precision timing backstage quick changes. The production is complete with special effects like dolls that magically grow to adult size, a magical dancing bear, vanishing furniture, a growing tree, falling snow, and lively duel between the Nutcracker Prince and the Mouse King.

Previous guest appearances with the Greater Milford Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" in the role of Sugar Plum have been played by Misty Copeland of the American Ballet Theatre, Ashley Murphy from the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Emily Loscocco of Festival Ballet Providence and Ashley Ellis from Boston Ballet to name a few. Our guest performers this year are Lauren Difede as Sugar Plum Fairy along with Azamat Asangul as the Cavalier from the Newport Contemporary Ballet.

Lead roles from the Greater Blackstone Area in this year's Greater Milford Ballet's production of The Nutcracker include: Lexie Annantuonio as Spanish Chocolate, Snow, Marzipan and Flower Corps; Isabella Casucci as Arabian and Snow Corps; Kailyn Croeber as Soldier Doll, Solider General and Angel, Chinese and Marzipan Corps; Emma Cullen as Clara, Evren Hodge as Mouse King; Paul Jacques as Father Silberhaus; Grant Lepine as Drosselmeyer, The Prince and Arabian Consort; Madison Magazu as Marzipan Shepherdess and in Snow and Waltz Corps; Samantha Novelli as Columbine, Candy Cane Lead and Snow and Waltz Corp; Colleen O'Brien as Mother Silberhaus; Mia Santomena as Cousin, Christmas Tree Fairy, Angel Princess, and Snow, Marzipan and Waltz Corps; Hannah Smith as Queen Bee Fairy, Cousin and Waltz Corps; Ava Sweeney as Cousin, Snow Queen

and Waltz Corps; Molly Szabo as Fritz and as a Mouse, Candy Cane and Polichinelle; and Camille Williams as Grandmother and Mother Ginger.

Other local Blackstone Valley area residents performing in this year's production are: Peyton Arthurs as a Party Child, Mouse and Polichinelle; Addison Arthurs as Mouse and Polichinelle; Atlee Bankston as an Elf and Small Angel; Maya Bannon as an Elf and Small Angel; Ana Burke as Small Angel and Polichinelle, Paul and Jeanine Ceddia as a Party Parents; Lisa Caso as a Party Parent; Paula Cerulli (who also plays The Fairy Godmother) and her husband Doug Lock as a Party Parents; Tessa Citro as Party Child, Soldier, and Polichinelle; Ellie Dimaio as an Elf and Small Angel; Brianna Flori as Party Child, Child with Bear, Mouse, Candy Cane and Polichinelle; Ky Frazier as a Maid; Juliette Hodge as a Party Child, Soldier, Candy Cane and Polichinelle; Lizzie Hodge as Party Child and Soldier, Angel Corps; Emily Knaff in Waltz Corp; Jason Lefever as a Party Parent; Josiah Lefever as Arabian consort; Lorelei Lefever as Party Child, Soldier, Lady in Waiting, Angel and Chinese and Marzipan Corps; Lucia Miller as Maid, Soldier, Lady In Waiting and Angel Corps; Kendall Negron as Party Child, Magic Bear, Mouse, Candy Cane, Polichinelle; Leah Rafferty as Mouse and Polichinelle; Eden Rafferty as a Small Angel; Emma Santomena as a Party Child, Soldier, Chinese Corps, Gingerbread; Olivia Silveira as a Small Angel and Polichinelle. Lynne Cannavo is the Costume Designer and Manager.

The Greater Milford Ballet is not only a family tradition to attend, but it also creates fun time together for the family within the cast. Emma Cullen is joined by her grandparents Paul and Jeanine Ceddia in the party scene.

At intermission, holiday raffle items will be available including gift certificates from local restaurants, retailers and themed gift baskets.

Tickets are priced at \$25 and \$30. Ticket sales are available by calling the Deane Dance Studio at 508-473-3354 or at Charles River Bank located at 16 Hastings St. in Mendon. Tickets at Charles River Bank will be available until Dec. 14. Discount sales for Council on Aging and non-profit 501(c)3 groups of 10 or more can be arranged by calling Colleen O'Brien at (508) 954-4756. Tickets will be sold at the auditorium depending on availability.

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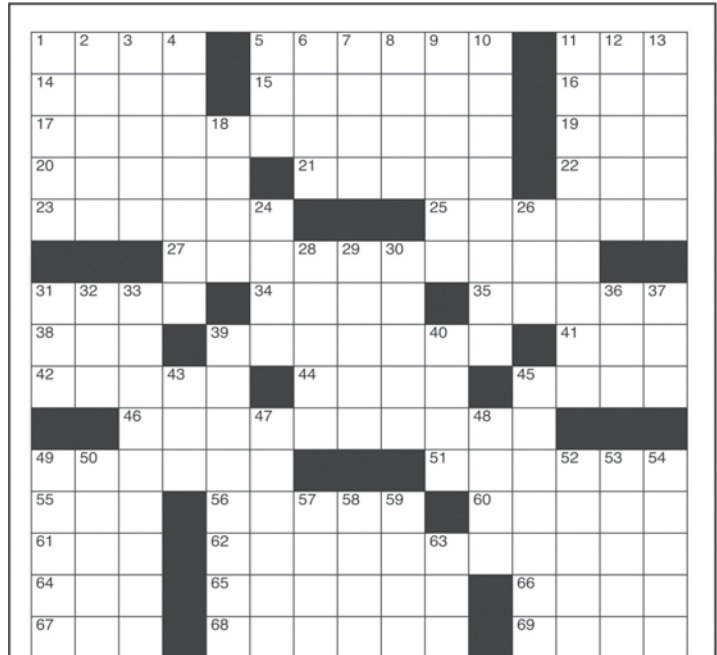
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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Separate with an instrument
 - 5. State clearly
 - 11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
 - 14. Broad in scope
 - 15. Lacking social polish
 - 16. Amount of time
 - 17. Frame
 - 19. Automobile
 - 20. Caps
 - 21. High school dances
 - 22. Utilize
 - 23. Checked
 - 25. One-sided
 - 27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
 - 31. Potted plants
 - 34. We all have one
 - 35. Lake north of the Kalahari
 - 38. Unidentified flying object
 - 39. Aging persons
 - 41. Small amount
 - 42. Mother of Perseus
 - 44. Ornamental waist box
 - 45. Officials
 - 46. Uncertain
 - 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
 - 51. Extensive, treeless plains
 - 55. Your consciousness of your own identity
 - 56. Consumer advocate Ralph
 - 60. Notable Spanish sports club
 - 61. Body part
 - 62. One's responsiveness
 - 64. Woman (French)
 - 65. Ready and willing to be taught
 - 66. Muslim ruler title
 - 67. Unhappy
 - 68. Gradually disappeared
 - 69. Able to think clearly

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Brushed
 - 2. Water sprite
 - 3. Ones to look up to
 - 4. Monetary units
 - 5. We all have one
 - 6. Marine invertebrate
 - 7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
 - 8. Outer
 - 9. Parallelograms
 - 10. Uncomfortable feelings
 - 11. Cross to form an X
 - 12. Remove
 - 13. Some pages are dog-__
 - 18. Capital of Ukraine
 - 24. A citizen of Denmark
 - 26. Eighth month (abbr.)
 - 28. Hindu queens
 - 29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
 - 30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
 - 31. Wet dirt
 - 32. Russian city
 - 33. Observed
 - 36. Irate
 - 37. Travelers need them
 - 39. Musical composition
 - 40. Auction
 - 43. Form of "to be"
 - 45. Women
 - 47. Inspire with love
 - 48. Think Japanese ankle sock
 - 49. Appears
 - 50. Old World lizard
 - 52. The lead dancer: __ ballerina
 - 53. Protein involved in motion
 - 54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
 - 57. Popular 1920s style art __
 - 58. __ Blyton, children's author
 - 59. Abnormal breathing
 - 63. A place to rest

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Uxbridge Quaker Meeting House Association to hold annual Thanksgiving service

UXBRIDGE — The annual Thanksgiving celebration at the Uxbridge Quaker Meetinghouse will be held this year on Thursday, Nov. 28 at 9:30 a.m. The event is truly a family affair, enlivened by music and a warm glow from the two blazing fires. Three representatives from the area faith community will assist with the service. A short period of thoughtful reflection in the Quaker tradition will provide the opportunity to breathe deeply, relax and let the serenity of the surroundings take over for a precious moment. A fellowship gathering in the carriage shed will follow the service, featuring hot beverages and pastries.

The meetinghouse, built in 1770, stands at the junction of Aldrich Street and Quaker Highway in Uxbridge. It is maintained by the Uxbridge Quaker Meeting House Association, a non-profit 501 C (3) organization founded in

1952. The Association's primary purpose is the preservation and maintenance of the historic building, but it also encourages the use of the meetinghouse for religious, educational and civic events.

If you plan to attend the Thanksgiving service, do remember that the meetinghouse is decidedly rustic (i.e. no facilities). And it is often not much warmer inside than the outside temperature. A warm coat and a thick blanket to cover your legs are advised if the day is cold. Despite the chill there are few experiences that convey the spirit of Thanksgiving in as meaningful a way as this simple service. For further information about the Meetinghouse Association please contact quakermeetinghouseasn@gmail.com or go to Uxbridge Quaker Meeting House Association on Facebook.

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Northbridge High School 24 - 25 Q1 Honor Roll

Northbridge High School releases honor roll

N O R T H B R I D G E — Northbridge High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-2025 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: Kathryn Andresen, Ethan Ballou, Johann Jay Baniqued, Abigail Bergeron, Allyson Blanding, Larissa Briggs, Monica Colon-Heyliger, Jacob Costello, Milo Dean, Molly Gahan, Dorothy Holtz, Ava Lamonda, Juliette Lannon, Isabelle Lomonaco, Caden Mastroianni, Julian Nkangu, Tristan Orstrom, Lennice Ortiz-Nunez, Jesse Perron, Rowan Phillips, Dylan Reilly, George Roadman, Brayden Silveira, Lily Simoneau, Madison Thibeault, Jayden Tran, Caitlin Walker

Grade 11:

Jason Bolduc, Olivia Choumanivong, Danielle Chrabaszcz, Lorelai Drapeau, Reed Dziekiewicz, Natalie Fasold, Kylie Grazulis, Sonja Hastings, Stacia Hilditch, Aedan Holcomb, Penelope Houtp, Nadia Kotwica, Kathleen Leonard, Ellory Manning, Effielyn Marrero, John Mazzarelli, Gisel Morrisette, Emma Oosterman, Vidhi Patel, Brendan Riche, Trevor Roadman, Audriana Roby, Jake Rogers, Sofia Smith, Kayleigh Szerlag, Kallie Tevepaugh

Grade 10:

Kalintria Bailey, Emily Billmyer, Skyla Boucher, Kayla Briggs, Jacqueline Cammarano, Alexandra Corey, Samuel Corman, Vahan DerKosroffian, Lillian Donahue, John Donahue, Julia Fisher, Meghan Frieswick, Samuel Gorman, Austin Kee, Emily Kelly, Dawson Kramer, Nathan Kuras, Abigail Leveille, Bryce Lundquist, Ava Mandelenakis, Fam Mekhaeel, Anthony Mooradian, Ashley Papa, Zahra Rith, Bryce Rogozenski, Bryce Ryan, Isabella Saad, Lillian Sabourin, Brooke Shumate, Olivia Stanick, Parker Stanick, Elizabeth Tubbs, Kaylee Vakoc, Kayla Whitney

Grade 9: Taylor Alden,

Chloe Barnatt, Kayla Bolduc, Kallie Dunn, Emily Flauto, Landon Gerardi, Jessica Haberski, Kara Helinski, Savannah Hendricks, Arabella Kosciak, Anna Lavallee, Molly Leonard, Ashley Ann Lucena, Lila MacDonald, Madelynn Nowak, Olivia Pollock, Abrielle Richards, Avery Riche, Marissa Roadman, Madison Scungio, Audrey Siemaszko, Isabelle Stanley, Shiloh Stewart, A va Strazzulla, Kaitlyn Szerlag, Keelyn Touhey, Amanda Waterson

High Honors

Grade 12: Mehmethan Aygordu, Brenden Clark, Ava Connors, Juliana Costa, Benjamin Direnzo, Iyanna Escobar, Sadie Flanders, Adam Flauto, Kaia Gibson, Samantha Haberski, Lisa Harrington, Gianna Hayes, Ayva Johnson, Matthew Kaferlein, Caroline Lambert, Thomas Lavallee, Nicholas Lombardo, Annew Matmanivong, Olivia McKenna, Antonio Mendez, Isabella Molina Costa, Michael Nasralla, Garrett Noel, Matthew Papa, Zachary Popsuj, Michael Proto, Colin Redding, Avery Sabourin, Natalia Saks, David Scichilone, Evodie Scotch, Madden Siemaszko, Holland Tessier, Jarek Wenc, Andrew Wilkes

Grade 11:

Jason Calles, Polina Conio Potselueva, Addyson Crothers, Antonio D'Alfonso, Luke Davis, Kevin DiMuzio, Jeffrey Doyle, Askibus Dubois, Nathan Falconer, Teagan Flannery, Jacoby Gallerani, Seth Geary, Alexander Goodrow, Kyle Janovsky, Faris Kovac, Trisha Lange, Mong Le, Isle Malik, Sienna Mastroianni, Maxwell Mazzarelli, Nina McElreath, Aiden Mulcahy, Hayden Naylor, Sophia Nicholatos, Owen Pollock, Kayleigh-Ann Pomeroy, Zixuan Qiao, Dayli Reyes-Fuentes, Ryan Ruzzo, Elly Schofer, Emily Scholl, Jordan Shaw, Leticia Silva, Nicollas Silva, Gabriel Smart, Caleb Smith, Taden Stanovich, Tyler Strazzulla, Nicholas Thomas, Braedan Tracy, Angel Wesson, Logan Wozniak

Grade 10:

Tyler Boutin, Carly Brett, Barbara Brooks, Brooke Cammarano, Mo Rodney Daigle, Cayleigh Foley, Isaiah Gabriela, Leah Gallerani, David Gonzalez Perez, Tanner Haden, Jillian Krula, Gabriel Leveille, Ryder Meagher, Hayden Murphy, Anna Nadeau, Ryan Nkangu, Jadiel Ortiz, Aidan Payen, Michael Potter, Jordan Priore, Mia Prosser, Lily

Proto, Zoey Rith, Danika Schofield, Andre Seoud, Tyler Tran, Michael Tubbs, Emma Yargeau, Alexander Zanchi

Grade 9: Ereeny Absamis, Grace Alicandro-Kinney, Diymond Aponte, Gohar Arakelyan, Ella Arias, Quin Austin, Alexander Austin, Olivia Cairra, Kaiden Carrion, Anita Comforti, Victoria Concepcion-Cruz, Taryn Conway, Brady Direnzo, Gage Doble, Jaxon Gabrila,

Elizabeth Garcia, Adrianna Goncalves, Ashlyn Gonyea, Cailey Graceffa, Cassandra Higgins, Aiden James Jenkins, Dylan Kelly, Thomas Krause, Kathleen L'Hommedieu, Rory Lamonda, Chi Le, Vincent Lomonaco, Madelyn Loos, Colton Lotfy, Maya MacLeod, Sophia Maracle, Karibella Matuszak, Julia McKenna, Cody Miller, Sadie Nephew, Shane Paulhus, Adrianna Racz, Michael Reeves Hall, D'Angelo Rivera Nunez, Samuel Samuel, Enzzo Santo, Teagan Snow, Brooklyn Thibeault, Jade Thomas, Stephany Villanueva Juarez, Isaac Vitoria, Lexi Wilson

Honors

Grade 12: Drake Adams, Amber Anufrom, Tyanna Aponte, Isabella Burdick, Hailey Concepcion-Cruz, Vincent Goshen, Anthony Lippolis, Annah Manning, Yassa Mikhael, Ryan Miley, Adam Minter, Tabitha Munhall, Aaliyah Palmer, Wesley Porcelli, Angelina Saster, Hunter Tekut, Lillian Thomas, Dylan Wallis

Grade 11: Maija Beaupre, Lily Bilodeau, Caleb Bleau, Natalie Clark, Kelsey Costello, Paul Domenech, Keondre Gaines, Lesley Gonzalez Perez, Grace Haden, Ana Hanson, Addienays Heyliger, Sariena Ison, Connor Kaferlein, Joel LaChapelle, Charlotte LaTour, Cameron Lavallee, Chase Lawson, Callum Lax, Luke Lewandowski, Harrison Lowe, Alexander Lund, Keith MacEachern, Marcus MacLeod, Landon Naughton-Bolduc, Smit Patel, Aubrey Pollinger, Lara Rivers, Logan Sansone, Ana Livia Silva Garcia, Jacob Tomaino, Jenna Tomasetti, Kelsey Tucker, Maxwell Zanchi

Grade 10: Abigail Akeley Nobles, Brendan Aldrich, Jaiden Becerril, Gabriel Bundy, Gabriel Carvalho, Christina Chiras, Braydon Dobelbower, Quinn Driscoll, Sofia Ducharme, Christian Gomez-White, Bailey Kee, Cecilia Laviolette, Isabella Liberty, Robin Prescott, Georgia Robinson, Jaelyn Saad, Dylan Saster, Calob Shaw, Iszac Smith, Mia Smith-Hale, Caroline White, Maya Williams

Grade 9: Destiniee Almeida, Ethan Alvarado, Kirra Arsenault, Lotus Aubin, Hannah Bacon, Rhys Clement, Brady Connolly, Evan Flanagan, Amanda Harvey, Mark Henin, Gaby Juarez, Joshua Kuras, Layana Lee, Connor McLaughlin, Rafael Montalvo, Ryan Parker, Julia Rivera Nunez, Augusto Silva, Nubia Silva, Trevor Talieri

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Friday's Child



Hi! My name is Tommy
Tommy is a very active and curious toddler. His beautiful smile is a magnet that draws in meaningful connections. He loves engaging with others and is described as a "ray of sunshine". Tommy has a tracheal tube, but it does not prevent him from walking, running, and playing with the aid of his yellow backpack which supports his G-tube feedings. He has a fraternal twin sister who he looks forward to spending time with.
<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/9060>

Tommy
Age 2
Registration # 9060

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

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



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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Rediscovering the lost art of handwritten recipes

In an era of digital convenience and instant gratification, some of life's most cherished traditions are quietly slipping away. Among these, the art of handwritten recipes. These are a tangible connection to the flavors of our past, the love of our grandmothers, and the warmth of family gatherings. In a world dominated by cooking apps and online recipe repositories, the simple act of putting pen to paper to share culinary secrets seems almost archaic. Yet, it's precisely this nostalgia and intimacy that make handwritten recipes a lost art worth preserving.

Handwritten recipes are more than just a list of ingredients and instructions; they are pieces of culinary history, infused with the personality and heritage of those who penned them. Each smudged, stained, and dog-eared card or piece of paper tells a story, a tale of generations passing down family traditions, the evolution of tastes and preferences, and the love and care that goes into creating a homemade meal.

The act of writing out a recipe by hand is an act of devotion. It's a moment where the cook imparts their wisdom, tips, and variations to the next in line. The penmanship, the flourishes, and the personal notes ("This one's always a hit at family gatherings!") add a layer of character that cannot be replicated by sterile digital text.

One of the most remarkable aspects of handwritten recipes is their adaptability. They are not bound by the limitations of standardized formats and measurements. Instead, they encourage creativity and experimentation. A pinch of this, a handful of that, and a dash of love, these imprecise yet heartfelt instructions allow each generation to put their own spin on the family classics, ensuring that the recipes remain dynamic and relevant.

In an age where convenience often trumps sentimentality, it's easy to overlook the value of preserving handwritten recipes. But as we flip through fading recipe cards and rediscover the treasures hidden in old recipe boxes, we are reminded that these handwritten culinary heirlooms are more than just instructions; they are a link to our past, a source of inspiration, and hold tradition.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The inmates are running the asylum

To the Editor:

It didn't take long to get a preview of the debacle – the chaos, dysfunction, treachery, corruption and fascism that will descend upon us with this incoming administration. As if he was giving America the finger, Trump has proposed a who's who of cloying sycophants – the least qualified, most flawed candidates ever nominated for critical government cabinet and staff positions: Matt Gaetz, Tulsi Gabbard, Peter Hegseth, Kristi Noem, Dr. Oz, John Ratliff, Linda McMahon, Pam Bondi...RfK Jr! What could possibly go wrong? Does anyone remember our last national emergency – COVID? After firing the federal government's pandemic response team, Trump lied about the severity of the virus (except to Bob Woodward), and talked about injecting people with bleach, while the pandemic killed a million Americans. And you deep thinkers say you were better off four years ago because eggs were cheaper?

While disastrously unqualified, the other commonality these misfit toys share is their fealty to Trump, no matter what he did, does, or will do. Which means they will act according to what is best for Trump, rather than best for us. How will you sleep knowing the Hegseth is running the military? RfK Jr. wants to eliminate fluoride in drinking water. I assume that since kids no longer get cavities, he feels obliged to generate business for America's dentists. I assume he wants to eliminate life-saving vaccines, to generate business for undertakers. Just read the bios of the other candidates. They put the Insane Clown Posse to shame.

Freshly emboldened, Christian nationalists in Texas have approved a bible-based curriculum, starting in Kindergarten! Schools that implement the curriculum will receive money – a bribe – from the state government, while other schools will be left to fend for themselves. What happened to separation of church and state? What happened to freedom of religion and freedom from religion? State mandated Christianity! Democracy's body isn't even cold, and fascism is creeping out of every Federalist Society and right-wing abyss.

Trump's crimes are magically being erased, because the law doesn't apply to the cult leader. Yes, under the Democrats, a jury of their peers prosecuted the guilty. Business fraud is a crime. Attempting an insurrection is a crime. Stealing government documents is a crime. Hush money payments for political gain is a crime. Sexually assaulting women is a crime. Michael Wolf's new book reveals that he has tapes of Epstein describing what he and Trump did to underage girls. That's also a crime. A committee in the House of Representatives found that foreign governments had spent \$7 million at Trump properties – \$5 million by China alone – during the first two years of his 2016 administration. That's illegal. (See 'Emoluments Clause'). Incoming Republicans killed the investigation in 2022 – Hunter's laptop was obviously a greater threat – so we can assume that at least another \$7 million went into Trump's pockets during his last two years. Republicans think that holding Trump responsible for his crimes is 'persecution.' Of course, now that they are in power, they openly declare that their DOJ will go after political rivals – especially anyone who had the temerity to hold Trump accountable.

I was fascinated reading the local take on the election. I'm not sure which election they were yakking about, because their comments certainly didn't square with reality. First, I agree that the Democrats lost this election. Joe Biden said he would be a one-term president, and then failed to honor that promise until it was too late. Harris had only three months to introduce herself and convince people that she would be an effective leader. (A rational human being would have voted for a tree stump rather than a twice-convicted felon, but all bets are off when dealing with a cult.) It was an impossible task. How could she possibly appeal to the great unwashed without a traveling freak show replete with a litany of personal grievances and attacks on margin-

alized groups? Trump had four years to rage and sputter, lie and demonize, clown and soil his pants, in his appeals to the uneducated and uninformed. The press never harped on his obvious mental decline, as they missed no opportunity to impugn Biden's aging. Trump's inability to answer simple policy questions – such as who pays the cost of his imposed tariffs – never even registered with the dunces, who have no understanding of economics – whether it be the causes of inflation, or who sets the prices of food and gasoline. But Biden's biggest mistake was leaving Sleepy Merrick Garland in office as AG. Garland waited two years, and had to be embarrassed into going after the Jan. 6 coup plotters. That allowed Trump's lawyers to run out the clock – with appeal after appeal – of his prosecution. Only the rich can afford to do that. But he should be in jail.

Brazil – yes, Brazil! – has brought charges against their ex-president Jair Bolsonaro, after probing an alleged coup attempt following his 2022 election loss. Why couldn't we get law enforcement like that, Joe?

Two of the Valley's village idiots said that the Democrat's campaign "was based on lies", but never once said what the lies were. Seems that making accusations with no examples is Gambit #1 from the Republicans disinformation playbook. These are then, in effect, false accusations. Do those who believe that politicians set the price of eggs even notice? Oh, I forgot...they are in a cult, so thinking is forbidden. The second reason Democrats lost is that they never learned how to message – to promote all the good that they achieved for 'we the people', during their tenure. To be honest, I'm not sure it would have made any difference. All the dim-wits care about is being thrown red meat – in this case 'immigrants' – to blame for their own ignorance and failures. Just as Trump promised to build the wall and have Mexico pay for it, they really think there is going to be a mass deportation of immigrants – the people who do the work no entitled, lazy-ass American would stoop to do? Even I didn't think they would fall for that.

I think it was [Jim Krikorian] who said that Trump "is the bravest man I have ever known." Is that because he got a doctor to write a fake 'bone spurs' diagnosis so he could dodge the draft? Funny, the bone spurs don't bother his golf playing every weekend. Or is it because he admits – and is proud of the fact – that he sexually attacks defenseless women and young girls? Or is it because he cheated on all three wives, and had unprotected sex with a porn star? That takes guts. And then – "You will never see another man like him?" Well, isn't that archetypal cult-speak! You probably had to change your jockey shorts after writing that. But I get it – when will we ever again encounter a convicted felon, rapist, child molester, business fraud, pathological liar, cheat, serial abuser, hypocrite, shameless huckster, six times bankrupt business failure, product of a fictional book and reality TV show, demented clown carnival barker selling cheap crap to his cult...and elect him president? I really wish we could 'make America great again', and go back to the time when John Kerry, John Edmonds, and Gary Hart were denied their presidential aspirations for committing just one – allegedly in Kerry's case – indiscretion! The only crime Trump hasn't committed is shooting someone on 5th Ave. And that would pale in comparison to what he is already guilty of.

I hope the K man is right, and we never see anyone like Trump again. In the meanwhile, you get to enjoy the fruits of being selfish, uninformed, and intelligence-impaired. You are going to suffer the most, as Trump and the Oligarchs throw you, and everyone else who isn't rich or a useful supplicant, to the corporate wolves. Maybe being dumb will be an advantage, and you won't even realize what's happening to you...just look on the bright side!

Rick Bevilacqua
Whitinsville

The New York Times builds upon its legacy of lies

To the Editor:

By the middle of August, it was openly apparent that the New York Times was deliberately falsifying its Times/Sienna polling data. And while the Times was not alone in doing so, it had clearly taken the lead in regards to misleading the wealthiest of left-wing donors into believing the Harris campaign was not really as bad off as it was.

The false narrative was simple enough for the Times to pull off. This was a "margin-of-error" election where, thanks to continued donations, Kamala Harris maintained a "razor thin" lead in the left's falsified polls. All of which led Lindy Li, of the DNC finance committee into declaring the Harris campaign was a billion dollar disas-

ter just after the election.

And now, as one would expect, the New York Times is building upon its legacy of lies by declaring that the Trump landslide was not a landslide at all.

Meanwhile, the anti-Trump governors are desperately trying to America-proof their legal systems before inauguration day. With New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, in response to Trump's return to the presidency, vowing at a press conference, "If it's contrary to our values, we will fight to the death."

Does that sound like a pledge for a peaceful transition of power to you?

Stephen Gambone
Northbridge



Buying and selling at auction

Auctions had an inauspicious start when brides were first auctioned in Greece back in 500 BC. Thankfully, that practice ended, and auctions have evolved into a tried-and-true method for selling everything from diamond rings to factory buildings. I'll focus on antiques, collectibles, and estate auctions in today's column.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

There are many reasons why people sell items at auction. One of the top reasons is that competitive bidding is an effective way to get fair market value for items. Auctions help a consign- or do their due diligence if they have a financial obligation to an estate or trust.

For the types of auctions that we run, we're typically contacted by estate personal representatives or attorneys. The representative may request that we appraise an estate for IRS or Probate. However, we're typically contacted to see which estate items may be a good fit for our auctions. We handle higher valued items of all types ranging from smaller antiques and collectibles like gold jewelry to larger items like vintage automobiles. Of course, not everything in a home is antique, collectible, or valuable. There are other auction companies that sell pretty much everything in a home from a sofa to pots and pans. Sometimes we handle the more valuable items and offer suggestions to the seller for the rest.

There are of course many other reasons why people might decide to auction their items. They may be downsizing. They may have inherited things that they don't collect and would like to convert those items into cash. Consignors often have items of value like gold jewelry, sterling silver, or coins that they don't want anymore. Peoples' tastes change and they may no longer want the old painting that hung in their living room. People often tell me that they are getting older and their families have no interest in their belongings, therefore leading them to auctions.

Auctions can be online or live. We were unable to run live auctions during the pandemic and switched to all online auctions. This has expanded our reach to bidders across the world, but other auctioneers are still finding success running live auctions.

Bidders can search multiple websites including liveauctioneers.com, invaluable.com, auctionninja.com, hibid.com, bidsquare.com, and others to find items that they collect.

There are tools available for online bidders. Many online auction sites offer bidders the ability to create a want list. They can enter search terms for whatever they collect. For example, you could enter "Waltham gold

Turn To AUCTION page 15



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

Growing moth orchids for months of beauty



Melinda Myers

The moth orchid also known as phalaenopsis orchid provides months of exotic blossoms with minimal care.

ment even more by increasing the humidity around the plant. Group them with other orchids and indoor plants. As one plant loses moisture, or “transpires,” the others will benefit from the increase in humidity. Plus, you’ll create a beautiful display while improving the growing conditions.

Or increase the humidity around your plants with humidity or gravel trays. Place pebbles in the saucer and set the pot on top of the pebbles. Allow excess water

to collect in the pebbles below the pot. As the water evaporates it increases the humidity around your plant. It also eliminates the need to pour off the excess water that collects in the saucer.

You won’t need to repot your orchid for quite a while. Wait to repot it until it is done blooming, the potting mix has broken down or the plant becomes pot bound. This is usually about every 18 to 24 months.

Enjoy a second flush of flowers with cool nights and proper post-flowering care. Leave the flower stem intact and the plant may produce a second flush of smaller blooms at the tip of the stem. Or you can cut the flower stem back between the second and third node from the bottom. For the best rebloom and to allow the plant to replenish energy spent on flowering, prune the flower stem

back to about one-half inch above the leaves and enjoy a second flush of flowers in about a year.

And if reblooming your orchid is too much work, treat it like a long-lasting bouquet. And if you can’t stand to toss or compost it, give it to an avid gardener. There’s always someone willing to adopt and try to rebloom your plant.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers’ Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

ter, and plant debris that accumulate in their environment. They can be mounted on a board but usually are grown in an orchid mix made of peat, fir bark, and perlite. This or a similar combination retains water while providing needed drainage.

Place your plant in a bright location near an east-, west- or slightly shaded south-facing window. Your orchid will do best when it receives 12 to 14 hours of sunlight daily. Enlist the help of artificial lights if your orchids are struggling when natural light, especially during winter, is insufficient. Newer full-spectrum LED lights are more affordable, require less energy, and are longer lasting than the grow lights of the past.

Give your orchid a good watering about once a week with room temperature water just as the planting mix starts to dry. Pour off any excess water that collects

Improve the environ-

ment even more by increasing the humidity around the plant. Group them with other orchids and indoor plants. As one plant loses moisture, or “transpires,” the others will benefit from the increase in humidity. Plus, you’ll create a beautiful display while improving the growing conditions.

Or increase the humidity around your plants with humidity or gravel trays. Place pebbles in the saucer and set the pot on top of the pebbles. Allow excess water

Add exotic long-lasting orchid blossoms to your indoor garden. These living bouquets provide months of beauty with minimal care. Just provide the proper growing conditions and success is sure to follow.

The moth or phalaenopsis orchid is the one best adapted to your home environment, making it the easiest to grow. It thrives in the same temperatures as people with night temperatures in the 60s and 70 to 80 degrees during the day. However, avoid hot and cold air drafts that can stress the plants and cause bud and flower drop.

Moth orchids are epiphytes, growing on but not parasitizing trees and other plants. They obtain water and nutrients from the air; rainwa-

ter, and plant debris that accumulate in their environment. They can be mounted on a board but usually are grown in an orchid mix made of peat, fir bark, and perlite. This or a similar combination retains water while providing needed drainage.

Place your plant in a bright location near an east-, west- or slightly shaded south-facing window. Your orchid will do best when it receives 12 to 14 hours of sunlight daily. Enlist the help of artificial lights if your orchids are struggling when natural light, especially during winter, is insufficient. Newer full-spectrum LED lights are more affordable, require less energy, and are longer lasting than the grow lights of the past.

Give your orchid a good watering about once a week with room temperature water just as the planting mix starts to dry. Pour off any excess water that collects

Choosing a Holiday Tree



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Now that Thanksgiving is in the rear mirror, many people are getting a head start on Christmas this year, and that means putting up the holiday tree. When it comes to choosing a trim worthy tree, for many the choice is steeped in tradition, for others, the question becomes whether to pick a fresh or artificial one. When determining which Christmas tree to choose, many factors come into play. Read on for some interesting information, as well as our annual guide to choosing a fresh tree.

Undecided on a real or artificial tree this year? The American Christmas Tree Association offers the following facts that could help you decide:

Allergies: If allergies are preventing you from going with a fresh tree, you should know the burst of warm weather in April and May triggers the reproduction cycle in many plant species, including tree species commonly used as Christmas trees. But by late November and early December, when such trees are harvested, pollen production has long since ceased. This means that most people with pollen allergies will not be bothered by real trees, except for those who are sensitive enough to be bothered by trace amounts.

However, if you find yourself sneezing, or with an itchy nose or asthma symptoms when you bring in a fresh tree, According to the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, you are likely allergic to mold spores in the tree, not the tree itself. The AAAAI advises to let it dry for a week in your garage or enclosed porch and then shake it thoroughly before bringing it inside. Try using a leaf blower on the

tree outside to help rid it of unwelcome particles. A high-performance air purifier in the same room as the Christmas tree can also help keep mold spores in check.

Or, if you’re more ambitious, the best way to deal with any dust, molds and fungi lingering in a fresh tree is by cleaning the tree before you bring it into your home. Use your garden hose to spray down the tree, and then leave the tree somewhere warm to dry for about 24 hours. Once it’s dry, then you can bring it into your home. Again, as an added precaution, you can try running an air purifier in the room where the tree is located.

Additionally, there is a very small percentage of the population that is allergic to tree sap. In this case, the only real solution is to only purchase artificial trees for your home, and avoid close proximity to real Christmas trees.

Environmental Impact: If you’re leaning toward an artificial tree, but concerned about the environmental impact of artificial trees, note this: Several years ago, PE International, a consulting company that studies environmental sustainability in numerous industries, did an analysis of the environmental impact of artificial Christmas trees, versus real trees. The study found that, depending on how a real tree is disposed of, an artificial tree would only have to be used for 3.6 to 4 years before there was a net benefit with regard to contribution to global warming. This means

that if a household uses an artificial tree for at least 4 years, its carbon footprint (with regard to Christmas trees) will be smaller than that of a household that purchases a real tree every year.

In addition, the study found that with both real and artificial trees, no matter how they were ultimately disposed of, Christmas trees accounted for less than 0.1% of the average person’s annual carbon footprint. This means that the environmental impact is negligible, and can easily be offset by other lifestyle changes, such as driving less, recycling more regularly, purchasing items that use less packaging, etc.

If a fresh cut tree is impractical, an artificial tree can be a good investment - if you choose wisely. Did you know a well made artificial tree can last a decade or more? Choose trees with many

branch tips and multiple needles, thus creating a “fullness” that rivals the real deal. Look for easy to set up models with hinged branches for quick and easy set up. High end trees often come equipped with an abundance of lights. Make sure the tree stand is sturdy enough to hold a tree laden with heavy ornament and garlands. Lastly, consider a tree that can easily refold into a box or bag, for hassle free storage.

Read on for our annual guide to choosing a real tree:

Selecting a Christmas tree is a fun family tradition, but getting caught up in the festivities, one can overlook the requirements of a successful pick. The first thing to remember is in a lot or on a farm, a tree can look much smaller

Turn To HINT page 10

Auction

continued from page 4

pocket watches” and get an email when watches meeting your criteria are being sold. If you see something that you like, many sites will allow you to follow that item and receive an email or text when your auction item is about to be sold. If it is something that you really want, you can place a proxy bid. You enter the maximum amount that you are willing to pay such as \$500. The bidding is competitive so you may get outbid, but you might also win it for less than your \$500 bid. Whether you’re a consignee or a bidder, hopefully you’ll be a winner at auction.

We are currently cataloging a large collection of Civil War memorabilia from a local estate as well as running an antique auction in a Beacon Hill Boston estate. We are accepting consignments of all types for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

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The Simon Fairfield
Public Library's
December 2024 Schedule.

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events do require regis-
tration. If you have any

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy participates in Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts

DUDLEY — The 32nd Annual Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts was held at the Shepherd Hill Regional High School. A member of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Class of 2025, faculty and alumni participated along with New England Crafters and Artisans with top-quality handcrafted items, raffles, and food trucks. The Bay Path Practical Nursing team was led by Professor Adelina Healy DNP, MSN, RN of Dudley. The Practical Nursing volunteers offered free Blood pressure screenings and first aid services. This year's practical nursing student volunteer was Loise Ngigi of South Grafton and alumni volunteers were John Martin Wanjiru, LPN and Hannah Lombardo, RN of Dudley.

"We are grateful that Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy has been invited and continues to allow our practical nursing students to be of service to the community," stated Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

Professor Suzanne Taylor, MSN, RN, originally invited Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and coordinated the practical nursing student's participation. The past two years, the invitation came from Chet Perea-Beaulieu.

"Great day at Shepherd Hill today! It is a wonderful learning opportunity," said Dr. Healy. "I am glad to be joining Shepherd Hill's Festival."

When the opportunity came, Dr. Healy did not hesitate to say, "count me in!" Student volunteer Ngigi stated, "Thank you for the opportunity. It was a wonderful experience, and Dr. Healy was amazing!" Wanjiru who stayed until 4 p.m. committed to volunteering weeks in advance and at the day of the fair was glad to arrive on time, and happy to report, "everything is fine, and so far, so good!"

The Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts is an annual event promoted by the Shepherd Hill Music Parents. Students from the music department sang and assisted with bringing food. The Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts has 5,000 people attending annually. The celebration highlights the community. Vendors look forward to next year's celebration. For more about the Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/shepherdhillfestivalofcrafts/>.



Courtesy
From left: John Martin Wanjiru, LPN, Dr. Adelina Healy, and Loise Ngigi, SPN.

questions regarding any events, please do not hesitate to contact the library at 508-476-2695 or email at us at douglas@cwmar.org.

Please note the library will be closing at 4 p.m. on Dec. 24, and will be closed on Dec. 25. We will also be closing at 4 p.m. on Dec. 31 and be closed on Jan. 1.

Children's Book Clubs (Registration Required)
Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m.: Young Reader's (Grades K-2), "Captain's Log: Snowbound" by Erin Dionne
Thursday, Dec. 12 at 4 p.m.: Book Wizards (Grades 5-7), "The Secret Zoo" by Bryan Chick
Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.: Book Bunch (Grade

2-5), "No Talking" by Andrew Clements

Children's Programs
Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 3:30 p.m.: Lego Club I (Registration Required)
Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.: Illustrator Ralph Masiello
Monday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.: Christmas Storytime (Registration Required)

Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 3:30 p.m.: Lego Club II (Registration Required)
Saturday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.: Douglas Winter Stroll
Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 3:30 p.m.: Lego Club III (Registration Required)
Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.: Reading to Gabby (Registration Required)

Adult Book Clubs

Thursday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.: Greatest Book Club Ever, "Bullet Train" by Kotaro Isaka
Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.: Intrepid Readers, "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi
Monday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.: Plot Twisters Book Club, "Christmas Presents" by Lisa Unger

Adult Programming
Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.: Short Cuts Film Club (Registration Required)
Thursday, Dec. 12 at 5:45 p.m.: Fiber Arts Friends
Saturday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.: Douglas Winter Stroll
Saturday, Dec. 21 at 10:30 a.m.: Douglas Homeschool Network



Courtesy
The Northbridge Veterans Task Force was recently recognized by the Northbridge Board of Selectmen with received certificates of appreciation. All nine members of the task force were present for the ceremony. The Task Force so far has installed 32 military style markers on veteran's graves. Those graves were previously unmarked. There are several hundred more that need to be done in our town throughout the 14 cemeteries. Back row, from the left: Frank DeFarzio, Dick Sassaville, Mary Mulrenin, and Carl Cowen. Front row, from left: Phil Cyr, Mike Defarzio, Sophie Robertson, Wally Smith and Heather Duquette.

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Worship Service 10:15 am**
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**December 22nd Christmas
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**December 24th – 10 pm
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\$540,000, 167-169 Main St, Berthelette Ft, and Berthelette, Gerard, to Lilac Holdings LLC.
 \$380,000, 260 Main St #2, Szytkonis, Dena, to Laforest, Jadon J.
 \$367,000, 18 Rocco Dr #18, Tardif, Ken, and Tardif, Ruth, to Donnelly, Brian.
 \$345,000, 7-A Ascension St #7A, Boyt, Alexa, to Lin, Dao Q.

DOUGLAS

\$680,000, 1 Cardinal Dr, Tusino, James V, and Tusino, Susan M, to Welcher, William.
 \$560,000, 36 Birch Hill Rd, Hovagimian, Michael M, and Reardon, Brad A, to Brown, Scott R, and Robidoux, Kaylee A.
 \$525,000, 12 Depot St, Mckenna, Bryan, to Vaillancourt, Sandra.
 \$469,900, 15 Nautical Way #99, Northbrown LLC, to Sanosi, Katy B.
 \$455,000, 28 Compass Point Dr #28, Keller, Christopher M, to Silva, John P, and Silva, Mary M.
 \$350,000, Yew St, Brown Derek Est, and Brouillette, Paula, to Rossini, Peter.
 \$200,000, Shore Rd #5, Douglas Properties LLC, to Tusino, James V.
 \$164,866, 21 Gilboa Ct, Barch, Steven, and Barch, Rebecca G, to Barch, Steven.

NORTHBRIDGE

\$1,300,000, 298 Hill St, J & f Marinella Dev Corp, to Barker, Donald B, and Barker, Vanessa C.
 \$689,900, 29 Wing Rd, Cora Lane Group LLC, to Jordan, Joyce.
 \$465,000, 4-6 Brook St, Greasley, Michael, and Greasley, Jacob, to F & s Realty LLC.
 \$430,000, 165 Prescott Rd, 165 Prescott Rd Rt, and Ebbeling, Beverly A, to Santurri, Matthew.
 \$420,000, 5 Brook St, Diluca Lt, and Diluc Jr, William A, to Haas, Noelle, and

UXBRIDGE

Wiedersheim, Alfred.
 \$343,000, 53 Heritage Dr #53, Halina A Ryniejski Ft, and Ryniejski, Marek, to Mushtaque, Ahamad.
 \$280,000, 10 High St #10, Hendriks, Traci L, to Bolivar, Miguel A.

UXBRIDGE

\$877,777, 128 Henry St, Gornall, James C, and Gornall, Susan P, to Determination Inc.
 \$869,900, 20 Serenity Dr, Swift, Deborah J, to 20 Serenity Drive Rt, and Gamari, David J.
 \$843,900, 134 Elm St, Sherman Farm Estates LLC, to Swift, Deborah.
 \$755,000, 23 Clark Rd, Lamb, Sean A, and Lamb, Kerry M, to John, David, and Mack-John, Nakisha.
 \$610,000, 109 Londonderry Way, Difrancio, Janet M, to Malone, Ryan T, and Malone, Kasey L.
 \$564,645, 194 Hartford Ave W, Lorenz K E Duerr RET, and Duerr, Lorenz K, to Hackenson, Stephen M, and Hackenson, Katelyn E.
 \$547,000, 31 Carney St, Sacco, Jessica, and Sacco, Bryan, to Richards, Douglas J.
 \$470,000, 369 Elmwood Ave, Lambert, Randy A, to Degrange, Matthew, and Langway, Lynne A.
 \$415,000, 19 Fletcher St, Santurri, Matthew, to Beaudoin, Luke S.
 \$410,000, 22 Susan Pkwy, Paszkewicz, John F, to Morell, Audra M, and Morell, Steven D.
 \$395,000, 6 Susan Pkwy, Rosborough, James P, and Morvan, Judith L, to Goguen, Christopher, and Goguen, Shelby.
 \$380,000, 38 Cross Rd, Martin, Janice L, to Mccullough Lt, and Mccullough, Patricia.
 \$353,000, 7 Ascot Ln #7, Moo Lt, and Gravina, Deborah A, to Ballou, Lisa A.

Sutton Historical Society announces December events



SUTTON — Join the Sutton Historical Society on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Rd., for the annual Christmas Potluck. Bring your favorite appetizer, main dish or dessert, and welcome in the holiday season with other local history buffs.
 On Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., the Society will host visitors at our historical locations as part of the town-wide Chain of Lights event (sut-

tonchainoflights.weebly.com). Stop by the General Rufus Putnam Museum, 4 Uxbridge Rd., to learn about Sutton's rich history; visit our blacksmith's shop at the M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletary Avenue; take photos of family and friends in the Eight Lots School House, 54 Eight Lots Rd.
 On Saturday, Dec. 14 from 4 – 8 p.m., the Society will be participating in the second annual Manchaug Stroll, 9 Main St. (valfa.com/event/manchaug-stroll) sharing the history of Manchaug Village and the holiday customs of the French-Canadian immigrants who lived and worked in the Village.
 End 2024 at our signature event, the annual Last Night Cannon Firing by our cannon crew on Sunday, Dec. 31, at the M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletary Ave. Arrive by 11:55 p.m., or you will miss this unique event.
 All events are free and open to members and the general public of all ages. Information about the Society, membership forms, and event updates can be found at sutton1704.org.

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LEGALS

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ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
 Kathleen Federico f/k/a Kathleen Gagliard; Michael G. Federico and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): Freedom Mortgage Corporation claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Douglas, numbered 192 Maple Street, given by Kathleen Federico f/k/a Kathleen Gagliard and Michael G. Federico to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for ARC Home LLC, dated August 26, 2021, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65951, Page 210, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated July 7, 2023 and recorded at said Registry in Book 69523, Page 264 and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
 If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **December 30, 2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.
 Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on November 14,

2024.
 Attest:
 Deborah J. Patterson
 Recorder
 November 29, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO23P4326EA Estate of: Muriel J. Barry Date of Death: 03/17/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Thomas Barry of Oxford MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, First and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m.** on the return day of **12/17/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
 Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court
 November 18, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
 November 29, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Norfolk Probate and Family Court 35 Shawmut Road Canton, MA 02021 (781)830-1200 Docket No. NO24P3104EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
 Estate Of:
Linda H. Picchioni
Also known as: Linda Chatelle
Date of Death: 10/22/2024

To all interested persons:
 A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael D. Picchioni of Blackstone MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Michael D. Picchioni of Blackstone MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/26/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
 A Personal Representative appointed

under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Lee M. Peterson, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: November 18, 2024
 Colleen M Brierley, Register of Probate
 November 29, 2024

Legal Notice
 To all persons interested, Petitioner DELIA KARACIUS of Sutton, Massachusetts has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the Estate of DAVID V. KARACIUS, Docket Number WO22P3119EA, to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform 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 the Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
 November 29, 2024

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Bay Path nurse educator completes SIM workshop

WORCESTER — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy full-time faculty Shannen Sherman, BSN, RN of Woodstock Valley, Conn. recently completed the workshop, Simulation Facilitation Training for Health Educators presented by the Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing (MARILN) on Friday, Nov. 8 at the UMass Chan Medical School Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing.

The goal of the Simulation Facilitation Training for Health Educators workshop is “to provide faculty and educators with succinct yet high quality training for faculty and educators before facilitating simulation.”

From the MARILN Web site, the presenter, “Dr. Rose Kronziah-Seme PhD, MSN, RN, CHSE is

an Assistant Professor of Nursing and the director of the Simulation and Lab of the Graduate Entry Pathway (GEP) Program at the Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing. Dr. Kronziah-Seme received a B.S. in Nursing from Howard University and an M.S.N and a Ph.D. in Nursing Education from Walden University. She has been involved in Nursing education and simulation since 2009 as a clinical instructor. She trained by the Train the Trainer program series called Maryland Faculty for Simulation Teaching (NSP11) in 2013. She was the simulation coordinator from 2012 to 2018 at Montgomery College and the co-chair of the Simulation Committee. Her dissertation topic is ‘Faculty Competence in Facilitating Clinical Sim-



ulation,’ a quantitative study that she undertook Support Facilitator, for the Maryland Clinical

Simulation Resource Consortium. She is a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator. She was a participant of the National League of Nursing Leadership Development for Simulation Educators cohort of 2017. She was an Assistant professor of nursing at Fitchburg State University where she led simulation integration, and faculty development during the COVID 19 period. She helped faculty find clinical simulation to replace clinical. She also led the conversion of the Fitchburg State Student Health Center to a Sim Center in the Spring 2021. As a director of the lab, she has collaborated with faculty and staff to meet student learning needs. She has presented on Simulation locally and internationally.”

Professor Sherman is

er experienced in complex medical care management, staff education and development, and collaborating with multidisciplinary teams. She completed her associate of science degree in nursing at Central Maine Medical Center College of Nursing and Health Professions in 2013 and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing in 2018. She is expected to complete her Master of Science in Nursing degree in 2026 at the Southern New Hampshire University. Professor Sherman is a Board-Certified Holistic Health Counselor and a Reiki Master/Teacher. She is committed to promoting optimal health and improving quality of life.

Hint

continued from page 5

than it will in your home. Rule number one is to always bring a tape measure to ensure a proper fit.

When choosing a freshly cut evergreen, look for nice, even coloring throughout the tree with no signs of browning. Also, beware of brittle branches, which are another sign of an old tree that may not last the season in a heated home. Look for flexibility in a bough.

To test freshness, pick a needle and bend it. A fresh fir needle will snap; a fresh pine needle will bend, but not break. The old “shake tip” really reveals a tree’s freshness. Simply shake from the trunk, or wave a bough and observe how many needles fall off. If it is more than several, keep looking.

Live trees balled with the root and wrapped in burlap or containers (a.k.a. balled and bagged trees) are a great choice if you plan on planting the tree after the holidays. The most important consideration with a balled and bagged tree is to make sure the tree species can thrive in your climate zone.

Once you’ve chosen a holiday tree, it’s necessary to prep it for inside enjoyment. If you’re using a cut tree, when you get home make a fresh cut at the base. This will help the tree better take up water. It pays to keep in mind that a properly watered tree will keep about a month inside. Be sure to keep the water level above the base of the tree. To prevent fallen needles, add one of these to the base: three tablespoons glycerin; three

tablespoons sugar, or a few crushed aspirin.

And after Christmas is over, the holiday tree will need to be properly disposed of. Check your city or town transfer stations for recycling options. Many municipalities recycle trees and grind them into mulch that is repurposed back into the community as such. Visit RecycleYourChristmasTree.com for more recycling options.

Tree preservatives are pricey. Mix up this homemade potion for pennies: Combine one quart of fresh warm water, a half cup of light corn syrup, and a teaspoon of liquid chlorine bleach in a two-gallon bucket. Fill the water reservoir with this solution.

How does it work? This mixture helps keep trees moist because fresh-cut trees, which absorb and digest corn syrup as an energy source, don’t have to waste as much energy converting stored sugar. Therefore, they can focus on staying green and beautiful!

*Want your fresh tree to last longer? The lower the temperature and the higher the humidity, the longer your tree will last.

*Placement is also important. Avoid setting up a tree near a heat source or in front of a window that gets direct sun.

*Did you know? A freshly-cut tree can consume a gallon of water in 24 hours!

*Want to avoid a trail of fallen needles to the back door? Before you set up your tree, place a tree disposal bag around the base of the trunk prior to placing it in the stand. At the end of the season, simply pull the bag up over the entire tree.

*Check with your local transfer station or recycling center to find out if they offer a tree pick up.

*Going artificial this year? You can still mimic the fresh scent of balsam, simply by sprinkling your carpets with a pine scented carpet freshener before vacuuming. Since smell is the most potent of our senses, visitors to a house that smells like the holidays will feel doubly welcomed!

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Drought

continued from page 1

Regarding health issues, the Department of Public Health is tracking air quality from

smoke, both due to local fires and that drifting from elsewhere in North America. Meg Blanchett said those most at risk are people under age five or over 65, pregnant

people, those who may not speak English and don’t get messages in their languages, those who work and exercise outdoors, and those with various health concerns.

Among the ways to reduce risk are to create a filtered “clean air room” in the house or to use N95 masks.

Dr Marissa Hauptman said the agency has not

yet issued any health alerts for the drought itself, but did have “a lot of extreme heat alerts” this summer and a “wildfire smoke alert” on Oct. 29. Those went to

about 43,000 recipients, including hospitals and Boards of Health.

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

Books

continued from page 1

BFP opened eight (8) libraries and have started taking applications to help other schools, librari-

es across the islands. BFP connects and works with different institutions in the USA including Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy to help facilitate collection of

books, eBooks, and computers. BFP continues helping build libraries and explore the wonderful world of books.

Photo shows Joseph and Gretheline

Bolandrina with the BFP backdrop. Joseph was the volunteer emcee for the event while Gretheline previously helped with the Authors Alley.

Gretheline stated, “The

mission of BFP aligns with my belief in literacy advocacy and I fully support their efforts.”

Funds raised at the Nov. 9 Foundation Gala help support BFP’s liter-

acy advocacy. Live music, dancing, photo booth, and fabulous prizes from raffles and silent auctions along with delicious food made for a memorable evening.

an accomplished RN lead-

LAW

continued from page 1

ue for a significant period of time.

Shortly after the meeting with the advocate, the students were joined by a Prosecutor, a Defense Attorney, the Assistant Chief Court Officer, and a Douglas Police Officer. Each person detailed their jobs for the students, as well as how they interact with each other and the clients of the court each day. Students asked questions and got detailed answers from each individual, often with funny anecdotes and a few friendly jabs at their colleagues.

The Chief Probation Officer came next with drug test kits, a breathalyzer, a GPS monitor, and a picture of an apparatus a client used to deliver fake urine (to beat a drug test). He told students how it’s the job of the probation department to keep tabs on offenders and help them through their problems by providing them with drug rehabilitations services, job placement, and so on.

During the final leg of the visit, Judge Lemire met with the students. His discussion focused on drug rehabilitation, and how the chances of addiction are greatly reduced if the user does not try drugs or alcohol before the age of 21, as your brain is still developing prior to that age. He also mentioned, as his colleagues previously pointed out, that a very high percentage of the clients at the courthouse are there because they are committing crimes related to a drug habit. Judge Lemire informed the students that he can opt for alternative sentencing in these cases, including drug rehabilitation services. These are arranged through the court and are coordinated by a dedicated social worker.

Northbridge Law and Social Science Pathways students have been guests at the Uxbridge District Court for many years, and more will be participating in additional visits this spring.

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