

TCA students get a virtual visit from astronauts

SOUTHBIDGE — Last week through Galactic Unite Community Outreach Organization, TCA students in grades 5-8 had a personal Zoom Space Chat with Galactic Unite of Virgin Galactic!

Did you ever want to talk to an astronaut? Well, these students had two astronauts and a space engineer all to themselves on Sept. 18 to ask them whatever questions they wanted! How cool is that? TCA students must have thought it awesome! There were no less than 28 questions from some highly stimulated students who directed their personal questions to the Galactic team. These students wanted to know everything about what it was like to go in space; from how astronauts sleep in space, to how to become an astronaut. Galactic Unite Team recommended math and engineering classes and even JR. Legos for those interested early on. By the way, astronaut use Velcro to keep themselves and space travelers in their beds,

so they do not end up “sleep floating.”

To build the anticipations for this unique experience, stem activities and videos to review were shared by Galactic Unite leading up to the personal zoom meeting for grades 5-8 at TCA. The event was held in the Trinity Gym, all students were strategically spaced keeping with covid regulations.

Virgin Galactic is owned by Sir Richard Francis, owner of Virgin Atlantic Airline and much more. This is a private company that is offering space travel for all of us. There are currently more people with reservations to go in space as passengers than have ever been in space in our lifetime!

Spacechats are virtual field trips, providing online interactive experiences and bringing ‘space’ directly into the classroom. Coordinated by Future Astronaut Ron Rosano, these virtual experiences create an opportunity for their team and Future

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Harrington, UMass Memorial Health Care approve terms for corporate affiliation

SOUTHBIDGE — The Members of Harrington HealthCare System and the Board of Trustees of UMass Memorial Health Care announced today that both entities have reached agreement on definitive terms for a corporate affiliation. Harrington HealthCare announced in January 2020 that it was pursuing a corporate affiliation by UMass Memorial.

Harrington formed a 10-member Strategic Executive Committee during 2018 to evaluate long-term options to maintain Harrington as a financially secure, high-quality local health provider. The committee identified as its priorities quality affordable care, health of the community, financial viability, investments in infrastructure and continued employment.

“When we entered into our initial agreement with UMass Memorial in January, we had no idea what the next several months would bring. Our team performed exceptionally well and the community supported us every step of the way, but we could not have provided the outstanding care we did without the partnership and support of the clinical team at UMass Memorial,” said Harrington President and CEO, Ed Moore. “This experience redoubled our confidence that becoming part of the system would offer maximum benefit to our community at a time that requires flexibility, scale, and resources.”

Among the positive benefits offered by the UMass

Memorial relationship are:

- Operate Harrington Memorial Hospital (HMH) as an acute care hospital (Southbridge and Webster campuses) for a minimum of five years; this commitment encompasses inpatient and outpatient hospital-based services (medical, surgical, emergency, laboratory, imaging, cancer and behavioral health and substance use services)
- Assistance to ensure investment in facilities, equipment and other infrastructure to support clinical care and the local community
- Integrate Harrington into the Epic electronic medical record system within four years, improving quality and coordination of care
- Maximize access to high quality, affordable care
- Continue Harrington’s role as a positive employer in the local/regional market

The agreement would allow Harrington HealthCare System and Harrington Memorial Hospital to maintain local community boards with reserved powers held by a UMass Memorial subsidiary, which will become the sole member of HHCS. Further, the HHCS Board will have representation on both the UMass Memorial parent and community hospital holding company boards.

“The terms of the definitive agreement help protect access to local, high quality and affordable healthcare for our more than 200,000 patients, their family members and

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Quinebaug Masonic Lodge thriving after 162 years

SOUTHBIDGE — On Saturday, Sept. 26, a small group of family, lodge members and friends gathered at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge to celebrate the installation of officers for the 2021 Masonic year. COVID-19 social distancing and masks are mandatory. Wow, 162 years and Quinebaug Masonic Lodge is still around and thriving. Chartered in 1859 Quinebaug Lodge has been in this community for

an unbelievable 162 years thanks to the strong bond of Freemasonry and family-oriented men. Let me tell you a little bit of history about how Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was started.

The Quinebaug Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was first organized on the second floor of Salem Town’s house in Charlton Massachusetts. The lodge was granted a charter by Paul Revere, and on March 14, 1796

formed into Fayette Lodge. This lodge served members from our surrounding community of Dudley, Charlton and Sturbridge and parts that would form into Southbridge.

On Dec. 7, 1859 S.A. Drake, a prominent businessman, along with fellow Masons were giving special dispensation to organize a new lodge in Southbridge. The new lodge was named Quinebaug Lodge and at the time had

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Photo Courtesy

Back row from left to right: Wor. Mike Sgariglia, Bro. William Belanger, Wor. Chris Kanz, Bro. Eric Langevin, Bro. Anthony Scarnici, Bro. Benjamin Marinelli, Bro. William Proper. Front row left to right. Special Quests District Deputy Grand Marshal Anselme Maxime, District Deputy Grand Master RW. James J. Gonyea, Master of Quinebaug lodge Wor. Master Larry Burbridge, Junior Grand Warden RW. Chris St. Cyr from the Grand Masonic Lodge in Boston and Grand Pursuivant Bro. Bob St.Cyr of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston.




Apples, oxen, and Autumn harvest activities in store at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — Visitors are in for a whole host of fun activities when they visit Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) this fall, with four themed weekends celebrating apples, farming trade and the autumn harvest. With a working farm and an ox-powered Cider Mill on-site, guests to OSV will get a firsthand look at the process

of bringing food in from field-to-table and harvesting practices of the early 19th century.

“The positive numbers of visitors to the Village over the past few months has assured us that families are excited to create memories and experience the great outdoors,” says Jim Donahue, President & CEO of Old Sturbridge

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Pop-up drive-in to screen horror classics

CHARLTON — 508 International, LLC. and The Robert Paul Group, Inc. announce a pop-up drive in movie theater hosting movies every Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights throughout the month of October. The schedule consists of classic horror films from the golden age of cinema, including “Little Shop of Horrors,” “Night of the Living Dead,” and many others. Located at 219 Brookfield Rd. in Charlton, 508 International is a premier action sports and entertainment venue

offering a state of the art Unilumin HD LED wall to provide the best movie going experience. As a drive-in pop-up, it will be located in a forest setting with actors lurking around to turn up the haunt factor. While an immersive experience, patrons will have plenty of room around their vehicles to maintain social distance and follow the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Covid-19 protocols. Concessions will be sold on site. “We are excited to provide entertain-

ment for the community in a safe and family friendly environment,” said Amber Howard of 508 International. “We are sure that this safe and socially distanced drive-in experience with classic horror films will get everyone in the Halloween spirit and give people a chance to get out of the house and have fun!” The venue will have a fully contactless check-in process to ensure the safety of guests and employees. Pre-purchased tickets are required. Tickets

are \$35 per vehicle (five passengers or less). Additional passengers are \$5 more per passenger (maximum of 6 passengers per vehicle). Gate opens at 6:30 p.m. and Films begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Schedule is rain or clear night's sky. To see the full film schedule, purchase tickets, inquire about group sales and sponsorships please visit: www.508Intl.com/HorrorAtTheDriveIn.

Local students enroll at Nichols College

DUDLEY — The newest class is welcomed to Nichols College. Daysia Forbis of Southbridge Julenny Ovalle Beato of Southbridge About Nichols College Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foun-

dation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow's leaders. Nichols also offers master's degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today's professionals.

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SOUTHBRIDGE
\$272,500, 44 Whitetail Cir, Mehta, Kalpesh, and Mehta, Amisha, to Recko, Jenna E, and Maguire, Matthew E.
\$270,000, 18 Lyons St, Rodriguez, Raul, and Burgos, Desiree, to Almanzar, Edward, and Zenovia-Almanzar, Jessica.
\$226,000, 160 Sayles St, Campbell, Louise P, to Diaz-Albaladejo, Eric S.
\$220,000, 85 Vista Ln, Cloutier, Joshua M, and Cloutier, Katrina, to Button, Thomas R.
\$185,000, 115 Riverview Pl #E, Bond, Angela R, and Bond, Jason K, to Montigny, Mare.
\$130,000, 518 Charlton St, Syriac, Melony J, and Angers, Bradford, to Harri Rlty Management LLC.

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- Research and tasks as assigned by the board
- Ensure adherence of MGL for all duties
- Other duties as assigned

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The successful applicant shall have:

- Excellent organization, comprehension, writing, and

minute-taking skills

- Good sense of urgency and be cognizant of deadlines
- Good computer skills including email, internet, Microsoft Office 365 including but not limited to MSWord and MSExcel experience
- Familiarity with open meeting law, MGL, zoning bylaws, and Planning Board activities a plus

This position is offered at an hourly rate of \$16.65 for up to 15 hours per month. Interested individuals are asked to apply by sending a letter of interest and resume to the

**Personnel Officer, Board of Selectmen,
Town of Brimfield,
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selectmen@brimfieldma.org**
until position is filled. *Reposted on: 9/24/2020*

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Friday's Child



Photo by Linda Fitzpatrick

Gianna
Age 13

Hi! My name is Gianna and I am up
for adventures!

Gianna is an outgoing and friendly girl of African American and Caucasian descent. Though she is quiet when she first meets people, she is sweet, friendly and funny with a great sense of humor! Gianna is very interested in gymnastics, running and walking 5K's, and cheerleading. Gianna's social worker describes her as a resilient child who is very determined and kind hearted.

Gianna has attended weekend sleep away retreats with her sister through the sibling connections programs on a few occasions and has enjoyed this opportunity. Any opportunity to spend time with her sister is enjoyed and anticipated greatly by Gianna. She is supported by an IEP in school and has developed some very close relationships with her support staff there. She has begun to

take great pride in her work and earned honor roll all of the past academic year. Gianna works hard in school and truly appreciates the positive feedback and recognition that she receives as a result.

Legally freed for adoption, Gianna would do best in a single-female-parent or two-female-parent home where she is the youngest or only child. She will need continued contact with her younger sister who is placed separately. Gianna loves animals and learning about how to care for them and would love to have a pet. In a future home, Gianna hopes to have her own room. Her social worker is open to exploring local families that could potentially start off as a visiting resource for her in order to build a relationship prior to place

Who Can Adopt?

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? 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.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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“It’s the way Nature knows”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — “We need a more indigenous relationship of honoring Earth,” said psychologist and former Rodale Institute CEO Tim LaSalle. “... We can enhance everybody’s livelihood, including the non-humans on this planet.”

To LaSalle, that major worldview change would anchor a broader way to address what he termed the “sort of desperation” many people have regarding environmental concerns. In brief, he sees a need to balance understanding the psychology of how we got where we are with changing how we get food to address “two existential crises” – soil fertility loss and climate change.

“We need a whole-systems approach,” he observed. “... We have to go to some of the core elements and find the leverage points to change it.”

He was speaking recently on “Regenerative Agriculture: Cure for an Ailing World.” The basic principle behind regenerative agriculture is that restoring soil fertility and thereby improving crop yields does not require more and better chemicals, but working with the living things that are already there. Instead of fertilizers, it calls for allowing grazing animals to leave manure, letting leaves and clippings stay on the soil, and allowing the native soil fungi, microbes and small organisms to thrive. When that happens, plants are healthier and can fend off pests without pesticides.

SPEAKER URGES CHANGES TO FARMING TO PROTECT CLIMATE

Those pests, he later observed, are naturally a minority: “There are thousands of beneficial insects for every one pest.”

LaSalle noted regenerative methods work quickly, rebuilding soils over less than a lifetime that would otherwise take around 1,000 years per inch. In gardens, using a system called a Johnson-Su bioreactor (the plans for which are available at the www.csuchico.edu website and can be built in a basket) can restore soil fungi in around one year if kept fairly warm. After that, it only needs to be applied to the garden once or twice to inoculate the soil. What he termed symbiotic systems of plants, animals and fungi sequester carbon at a rate that’s “a magnitude higher than what current science says is possible.”

“It doesn’t take long to bring life back” to the soil doing such things, he noted. “... It’s the way Nature knows.”

Event host Adam Sacks noted there’s been “a good exponential curve” in public interest in regenerative agricultural practices. While that’s “an extraordinary paradigm shift,” it’s still notably a minority in terms of farming acreage.

To him, climate is not a technological problem, but a “biological problem.” Working with the animals and plants helps biodiversity recover – “all kinds of things start coming back.”

LaSalle agreed, noting that promoting the change requires reaching out to farmers who may be “climate deniers.” Instead of selling it to them that way, he advocated providing evidence the change would save them money (especially on chemicals), give them healthier plants and cleaner water and better profits. Furthermore, he added, recent trials using no or far less fertilizer with regenerative methods grew the same quality of corn at lower cost than chemical-heavy methods.

As an example, he pointed to an Australian regenerative farmer who has been able to double his crop yield while also buying up acreage from nearby failing traditional farmers.

At a large scale, though, getting there requires fixing the fact that, as we’ve become more urbanized, we’ve increasingly lived in “concrete canyons lacking a real relationship with Nature,” he said. Computerized culture, even in farming itself, accelerates that.

In many respects, what we see has been driven by the misuse of psychology by Madison Avenue. He noted advertisers latched onto the ideas of Freud to manipulate the public or their own profit, but some of it can be reversed.

Companies know “to have a business 20 years from now, they have to

gite a handle on climate change,” he said. A key part of that is turning agriculture back into a “carbon-capture system,” when it now is not, and recognizing that all energy sources are sunlight-based.

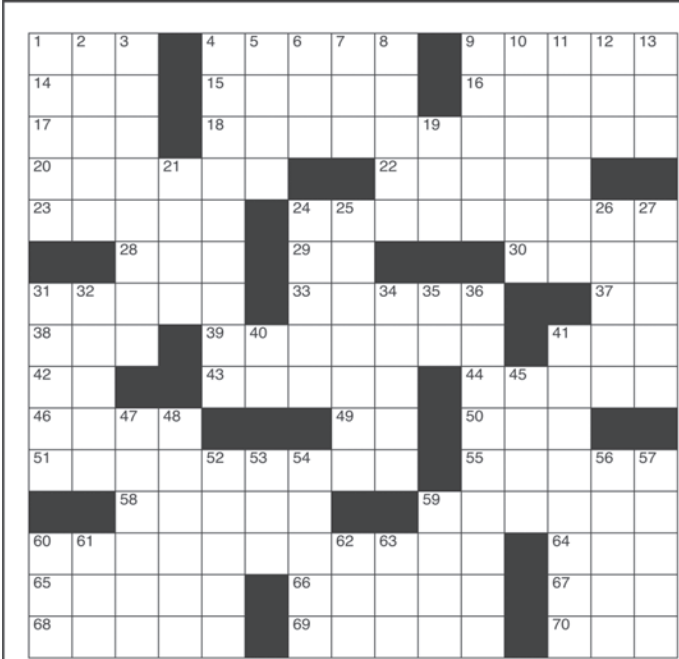
That’s a reference to the fact fossil fuels are concentrated plant life of 60 million years ago, solar is current sunlight, wind is the motion of air driven by solar heat, and even nuclear power comes from atoms produced at the cores of ancient stars. Most current systems pump carbon into the atmosphere at some stage of their process, and even hydroponics won’t help reduce CO2, LaSalle noted. Although hydroponics don’t have the contaminants of standard agriculture, he’s not sure how their crops compare to regenerative ones nutritionally, and would like to see it studied.

When asked about organic farming, he observed those soils “can be as dead or nearly as dead” as conventional farms because of tillage, which breaks up the soil communities.

“Who needs to profit from this? Earth needs to profit from what we do.” LaSalle asked rhetorically, adding our present culture “has been destructive of what produces life on this planet.”

LaSalle’s talk was the most recent of WGBH’s “Life Saves the Planet” series presented by Biodiversity for a Living Climate (www.bio4climate.org).

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Part of (abbr.)

4. Persons

9. Moved with a curving trajectory

14. Bitterly regret

15. Cause to feel embarrassed

16. Type of toast

17. Bobby __, NHL champ

18. Analogies

20. Mixes

22. Beloved flowers

23. Clinton special prosecutor

24. Avoids

28. Innermost brain membrane; __ mater

29. Atomic #18

30. Remain as is

31. One who’s been canonized

33. Indian king or prince

37. The Bay State

38. Forms adjectives
39. Give off

41. Partner to flow

42. Biblical Sumerian city

43. Popular clothing material

44. Organism parts

46. Central US Native American people

49. Blood type

50. Wrath

51. Perennial tropical grass

55. Vetches

58. Buffaloes

59. Envelope type

60. Tuberculosis

64. Israeli city __ Aviv

65. Pops

66. Indo-European languages

67. Fiddler crabs

68. Large bank

69. Not fresh

70. Scientist’s device (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. High schoolers’ dances

2. Style of rock music

3. Maryland athlete

4. Softened by soaking

5. Native Aussies

6. Some are on it

7. Clairvoyance

8. Broken piece

9. Wrong

10. Starts over

11. Where to hang clothes

12. One point north of due east

13. Gov’t lawyers

19. Mass of eggs in a shellfish

21. Smile

24. Wrap

25. A citizen of Iran

26. Island off the coast of Tanzania

27. Attempts

31. Beloved “Doctor”
32. Type of turtle

34. Leg (French)

35. Indicates position

36. Self-doubt

40. Of I

41. Retired but allowed to retain title

45. Algerian port

47. African country

48. “Wayward Son” rockers

52. Bring out of sleep

53. Auburn legend Newton

54. Heavy wooden shield in ancient Greece

56. Choose to represent

57. Peace

59. Work hard

60. Reciprocal of a sine

61. Express delight

62. Explosive

63. Journalist Tarbell



Animals, smiles, family trees, Yoga and more happening at Hitchcock Academy

BRIMFIELD — Do you know the difference between a turtle and a tortoise? Do all rats have hair? What’s a degu? Hitchcock Academy in partnership with Athens Pizza will be presenting Animal Adventures on Oct. 12, a special program that features controlled interaction with animals, which may answer these questions and more. Animal Adventures is just one of the programs Hitchcock Academy has added to its calendar this fall.

For nearly 25 years, Animal Adventures has traveled throughout the northeast with menageries that may include an alligator, large snake, small snake, chinchilla, ferret, guinea pig, hedgehog, rat, hairless rat, degu, rabbit, large lizard, small lizard, tortoise, turtle and frog. Hitchcock Academy’s executive director, Cindy Skowyrza stresses that in any Animal Adventures exhibit, “interaction with an animal is completely at the discretion of a trained Animal Adventure guide. The safety of students and animals always being the number one concern.” The one hour presentation will be followed by an hour of animal crafts and activities. Or, participants can opt to take a craft home. Cost for the program is \$10 each for one to two admissions and \$5 for each additional ticket. Social distancing and mask protocols will be in effect according to state COVID guidelines. The event will be outside unless it is lower than 60 degrees for the protection of the animals. Admission is limited. Learn more under the events icon at hitchcockacademy.org.

Friday, Oct. 2 is officially World Smile Day® and Hitchcock Academy invites you to stop by anytime between 2 and 6 pm to paint a Kindness Rock.

“The rock can be taken home to share or we will be happy to put them out in the community as a way to spread some kindness” said Skowyrza. “It’s one of my favorite days of the year and it brings joy knowing you’ve helped someone else smile.”

This is a free event and participants will receive a World Smile Day Ambassador certificate, poster and sticker.

For those wishing to build a family tree Hitchcock Academy offers a two hour online class with professional genealogist Dave Robison. This class will help amateur family sleuths learn the rules of the internet road, the value of subscription sites and how to take advantage of all the information on free sites. Robison, the founder of Old Bones Genealogy of New England, and a research assistant at the Museum of Springfield History, delves into the topic of using social media for family research. While COVID limited access to some of the usual avenues available to amateur genealogists, it concurrently opened the door to discovering how a personal computer could become the vehicle for advanced genealogical study. Robison’s class also touches on the need to begin any genealogical quest with personal interviews of the eldest family members as a starting point for any research.

Robison, who is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Massachusetts Genealogical Council will present his online class on Oct. 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Hitchcock Academy adapted one of its most popular classes: Let’s Cake Decorate with Sue Gaulin, to accommodate state COVID guidelines for social distancing and limited group size. Through December Gaulin will offer monthly classes on Sundays featuring seasonally themed cakes. Gaulin brings all the items students need to learn the fine art of cake decorating including tools and aprons. At the end of each session every participant goes home with a boxed goodie of their own creation.

Skowyrza also reminds people that the weather is still pleasant enough to enable Hitchcock to add an outdoor yoga class as a complement to the ZOOM class hosted by Sharon Palmer. Both of these classes as well as martial arts, music lessons, and dog training can be accessed through the Hitchcock website. October 31 is the final day of this year’s Farmer’s Market in Brimfield. It is the last chance to get seasonal vegetables, maple products, masks, and baked goods all in one convenient area. the Farmer’s Market takes place on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hitchcock Academy parking lot in downtown Brimfield. For ongoing updates and other programs check out the Facebook page or Hitchcockacademy.org.

GROUND AND MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Solair Recreation in Woodstock CT has a full time position for a Maintenance worker. This position involves projects and preventative maintenance. The campground is open to members year-round. The successful candidate should be able to work with limited supervision, have a working knowledge of mechanical systems, carpentry, painting and basic electric and plumbing skills. The position also requires some supervision of volunteers who assist with many of the duties.

Job duties include but are not limited to: Plowing snow, cleaning sites and grounds, maintaining a pool, hot tub, general landscaping, escorting guests to site, general labor and general minor repairs. Previous maintenance experience is required, some on the job training will be provided. Must be flexible with hours of availability as holidays and weekends are required during the season.

This is a salaried position. Please send your resume and salary requirements.



Send letter of interest and resume to Jobs@SolaiRRL.com

TCA

continued from page A1

Astronauts to communicate directly with students – encouraging them to follow their dreams and focus their efforts on things that they love doing.

TCA space chat was with Astronaut Ron Rosano is Galactic Unite Community Outreach and NASA Solar System Ambassador, along with Future Astronaut, James Ehrhart and Avionics & Electrical Operations Engineer, Emilie Woog who prepares spaceships for flights accordingly. Virgin Galactic anticipates colonies on the moon by around 2024 and Mars by 2030. How about a “getaway” to a Space Hotel to relieve your stress? This is our future! Each passenger cost is currently \$1 million. Save up for your dream vacation!

Thanks to Sixth grade teacher, Heidi Weber, who stimulated the event and grade 5-8 teachers who helped carry it to fruition.



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Old Sturbridge Village
partners with bankHometown
for new initiative

QCC president
decries
marginalization at
Barton Lecture

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) with the support of bankHometown based in Oxford, Massachusetts, in response to urgent needs brought on by the pandemic, has created a “One Room School House” learning pod for children in the museum community. The innovative program serves children of Old Sturbridge Village and Old Sturbridge Academy employees impacted by disruptions to in-person school learning. There is no cost for staff children to attend the School House. The program takes place in the Village’s modern, well-equipped Museum Education building and operates Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., following the academic year schedule. COVID-19 safety protocols mirror the rigorous standards followed by Old Sturbridge Academy and approved by the Sturbridge Board of Health for in-school learning.

The program addresses the following priorities:

It saves jobs:
Old Sturbridge Village and Old Sturbridge Academy staff with children are able to continue working regardless of the status of in-person or remote learning imposed by schools.

Museum educators who ordinarily are busy leading school field trips, instead staff the One Room School House. (With the loss of field trips, museum education jobs were in jeopardy.)

It benefits children:
Academy teachers are able to remain in their classrooms for the full school year, providing continuity for their predominantly high-need students.

Staff children in Kindergarten to Grade 9 who have been learning remotely, now receive critical socialization, outdoor physical activity, assistance with school work, arts education, and engagement in exciting museum activities.

It models responsiveness and innovation

The One-Room School House serves as a model to other cultural and educational institutions for how to creatively respond to community needs.

Old Sturbridge Village is a living history museum depicting life in the 1830s, so the concept of a one-room school house ties in with the Village’s programming. An early New England school house consisted of various age groups, with older children often helping the younger children. Similarly, the model the Village has put into place today, has students working in two or three mixed-age groups of approximately ten students in each group. In the mornings, children will work independently on their own district-led Virtual Learning, using their own electronic devices.

“The younger students spend up to three hours daily on school work, while older students may spend up to five. In the afternoons, they enjoy museum-based Experiential Learning Activities, working in multi-age groups in the Museum Education building and throughout the Old Sturbridge Village campus to complete projects and activities,” said Emily Dunnack, Director of Museum Education. Dunnack went on to say, “Varied activities

include daily physical activity, art and nature programs, and access to the Village’s historic buildings, interpreters and natural areas. Some children learn to stitch a quilt, others work with village interpreters to harvest and preserve produce for winter or to plant a garden in the spring. Younger children are paired with older students, their ‘Reading Buddies,’ to help increase literacy and interpersonal skills. Every day we offer different opportunities for learning and playing.”

“bankHometown is thrilled to partner with Old Sturbridge Village on the One Room School House, because we believe strongly in the value of education and in the Old Sturbridge Village experience to help young people in our communities unlock their full potential,” said bankHometown President and CEO Robert J. Morton. “We are impressed with the innovative approach to this project, which will help preserve jobs, provide a high quality, in-person educational experience for participating students, and keep Old Sturbridge Village a relevant and sustainable organization.”

“Old Sturbridge Village is proud to offer this innovative program without cost to our museum and Academy families. The impacts will be far reaching and long lasting for both the children and the adults’ involved,” said Jim Donahue, President and CEO. “We as an organization are proud of that fact that we were able to find a solution to what many families are struggling with due to no fault of their own.”

Southbridge
Cultural Council
accepting grant
applications

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Cultural Council announces that application forms for the 2021 grant cycle are available only online at www.massculturalcouncil.org. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the application process has been changed for

2021. The criteria guidelines for submission as it applies to the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Southbridge Cultural Council are also online. It is required that both requirements be reviewed and understood before applying. The official deadline for the 2021 grant cycle submission of an application is Monday, Nov. 16. No applications will be accepted after the official deadline established by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The Southbridge Cultural Council (SCC), a local agen-

cy, is part of the overall grant program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency, providing allocations to each of the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in support of cultural activities in their respective areas. The Massachusetts Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Legislature and the National Endowment For the Arts.

For additional information for the 2021 grant cycle, call Michelle LeBoeuf, (508) 764-4803 or Ted Bartlett, (508) 764-7909.

W O R C E S T E R

— Advocating for the under-privileged and underserved has been a hallmark of Quinsigamond Community College President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja’s career. Dr. Pedraja was the recent keynote speaker at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology Barton Lectureship. He spoke on the multiple pandemics plaguing our society in a webinar, “Living in the Margins: Equity, Education, and Theology in the Age of Pandemics.”

The Roy D. Barton Lectureship was established in 1995, to honor Dr. Barton for his service to the seminary and his service to the Hispanic United Methodist Church. Through these lectures, participants have heard from the leading Hispanic/Latino scholars in theological education and church leaders who have made a significant impact on the Hispanic/Latino church and beyond.

“I had the pleasure of working with Roy and considered him a colleague and a friend,” said Dr. Pedraja, who taught religion, philosophy, and theology at SMU from 1994-2000.

Dr. Pedraja’s webinar defined and explored the topic of the “margins,” as it relates to economic gaps, changes in ethnic and racial demographics, and the roles of the Church and higher education in the new decade. He focused on the historic racism that has plagued society and looked at racism through the lens of education, addressing issues such as underfunding K-12, diminished resources, lack of educational role models, legacy of segregation, criminalization and labeling, high stakes tests, cost of education and underfunding of minority serving institutions.

“These barriers and many others contribute to the growing equity gap in colleges,” he said.

He used the example of the higher education equity

gap in Massachusetts, a state known for its contributions to higher education.

“The college attainment gap between white females and Latino males exceeds 40%. These gaps are not accidental, they are the result of a broken education system that intentionally marginalizes segments of the population,” Dr. Pedraja said, noting the declining state investment in public and higher education for educational institutions that cater to the under-served populations.

Today, community colleges serve close to 50 percent of all undergraduates in the nation and serve more than 30 percent of minority populations. Dr. Pedraja added that at QCC, the minority percentage is 40 percent, higher than any other population sector yet in terms of state funding, all 15 community colleges in the Commonwealth only receive 25% of state funding allocation.

“We educate the most, yet we get the least support,” he said.

Addressing why these equity gaps should matter to society, Dr. Pedraja said that beyond the immorality of continuing to allow this to persist, in the aftermath of the pandemic if this continues, the economic gap will continue to grow.

“Education is essential to economic and social stability. In order to dismantle marginalization, we must be as intentional as those who marginalize others. Our task is to equitably and continually expand our notion of ‘we’ until we include those that we define as ‘they,’” he said. “The equity gaps that exist in our society must be acknowledged and dismantled in education and even in theology.”

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.



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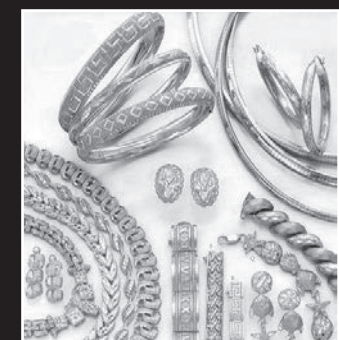
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HARRINGTON

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our community,” Moore said. “At a time when the number of independent hospitals has decreased dramatically and healthcare has grown increasingly complex, being part of UMass Memorial’s comprehensive, regional system anchored by an outstanding academic medical center is a clear positive for our community.”

Moreover, this vote to move forward does not impact patient care services currently offered within Harrington’s system. All sites remain open and patients should continue to use Harrington campus locations and physician offices for routine appointments, emergency care and diagnostic testing, including imaging, labs, cancer care, inpatient admissions, surgical procedures and behavioral health.

Under the agreement, Harrington would become a member hospital within UMass Memorial Health Care, joining UMass Memorial HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital, UMass Memorial

Marlborough Hospital and UMass Memorial Medical Center.

“We are pleased with the terms of this definitive agreement and are absolutely ecstatic about the opportunity to formalize our longstanding, excellent relationship with Harrington HealthCare. I want to thank the board of trustees and the administrations of both organizations for their diligence and hard work to ensure we have an agreement that reaffirms the importance of Harrington HealthCare to its patients, employees and community, while integrating this important healthcare provider into the UMass Memorial system,” said Doug Brown, President of UMass Memorial Community Hospitals and Chief Administrative Officer for UMass Memorial Health Care.

With final terms in place, UMass Memorial and Harrington HealthCare will seek state regulatory approval.

“To the Harrington HealthCare communities, I am proud to welcome you to the UMass Memorial family! Your addition immediately strengthens not

only our health care system, it further enhances high-quality, patient-centered care in our region. Harrington has always been a tremendous ally and we look forward to an even stronger relationship starting today,” added Eric W. Dickson, MD, president and CEO of UMass Memorial Health Care.

About Harrington HealthCare System
Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional healthcare system serving more than 25 communities across south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. The system includes Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, Harrington HealthCare at Webster and three additional major medical office buildings: Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer; Harrington Physician Services, our primary care and multi-specialty physician group; UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Charlton and Oxford; The Cancer Center at Harrington in

Southbridge, and the region’s largest Behavioral Health programs for mental health and substance use. For more information, please visit www.harringtonhospital.org

UMass Memorial Health Care
UMass Memorial Health Care is the largest not-for-profit healthcare system in Central Massachusetts with more than 14,000 employees and 1,700 physicians, many of whom are members of UMass Memorial Medical Group. Our member hospitals and entities include UMass Memorial HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital, UMass Memorial Marlborough Hospital, UMass Memorial Medical Center and UMass Memorial Community Healthlink, our behavioral health agency. With our teaching and research partner, the University of Massachusetts Medical School, our extensive primary care network and our cancer, diabetes, heart and vascular, orthopedic and surgery programs, UMass Memorial delivers safe, high-quality and compassionate care. Visit www.umassmemorialhealthcare.org.

OSV

continued from page A1

Village. “With these fall programs and activities, we are working every day to ensure that we provide fun and enriching opportunities in a safe and comforting environment for all ages.”

Apple Outings: Sept. 26-27 and Oct. 3-4

One of the most popular items of the fall harvest is apples, but varieties were different in the 19th-century from what we commonly see today. Guests can learn about the “winter banana,” “granniwin-kle,” “hagloe crab,” and “blue permain” apples, among others, and witness the process of squeezing apples into cider - a more robust and fermented drink than the sweet cider we think of today. Throughout the day during Apple Outings weekends, OSV interpreters will be cooking and preserving apples from the harvest and operating the ox-powered Cider Mill.

Oxen, Fields, and Farmers: October 10-12

Guest oxen will be visiting the Village during the holiday weekend, available for meet and greets. Visitors can learn about plowing and field preparation while at OSV, and meet the Village’s other animals - sheep, cattle, pigs, and chickens who live on-site. Tradesmen will be working throughout the weekend in the blacksmith shop,

pottery shop and more, and the horse-drawn wagon will be running to take visitors around the scenic campus to see the gorgeous fall foliage.

Autumn Harvest Weekend: Oct. 17-18

In the last of the Village’s themed fall weekends, visitors are invited to celebrate the autumn harvest! Costumed interpreters will be busy at work preserving the harvest, prepping apples, potatoes, carrots, beets and more for storage and cooking, shelling corn and beans, and putting the gardens to bed for winter. It’s a sight to see with the whole Village busy at work! Farm animals, demonstrations led by artisan crafters, and horse-drawn wagon rides will also be offered during Autumn Harvest Weekend.

NEW this year, the Village is hosting a Virtual Home Gardener’s Exhibit to help guests celebrate the fall harvest from near and far. Those who enter the exhibit can present what they’ve been growing in their gardens throughout the year, showcased during a digital display of entries available online during the weekend of Oct. 17-18. Expert horticulturalists will be judging the entries, choosing the best in several categories including Best in Young Gardeners (ages 5-12), Best in Adult Gardeners (ages 13 and up), Best Heirloom, and Best Overall. Those interested in entering the virtual

exhibit can sign up online at: <https://www.osv.org/event/virtual-home-gardeners-exhibit-2020/>.

The Village is open from 9:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. during Apple Outings and Oxen, Fields, and Farmers weekends, and 9:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. during Autumn Harvest Weekend. Themed fall weekends and activities are included with standard daytime admission into the Village. The Village will also be hosting a series of Halloween-themed events, to be announced in the coming weeks.

Visitors and members are required to purchase or reserve their tickets in advance, using OSV’s new online reservation system, found at <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>. Available tickets will be released each week on Wednesday, with three blocks of time per day for arrival: 10-11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., or 1-2:30 p.m. Once in the Village, visitors are welcome to stay until the museum closes.

Guests are required to follow state guidelines when visiting OSV and must wear a mask when entering into the Village, interacting with staff or other guests, or when physical distancing is not possible. Masks may be removed when outside and physically distant from staff or other visitors. A full list of safety procedures and measures can be found online at: <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.

MASONS

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40 members, most of them prominent citizens from Southbridge. The lodge would hold its first official meeting a week later with Chester A. Dresser as the lodge’s first Worshipful Master and S.A. Drake as treasurer. On March 14, 1905, rooms at the Chester A. Dresser house which stood at the time at the corner of Main and Central street in Southbridge, were dedicated to the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge. Afterwards the building would be known as the Masonic Building, and the lodge observed its 75th anniversary in this building on Dec. 7, 1934. The Masonic building was sold back in 1960 and the lodge would hold its meetings in the basement of the Central Baptist Church, until a new permanent place was found. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge eventually found its new home on October 13, 1969 on

Ashland Avenue and held its first meeting and is thriving to this day.

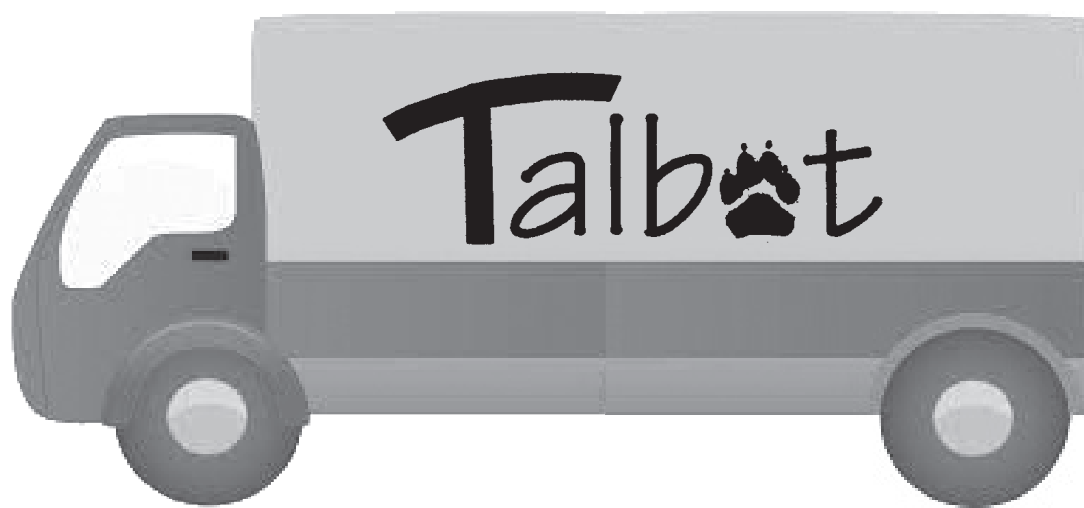
For history buffs Jacob Edward Library has all kinds of information of the history of Southbridge and Freemasonry which had a huge part in this community. It was the big names in businesses, such as Ammidown, Child, Wells, Dresser that brought not only some of the country’s largest business to Southbridge but also Freemasonry, and would be the fathers of Quinebaug Lodge of Freemasons and its traditions. What we do know is that after 162 years the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge of Freemasons have continued to make good men better.

Our members are immensely proud of the deep tradition the lodge continues to hold true, we are enormously proud of the next generation of officers to hold the honorable positions and to continue these long-lasting traditions going into the future.

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EDITORIAL

Leave the signs where they stand

As the days wind down to the Presidential election, we're seeing more division than ever. Fortunately, in smaller areas such as ours, it's largely business as usual, and people on both sides can still have friendly conversations, in person that is.

The online banter and sign stealing is another story, however. We must note that sign stealing is a crime that comes with a fine of \$1,000. Stealing signs will in no way sway someone to change their vote.

Beware the division that social media can sew and intended to sew all along. If you read something, don't automatically take it as fact. There's been a veer from reality due to social media trolls, with the sole purpose of dividing the country. We are better than that, and intelligent enough to see through it. We've said it before, if you see something you disagree with online, you don't need to jump on it and chime in. Think for yourself and trust your own ability to weed out what's true and what's not. Private conversations are also best. Further, commenting on a stranger's post is absolutely useless, don't even waste your time.

It's not OK to hate another person due to their political views. If someone disagrees on policy with you, that's ok. Maybe you don't want to go to Sunday brunch with that person, but there's no need to hate. It's especially hard when you see some individuals who think that acting mean and condescending is a sign of toughness. It's not. It just means they are simply, mean and condescending.

What's interesting is that the people you see on television shouting rude comments and carrying guns as a way to intimidate, probably don't like it when someone yells back. The second amendment was not intended to be used to intimidate fellow Americans into thinking the same way that we do. We think it's safe to say that those same individuals, prefer when people in their own lives are kind to them. So, what gives? The hate is exhausting.

While this may be easier said than done, if you see a sign that you don't agree with, at least try to appreciate the fact that in America we have the freedom to think differently from one another, and to make it known. For example, if you drive by a sign of a person you would not vote for, just shrug your shoulders and remember the freedom that those different signs represent. A freedom that must be protected.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Charlton Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

OPINION

Viewpoints and commentary from the Tri-Community and beyond

TO THE EDITOR

Your support is needed to help us keep kids warm

To the Editor:

For the last few years, our Knights of Columbus Council 199, in Southbridge, has been raising money to purchase and donate children's winter coats to Catholic Charities to be given away free to local children. Our goal was always to raise enough money to purchase and distribute 72 coats every fall, something we did easily without thinking as to whether or not the need was greater. In 2018, we found out that the need was so great that we decided to try to raise as much as we could so we could purchase many more coats, the drive was so successful that we were able to purchase 192 coats and received 16 more from K of C State as a match of 1 free coat for every case purchased. With so many coats to distribute we were able to donate to both Catholic Charities and Holy Trinity's coat closet. In 2019, we again raised enough money to purchase another 192 coats and received another 48 coats as matching

from the K of C State.

In 2020, because of the COVID pandemic, we will not be able to hold the fund raising dinner/turkey shoot so we know that we won't be able to purchase as many coats as the last 2 years but are determined to go ahead with the fund raising and do the best we can for the kids.

This year, the kids coats are sold in cases of 12 for \$238, which is about \$20 per coat and we would like to purchase eight cases; they are also offering teen size coats that are \$295 per box of 12, our plans are to purchase four cases of these larger coats. The total cost to purchase these 12 cases of coats would be \$3,084 but that would require your help, if you're a business or civic group maybe you could donate \$238 and we could buy 1 case, if that's too much to ask for, two donations of \$119 will buy a case, a person or a family could donate \$20 which we could put towards purchasing 1 coat. Maybe we won't hit

our goal of buying the 12 cases, but whatever we do raise will put a new coat on someone's child that might otherwise go cold this winter if we don't try.

These kids could be a neighbor or most likely be someone you'll never know or meet, but we could all get a warm feeling if we pitch in and help keep our kids warm this winter.

If you can help, checks would be payable to K of C Council 199 and can be dropped in the collection basket at St John Paul II Parish with a note on the envelope saying "Coats for Kids" or just mail them to us, our address is PO Box 176 here in Southbridge. Please don't think that you won't make a difference because every dollar counts and it just takes 20 of them to buy a coat.

Thank You from Council 199.

RAY FOURNIER
2020 COATS FOR KIDS
CHAIR
SOUTHBRIDGE

The positive solution is American optimism

I awoke this morning, thinking, "When pessimists pick up a brick, they throw it, but when optimists pick up the same brick, they build something positive and useful."

There is much in the news as I pen this column about Judge Amy Comey Barrett and her spiritual beliefs. She is an enthusiastic participant in her Roman Catholic faith and that seems to offend some and frighten others. How is it we've come back to this point?

Criticize her for her rulings on the bench. Her political ideology is certainly fair game and open for debate. Roe v Wade, the Affordable Care Act ... there are many areas of her public, professional and ideological life that can be debated, but I believe there is one area that is off limits and that's her family. And when it comes to her faith, politicians should tread very lightly. Unless her faith is leading her to break the law or have some life view that is so extreme as to be completely out of the American mainstream, which she does not ... her faith should also be off limits.

How did we get here?

The ideological differences are stretching us to limits that are in danger of tearing apart the very fabric of our nation. I believe our national character is in danger of being scarred forever, and in the process, altering our very way of life. The rational majority of people across the nation must stand up and reject the violence in the streets and political vitriol that is pulling us apart.

Optimistic people do not react this way to ideological differences.

No nation in history has shared, nurtured, and prospered, with such powerful optimism as the United States of America. When people talk about "American Exceptionalism," I believe we are talking about our optimistic spirit and positive belief in our future. I don't believe we are smarter or better than other nations, but I am certain that it has always been our optimism in our future that has propelled us into world leadership. I believe the ultimate optimism is our history of faith that has created the foundation of our constitution and is woven tightly into the fabric of our nation.

Scripture speaks of Thomas and how his doubts brought a risen Jesus to his side to proclaim, "Blessed are those who believe but have not seen."

Judge Amy Coney Barrett, by all accounts, lives the life of a faithful believer and again, it seems to offend some and threaten others. Within twenty-four hours, her faith has been dragged through the mud and her family criticized. I read an opinion commentator who said it was wrong for her to adopt two children with different skin

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE



deep admiration, this judge, and her family for not only practicing but living out their faith.

You can be an optimist and not like the President's choice. You can be a positive person yet disagree with this nominee's rulings from the bench, but optimistic people do not try to damage those with whom they disagree. Optimistic people enter debates believing something better will come because of the discussion. Positive people believe that others with differences of opinion can still work together for the betterment of our nation and world. An optimist will not throw bricks, damage other people's property and physically harm others over ideological differences. When an optimist has a brick in hand, they build something positive and beautiful.

I am confident that rational people on both sides of the political debate can find common ground and return our nation from the brink. I believe in American Optimism. But let me assure you that believing in optimism is only half the battle. We must rise together and demand an end to the vitriol that's tearing us apart. Both extreme sides will stand and point fingers at the other side, but I assure you, it is coming from the extremes on both sides. Those in the extremes will never admit fault, it's going to take those of us in the middle who believe this nation and our values are worth saving, to rise up without a brick in our hand and say enough is enough.

I believe it will be "American Optimism" that will save us. The silent majority of us in the middle must demand more and better from our elected officials. Write your representatives in all branches of government and on both sides of the aisle and tell them enough is enough. Right now, they are only hearing from the extreme pessimists on both sides, and as such, it is the vocal and negative minority that will drive us over the cliff unless we stop them.

I believe in "American Optimism." I believe in the collective "us."

What will you do today with your brick?

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.

Lessons from experienced investors

Those who have lived a long time have done a lot, seen a lot – and can teach us a lot. And that's certainly true when it comes to investing.

Consider some of the lessons you might learn from experienced investors:



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

JEFF
BURDICK

Regulate your emotions. In the investment world, there's always something coming at us that could sound scary: political flashpoints, economic news, and even those once-in-a-generation occurrences, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. But older people may take these events in stride; in fact, baby boomers and members of the Silent Generation

(born between 1925 and 1945) are coping better emotionally with the impacts of COVID-19 than younger age cohorts, according to the 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And by keeping control of your emotions, you may be less likely to make moves such as selling quality investments with good fundamentals just because their prices have fallen in the midst of an overall market decline.

Learn from experience. By definition, the older we get, the more experiences we will have. And most people do indeed learn from experience. Investors, too, benefit from having seen and done things before. Did you chase a "hot" stock only to have found it cooled off before you bought it? Did you buy too many of the same type of investments, only to see your portfolio take a bigger hit during a downturn than it would have if you had diversified? In the investment arena, as in most walks of life, patterns emerge, and once you learn to recognize them, you can learn from past mistakes.

Know yourself. When we reach a certain age, most of us know ourselves pretty well. But you don't have to wait decades to gain this knowledge – at least not when it comes to investing. For example, you should quickly gain a good sense of your ability to withstand risk. How? Just consider how you react when the market declines sharply. If you find yourself losing sleep over your losses – even if they're just on paper – you might be taking on too much risk for your own comfort level. Conversely, if market downturns don't bother you as much as lack of growth in your portfolio, you might be investing too conservatively for your own risk tolerance.

Take a longer-term perspective. When we're young, we sometimes are more inclined to desire instant gratification – we want results now. Translated into the investment world, this could mean we want to see big returns in a short period. However, despite the popular mythology, it's quite hard to turn enormous profits on investments overnight – or even over weeks or months. But as the years pass, we learn the value of thinking long-term – how investments we made years ago, and have added to steadily, are now yielding results that can help build the resources we need to reach our objectives.

Don't go it alone. Some of us, when we're young, have a tendency to think we have all the answers and don't need much help in our endeavors. But age gives us the wisdom to recognize that, although we may have acquired much knowledge over the years, we can still use some help in specialized areas, such as creating a long-term investment strategy.

These suggestions are appropriate for anyone – and they can help you on your journey toward your goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.



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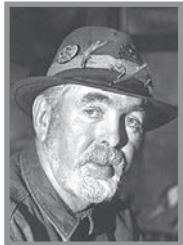
A good time to get outside



Photos Courtesy

Two nice Tautog taken aboard FishNet Charters this past Saturday.

The cool weather that we enjoyed last week is a sign of things to come before winter sets in. It is why I love New England so much. If you do not like the weather today, just wait a few weeks and sometimes, a few days, and it will be changing. The hot, muggy weather that we experienced a few weeks ago was hard on the elderly, but now that the fall weather is here, everyone can enjoy the outdoors. Hunting and fishing is being enjoyed by many more residents of Mass. since the pandemic started. Hunting and fishing equipment was flying off of the shelves since spring, and restocking of the equipment has not happened. Guns and ammunition are almost impossible to purchase, with ammu-



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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...nition being the hardest to get. Many target shooters are not practice shooting at ranges because of the shortage. It took a pandemic for some residents to find the outdoors, and their new activities. People are also doing the basic things like spending more time with their family, and enjoying meals together. Many now realize what they have been missing all of their life! Having someone else raise their kids, is now being done by their parents. Being taught to respect others, as well as law enforcement, is something my parents taught us at a very young age. Upstate New York's famous Salmon River exploded with action last week, according to Fat Nancy's Tackle shop in Pulaski. Rainbow trout, Big Brown



This could be you! Courtesy of Fat Nancy's Bait & Tackle Shop.

trout, Steelhead, Coho, and King salmon are all in the river at the same time. Sure wish I was there! Low water conditions still hampered the migration of fish, but this week rain was expected to hopefully increase the water in the river, making fishing even better, if that is possible. The long hot summer did have its upside, as far as mosquitos and ticks are concerned. Sitting in the back yard early evenings was a lot more enjoyable without the constant humming of a swarm of mosquitos ready to suck your blood dry, for their evening meal. I have not found a single tick on my dogs this year, and they have spent some time in the woods. They still need their monthly dose of medications to avoid heart worm and Lyme disease. Captain Mel True of "Fish Net Charters" has been doing very well catching Tautog and Seabass after spending some time tied up to the dock

waiting for the seas to calm down after all of the tropical depressions passed. The fall fishing is heating up on all fronts and should provide anglers with some great fishing before winter sets in. This week's second picture shows a couple of Capt. Mel's clients with a couple of real nice Tautog taken last weekend. By the time you read this column, Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife should be stocking trout in their annual spots that receive trout every year. If the predicted rain happens, they should start their fall trout stocking program this week. Lake Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury received a large stocking of 12 inch Northern Pike recently by MFW. They sure do like to put all of their eggs in one basket. Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

DIY Ideas that Capture Autumn's Brilliance

Few simple pleasures compare to the colorful show of a New England autumn. Why not capture that brilliance with projects that will recall crisp, fall days of yore? Read on for inspiration and instruction to spotlight the blazing color that comes but once a year.

Botanical Prints

Botanical prints are timeless and vintage examples command premium prices. Here in New England, we are surrounded by nature's foliage, which have natural dyes and just happen to make the most appealing botanical wall hangings. Here's how: Materials: Pliable, colorful autumn leaves, the darker the better; parchment or rag paper (resume paper that is at least 25% rag content also works); absorbent paper towels, flat end hammer. Directions: Clean off any dirt or debris from the leaf. Place one sheet of parchment or rag paper on a flat, clean and sturdy surface such as a workshop table or cutting board. Place leaf flat down on surface. Cover with a few layers of paper towels. Using even force, tap the entire area of the leaf (to gauge the area,

outline the leaf with pen on the paper towel to use as a guide). This step helps to anchor the leaf to the paper. To release the leaf's natural dyes, go over the leaf surface again, hammering every inch of the leaf. When done, do the same working in the opposite direction. Don't be afraid to take a peek every once in a while to check your progress. When done, peel the leaf from the paper to expose the print! To preserve the color of the print, spray with an acrylic protectant. Mat and frame individual prints, or create a collage of different leaves and colors! Note: Brighter colored leaves such as Japanese Maples create the most vivid colors. Autumn Luminaries The most colorful and textural fall leaves are literally "in the spotlight" with this homemade luminary project. Use either a real or flameless candle to create a variety of different mood lighting. Materials: Dried and pressed leaves (drying between weighted newspaper or paper towel pages results in leaves that are dry, yet pliable; Mod Podge (available at craft



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

stores); canning jar. Note: Lighter leaves allow for more illumination. Instructions: Using a paintbrush coat the entire outside of the canning jar generously with Mod Podge. Do not coat the bottom of the jar of the rim area. While jar is still wet, place leaves onto the jar and press in place. Brush over the leaves with another coat of Mod Podge. Note: Keep in mind spacing leaves apart allows more light to shine through. Overlapping leaves collage style creates a denser jar and dimmer light. Once leaves are placed, dab or stipple the Mod Podge in the clear spaces. This little extra effort will pay off when the light shines through and shows off the texture rather than brush strokes. Allow to dry overnight, and then apply one last coat of

Mod Podge. As a final touch, spray the outside surface of the jar with an acrylic finish. Again, allow to dry completely. To use, place a contained tea light candle or flameless candle inside the jar. *** Foliage Garlands Garlands strung across a mantle or doorways are popular autumn décor, but why buy faux foliage when you have the real thing right outside your door? Note: If you are not using preserved leaves, this garland only gets better with age for as they dry, they curl up and take on a new look! Materials: Colorful fall leaves (crimson and yellow Maple leaves are best); Mod Podge (available at craft stores); plastic straws; twine; hot glue or tape Instructions: Choose flat, clean leaves. Dry by pressing until all moisture is removed (press between weighted newspaper and paper towels). Carefully brush Mod Podge on each leaf. Note: Do one side at a time and allow to fully dry. Cut straws in half inch length. Attach a straw piece to back of each leaf with hot glue or strong tape. String each leaf

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

Create new garden beds this fall



GARDEN
MOMENTS
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MELINDA
MYERS

Fall is a great time to create new garden beds. Cool, usually drier, fall weather makes it easier to work in the garden and for plants to establish. Plus, the Garden To-do list is often a bit shorter this time of year and you will get a head start on the next growing season. Start by locating the placement, size and shape of this new garden. Always contact your local underground utility locating service at least three business days in advance. It's free and as easy as calling 811 or filing an online request. They will contact the appropriate companies who will mark the location of their underground utilities in your work area. This reduces the danger and inconvenience of accidentally knocking out power, cable or other utilities while you create a beautiful landscape. Use a rope or hose to outline the area. Avoid tight corners or creating narrow grass borders that will be difficult to

mow or require hand trimming. Once satisfied with the layout, take a soil test and decide how to kill the existing lawn and weeds as needed. A soil test will tell you how much and what type of fertilizer you will need for the plants you are growing. Testing now means you will have the information in hand when it is time to fertilize in spring. Next edge the bed. Use a shovel to dig a V-shaped trench around the border of the garden. Or rent or borrow a power edger to make larger jobs easier. Once the edging is complete, remove healthy grass with a sod cutter and use it to fill bare spots in the lawn. Or create a planting berm or simply add it to the compost pile. Just place it green side down and wait for it to decompose. Another method for clearing the grass is to cover the area with cardboard topped with several inches of organic mulch and wait for the grass and cardboard to decompose. You can push back the mulch and cut through the cardboard to plant immediately. Or wait to begin planting next spring after the grass and cardboard have broken down completely. For quicker results and control of perennial weeds, try a total vegetation killer. These products kill the top and



Photo Melinda Myers

Renting a power edger will make creating a large garden bed easier and less labor intensive.

roots of the good and bad plants they touch. Read and follow label directions carefully. Start your soil preparation after the required waiting period has passed. The next step, an important one, is

soil improvement. It is easier to repair and improve the soil before you plant. Plus, time spent now yields years of good results. Add two to four inches of

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Design pro Andre Mills illustrates graphics' power to persuade



Andre Mills

WORCESTER — Professional graphic designer, illustrator and

caricaturist Andre K. Mills will illustrate graphics' power to persuade in The Communicators Club's Oct. 6 virtual event.

Sometimes, words aren't enough. An often-overlooked component in raising awareness — and the personality profile — of a business and brand is through memorable graphic design. Mills will explain the power of graphics in a Zoom presentation set for noon to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6. The \$10 program fee includes networking opportunities and the chance for those attending to promote their business before the main discussion begins. A question-and-answer ses-

sion will follow his talk.

Mills, a Jamaica native who majored in art at the University of Lowell (now UMass Lowell), plans to address the following areas of interest:

- Defining graphic design.
- Detailing how its best used to convey ideas and concepts in the enterprise.
- Describing the impact strong visual communication can have on people, businesses and the world-at-large.

Mills' Lowell-based digital services include logo, website and animation creation; he also draws caricatures and portraits, and commissioned work that includes T-shirt and book

illustrations.

To register for the program, go to <https://contacc/32F2dsr>. For more information about The Communicators Club, visit <https://communicatorsclub.org/>.

About The Communicator's Club (TCC)

Just as communications and the roles of diverse jobs within communications have morphed and expanded since the 1950s, TCC has grown and changed. The Communicators Club today is a blend of the Society of Professional Communicators (founded in 1951 as the Worcester

County Editors Council) and the former AdClub of Greater Worcester. Membership reflects twenty-first-century professional communications—advertisers, writers, editors, multimedia design and production specialists, marketers, and public relations experts—all work toward an integrated marketing approach that's crucial to success in today's marketplace. The Communicators Club's monthly programs provide professional development from industry experts, networking and other opportunities in a friendly, informal atmosphere, all online this year.

Nichols debuting new competency-based program

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Nichols College has launched a new program geared towards offering a new pathway towards a Bachelor's degree for non-traditional students at the Dudley school.

Called the Competency-based Education (CBE) Program, the new offering is meant to be a flexible and independent pathway towards a degree for students who have chosen to

pursue their college education either years after high school or as a part-time student which is defined as "non-traditional." The program will assess the mastery of subjects by examining knowledge, skills and abilities rather than being based on classroom time.

"With the degree requirement for more jobs growing, and the attainment rate for adults lagging, the need for Competency-based Education has never been more critical," said Kerry Calnan, Vice President for Innovation and Institutional Effectiveness at

Nichols College in a press release on Sept. 21. "Nichols is committed to providing this alternative and viable pathway to help today's professionals achieve their goals."

The new program will include seven-week terms, two courses at a time allowing students to take classes at their own pace. Students will be allowed to add new courses before the end of the term if they finish a course ahead of time. All courses will be structures for online learning with an annual subscription fee regardless

of how many courses students take during the year. Students who complete the program will be awarded a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a management concentration attached.

Candidates for this new program must carry a minimum of 24 college credits into the program. Academic advisors will also be made available for students. Interested potential students can learn more about the program by visiting <http://pages.nichols.edu/cbe/>.

MYERS

continued from page A9

organic matter like aged manure, peat moss or leaf compost to the top 8 to 12 inches of soil. These materials improve the drainage in heavy clay soil and increase the water holding ability in fast draining sandy or rocky soils.

Check the labeling on the bag when purchasing these products. Make sure the product you select is USDA and

STA certified to ensure quality. USDA BioPreferred certified products are derived from plants and other renewable products, providing an alternative to petroleum-based goods. Look for United States Composting Council's STA certified compost that is a renewable, consistent, high quality product made from locally available organic material.

Once you mix in the organic matter, rake the garden level and smooth. Your garden is ready to plant. Fill it

with spring flowering bulbs, perennials, trees, and shrubs this fall. Or cover it with shredded leaves or other organic mulch to suppress weeds and prevent soil erosion. Use the winter to plan the garden so you will be ready to plant once spring arrives.

In either case, your efforts this fall reduce your workload next spring and shorten the time to a more beautiful landscape.

Gardening expert Melinda Myers

has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. Myers is the host of *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.



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OBITUARIES

Anita Pearl Summers, 67

Southbridge, Massachusetts - Past early 9/11/2020 at the age of 67.



She left behind her husband, Roswell Summers Sr. of 48 years of marriage, her four sons Benjamin, Daniel, Robbie, and Roswell Junior, and Daughter Lisa. She was proud to be a Meme of 13 grandchildren. She loved all of them. Anita loved to bake, bowl, go for

long motorcycle rides, and being a homemaker and a stay home mom. Making people feel loved through food was her passion, which she has passed on to so many family members through her food. Birthday, wedding, graduation cakes were always done by Anita as they were her special gift to family. She will be truly missed. There will be no service or calling hours. Share a memory at www.smithand-walkerfh.com

Robert W. Pye, 77

WEBSTER – Robert W. Pye, 77, passed away peacefully on the morning of September 11, 2020 while at the Blaire House in Milford.



Robert is survived by his long-time girlfriend Deborah Coolidge of Holliston. Robert was born in Worcester, MA on November 8, 1942, son of the late James D. and Antonina (Kaseta) Pye; he was predeceased by three brothers: Jimmy, Richard, and Dennis, and two sisters: Betty and Patricia. Robert worked for the

Montrose Wire and Cable Company for many years; he very much enjoyed bowling, playing horseshoes and playing his mandolin. Please consider making a memorial contribution to the Dudley Police Department Gift Fund or Kosciuszko Society (Bush Hall) in honor of Robert. Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Robert.

Dowd to serve as interim Police Chief

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – With the recent announcement that Charlton Police Chief Graham Maxfield would retire effective Oct. 1, Town Administrator Andrew Golas confirms that an interim chief has been named and that the town is currently in a waiting period to determine exactly how they will hire a new leader for the department. Charlton Police Lt. Daniel Dowd was named the interim chief as he is the second in command for the depart-

ment and would naturally fill the post in the chief's absence. However, the permanent replacement for Chief Maxfield may be a few months away. Town Administrator Golas said that following a vote last year removing the chief position from civil service the town is awaiting confirmation of a bill on the state level to allow the Board of Selectmen the power to determine their own pick for a new hire. "Last year, the town voted to takes the chief position out of civil service. The civil service process essentially man-

dates that the town conduct an assessment type test to evaluate candidates that are interested in the position and choose the person who scores the highest on that assessment. There is really not a lot of flexibility with that process and it forces the town to choose the individual that just scores the highest on the test," Golas explained. "The town's move last year was to petition the legislature to allow the town to basically fill the chief vacancy in any manner the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate." The bill still needs to pass

the House and be signed by the governor, but recently received approval from the Senate. Golas said the town is waiting to receive approval to begin its search for a new chief. For now, the selectmen and Golas feel comfortable with Dowd in the lead role. Golas confirmed that selectmen plan to hire from within the department when the time comes. "The other process that was in place would have basically forced us to hold the test for anybody who was interested and if the person who scored the highest was some-

one the Board of Selectmen didn't want in the position they would have had to have an allowable reason as to why they weren't appointing that individual. It was much more of a process that was very antiquated, and the town wasn't interested in following anymore," said Golas. The Town Administrator said Chief Graham Maxfield will be sorely missed and credited the chief with bringing the department to "professional standards" and setting the department up for a promising future.



Photo Courtesy

Charlton Boy Scout Cameron Bodamer with just a portion of the 1,800 pounds of food collected at his two-day food drive to benefit the Southbridge Food Share.

Local Boy Scout holds food drive

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Many times, Boy Scouts choose construction projects, nature initiatives or similar endeavors for their Eagle Scout projects but one local scout decided to take the opportunity to help those in need by organizing a food drive for his project in 2020. Cameron Bodamer, a member of Charlton Boy Scout Troop #338, organized a successful food drive at Big Bunny Market on Sept. 19 and 20 collecting nearly 2,000 pounds of food to benefit the Southbridge Food Share who serve the towns of Charlton, Southbridge and Sturbridge among other communities. Bodamer said he was inspired to hold the drive for his project when he sought to do something with a larger impact than a traditional construction project and thought a food collection during a difficult economic time and pandemic would serve the greatest need. "I always wanted to give back to the community and just building a shed or something like that wouldn't really give as much over a longer period of time. The Southbridge Food Share helps the community I live in as well as others like Southbridge

and Sturbridge," Bodamer said. "Big Bunny Market were very accommodating. We went in with a goal of 500 pounds and we tripled that to over 1,800 pounds." Big Bunny Market was the only store that allowed Bodamer to set up for a collection as many businesses are adhering to strict COVID-19 restrictions. Bodamer said he received plenty of help from his fellow scouts who all filled bags from their own neighborhoods or volunteered their time to hand out fliers and work the collection site during the two-day drive. It took three vehicles to transport the food which is expected to provide for hundreds of families throughout the region. Bodamer hopes to see others donate their time and efforts to help local food banks especially as the pandemic continues to impact peoples' livelihoods and income. "Especially with COVID, a lot of people are in need of food and other resources that are hard to get in these times. Even if you are fortunate and have everything, other people might not. Right now, it's important to give back and I'm thankful for all the support this project received," said Bodamer.

Overlook earns top marks from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CHARLTON — In 2007, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) introduced a program to rate the quality of care and services provided by nursing homes throughout the country. A nursing home's overall quality rating, as recorded on the CMS Nursing Home Compare website, is based on 3 critical ratings: 1) Health care inspections 2) Quality of resident care measures 3) Staffing In its newest set of ratings published in August, the esteemed Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center a maximum five out of five

stars—for its overall rating, placing it among the top 10 percent of best nursing homes in the country. In addition to its overall rating of five stars, Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center earned five-star ratings for both its staffing and quality of resident care measures. The five-star rating is a seal of excellence from CMS, underscoring the high quality of health care and service standards delivered within The Overlook Continuing Care Retirement Community. As well, the rating serves as a valuable tool for consumers when seeking the best of the best in nursing home care.

Tameryn Campbell, President & CEO of Masonic Health System of Massachusetts and the first-ever female leader of the senior living organization, noted, "We are honored to achieve this notable accomplishment from CMS. It lets us know we are fulfilling our mission and vision of providing superior person-centered care—and providing it with passion." "I am especially proud of the five-star ratings for staffing and quality measures," Campbell added. "Our team members deserve that distinction, as they work incredibly hard—especially with the COVID-19 challenges confronting our industry, nation and world."

Campbell, who joined The Overlook in 2014, has spearheaded a transformation of the organization on all levels, leading to its financial stability and desirability among seniors in the region. The turnaround also earned her recognition from the Worcester Business Journal—on an elite list of 2019 outstanding women in business. The new CMS ratings include data for more than 15,000 senior care providers participating in Medicare, Medicaid or both. Overlook Masonic Health Center is one of 102 providers in Massachusetts to receive a five-star overall rating.



News,
really close to home StonebridgePress.com

Sturbridge celebrates Arbor Day

STURBRIDGE — As with many events of 2020 due to Covid-19, celebrating Arbor Day was also delayed, normally celebrated on the last Friday in April, this year Arbor Day was celebrated in summer. This year, eight trees were adopted by Sturbridge families, along with the traditional Arbor Day celebration tree planting.

Sturbridge Tree Warden, Tony Crane organized and managed the 31st consecutive Arbor Day ceremony for Sturbridge, taking over from long time, now retired, Tree Warden Tom Chamberland.

“Tom has been a great asset to the town, and his legacy of 30 consecutive Arbor Day ceremonies was one program I had to continue. His help and guidance were invaluable,” said Tony Crane, continuing, “Arbor Day

Sturbridge's Arbor Day was recently held at the 10 Old Sturbridge Village Trail Head parking lot. From left to right: Landscape Evolution crew member, Tom Chamberland (watering tree) and Tony Crane, Sturbridge Tree Warden.

was delayed this year due to considerations from Covid-19, but I am pleased we were able to hold a ceremony and plant some trees”

This year's ceremonial Arbor Day tree was a White Oak planted in the parking lot island of the recently completed trail head parking lot at 10 Old Sturbridge Village Rd. The tree was “adopted” by the Sturbridge Trail Committee, Assisting in the tree plantings were crew members from Landscape Evolution of Holland.

Photo Courtesy



For more information on Sturbridge's “adopt a tree” program contact Tree Warden Tony Crane at tcrane@sturbridge.gov.

QCC offers innovative professional development training

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College's Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education (CWDCE) has launched an innovative way to deliver professional development training with a new, “all you can learn” subscription model. The CWDCE performed extensive research to discover the best way to respond to the needs of both employers and individuals working in today's digital age.

QCC's subscription-style model of learning contains more than 500 unique online modules in 14 different areas

of Advanced Manufacturing, as well as Microsoft 365 online software services suite. Participants can choose between 30, 60, 90, 180 or 365 days of unlimited access to all the training modules for a set rate. Since the pandemic began, companies have had to adopt more online practices into their current workplace practices to remain viable.

“We looked at a number of trends both locally and nationally, which resulted in some new course offerings for the fall, as well as new ways we will be offering our courses. One of the most innovative ways

we have responded to the need to for workers to quickly ‘skill up,’ is by offering this type of learning model,” said Dean of the Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Kathleen Manning.

Students can mix and match between all modules to target their individual skill needs. Each module takes approximately one hour to complete and includes a pre and post assessment. Students can print out a certificate when the module is completed.

“We are moving away from the one-size-fits-all approach

and are allowing individuals to design a custom program that is best suited to their individual career goals,” Ms. Manning said. “This is a smarter approach in delivering professional development training to our workforce of the future.”

QCC offered free business courses to help with online transition at the start of the pandemic, as well as a free infectious disease control course to assist companies in navigating the new workplace landscape.

“Now with these ‘all you can learn’ programs, there

is another safe and effective way to learn new skills or increase existing skillsets,” Ms. Manning continued. “Adapting to the needs of our changing world is paramount to the economic prosperity of our nation.”

To learn more visit, <https://www.QCC.edu/center-workforce-development-and-continuing-education>

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

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. WO20C0184CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Nyapilah Cole**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Nyapilah Cole of Southbridge MA

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Aaron Kpamazu Kennedy

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/13/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 17, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

October 1, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO20P2491GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of:
Ronald Billib
Of: Bristol, ME
RESPONDENT**

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Harrington Memorial Hospital of Southbridge, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Ronald Billib is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Jonathan M Spirn of Waltham MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 10/13/2020.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 11, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

October 1, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO20P2492PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER
PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT
TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Ronald Billib
Of: Bristol, ME
RESPONDENT**

(Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Harrington Memorial Hospital of Southbridge, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Ronald Billib is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Jonathan M Spirn of Waltham, MA Some Suitable Person Be Appointed of,

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 10/13/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action

may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the abovenamed person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 11, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

October 1, 2020

**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. WO18P1845EA
Estate of:
Christopher Crosbie
Date Of Death: 04/07/2018
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF
SUCCESSOR PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

To all interested persons

A Petition has been filed by:

John F. Crosbie of Boca Raton FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **John F. Crosbie of Boca Raton FL** be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 10/13/20**. 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 11, 2020

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

October 1, 2020

**CHARLTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Public Hearing Notice**

A Public Hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 839 6020 0986 and password 802072 at 7:40 PM on 10/7/2020 to consider a Notice of Intent for Kathleen Wilk for the property

Located at: 310 Partridge Hill Rd, Charlton, MA

For the installation of septic system within the 100ft buffer zone

This is a Public Hearing under the requirements of G.L. CH. 131 §40, as amended. Plans are available at the Town of Charlton website – Conservation Commission
October 1, 2020

**CHARLTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Public Hearing Notice**

A Public Hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 839 6020 0986 and password 802072 at 7:35 PM on 10/7/2020 to consider a Amendment to Order of Conditions for Audrey Martinez for the property Located at: Lot 2 Buteau Rd, Charlton, MA

For the relocation of the proposed house footprint and the addition of a drive under garage.

This is a Public Hearing under the requirements of G.L. CH. 131 §40, as amended. Plans are available at the Town of Charlton website – Conservation Commission
October 1, 2020

**CHARLTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Public Hearing Notice**

A Public Hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 839 6020 0986 and password 802072 at 7:30 PM on 10/7/2020 to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability for Marilyn Hultgren for the property Located at: 50 Northside Rd, Charlton, MA

For the replacement of existing leaching areas due to cess pool failure

This is a Public Hearing under the requirements of G.L. CH. 131 §40, as amended. Plans are available at the Town of Charlton website – Conservation Commission
October 1, 2020

Local Businesses support public safety building

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — In merely a week's time, the Charlton Public Safety Building Capital Campaign announced four donations from local businesses adding to the \$309,000 pledged to the project as of August 2020.

Starting on Sept. 10, members of the Charlton Public Safety Building Steering Committee began announcing a series of financial commitments to help offset the cost of the \$28.5 million project which is slated to go before the voters during the national election in November. In August it was announced that the Hyde/Dexter-Russell Charitable Foundation had committed \$309,000 to the project pending its approval, surpassing the \$200,000 benchmark set by the steering committee. Not that number has grown as a total of \$36,000 in financial dona-

tions was announced in September.

The first business confirmed to donate to the cause on Sept 10 was Cornerstone Bank, which committed \$2,500 to the initiative. Southbridge Credit Union followed a day later with a \$5,000 pledge while Ted's Package Store was announced as a donor of \$3,500 a few days later. However, the biggest donation came from Camosse Masonry, which donated \$25,000 to the project. The announcements were made through a series of social media posts on Facebook where the steering committee has worked hard to commit to public outreach about the project.

Those seeking more information about the Charlton Public Safety Building Project can visit charltonpublicsafetybuilding.com. Voters will have their say on the initiative on Nov. 3, when it will be included on the Presidential Ballot.

Webster First donates \$10,000 toward cancer research at UMass

WORCESTER — 2020 marks the fourth consecutive year that Webster First Federal Credit Union proudly sponsored the annual UMass Cancer Walk & Run. Every year, this event raises funds to support cancer research, clinical trials, and patient care for the UMass Cancer Center located in Worcester, where Webster First has its headquarters.

Speaking about the value and importance of supporting this cause, President/CEO Michael Lussier said, "The reality is that most of us have been personally affected

by cancer whether that be our family, friends, colleagues, or even ourselves. The Webster First team wanted to show our support for the UMass Cancer Walk because we saw how it brought the community together to raise awareness and it connected with our team on an emotional level. It is also meaningful to know that all funds raised through this event directly support cancer care, research, and clinical trials."

The UMass Cancer Walk & Run was held Sunday, September 13th, 2020. This year, due to the uncertainties of the

coronavirus pandemic, the event was held virtually. The virtual event featured special guest appearances from The Voice's Toneisha Harris and Worcester native Ricky Duran.

About Webster First
Webster First Federal Credit Union serves the financial needs of Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties. Founded in 1928, Webster First is one of the largest credit unions in Massachusetts with over \$1B in assets and serving over 77,000 members.

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55+ COMMUNITY

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What is herd immunity?

Infectious diseases can strike at any time. Some of them cause relatively minor interruptions to daily life and often can resolve of their own accord when the body's immune system mounts a successful defense. Other diseases can cause serious, even life-threatening symptoms or spread rapidly, which makes it essential for medical professionals to help slow down or stop the transmission.

What is herd immunity?

Herd immunity is a term that often arises in relation to infectious diseases. Herd immunity has taken on renewed significance as the world has been battling COVID-19, the novel coronavirus introduced in late 2019. Herd immunity, which is sometimes called "community immunity," "population immunity" or "social immunity," refers to the indirect protection from infectious diseases that occurs when a large percentage of the population has become immune to that disease. If enough people are resistant to the cause of a disease, whether it is a bacteria or virus, that disease has nowhere to go and the spread stalls, according to WebMD.

How does herd immunity occur?

There are two ways that herd immunity can occur. The first is when resistance develops naturally when the body is exposed to the virus or bacteria. At this point, the immune system



will produce antibodies to fight off the infection. After recovery, these antibodies are still circulating, and should exposure to the same disease occur again, the body can defend against another infection.

Another way that herd immunity occurs is through vaccination. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that when the majority of people are vaccinated, it creates the same disease lockdown — fewer people get sick and fewer germs are

able to spread from person to person. What's more, even those who are not vaccinated, such as newborn babies or those who may not be able to get vaccinated due to chronic illnesses, will get some level of protection because the disease will not be spreading as readily within their communities.

When is herd immunity reached?

When enough of a population is immune to a pathogen it prevents further spread and herd immunity is

apparent. Diseases are different and herd immunity is reached based on the pathogen's reproduction number, or R0. Essentially this boils down to how contagious the pathogen in question is. WebMD says the R0 tells the average number of people that a single person with the virus can infect if those people aren't already immune. The higher the R0, the greater number of people will need to be resistant to reach herd immunity. Measles, which is very contagious at an R0 of 12 to 18, requires 93 to 95 percent of the population to be immune for herd immunity to be reached. The World Health Organization estimates the R0 for COVID-19 to be between 2 and 3. This means between 40 and 70 percent of the population will need to be immune to halt the spread.

In the case of COVID-19, it's still unclear whether anyone can get reinfected, and whether antibodies produced for one strain can fend off another strain of this novel coronavirus. This reinfection mystery is what makes herd immunity — both through a vaccine or through natural exposure — challenging for epidemiologists in relation to COVID-19.

Herd immunity is an important factor in disease prevention. Getting the facts about this phenomenon is important.

Tips for planting fall vegetables

Tending to backyard vegetable gardens can fill many hours of enjoyable downtime in the great outdoors. What's more, the bounty produced by such gardens provides healthy, fresh foods to gardeners and their loved ones.

Although spring and summer are widely seen as the peak of garden-

ing season, the mild temperatures of autumn can be a prime time for planting vegetables as well. Certain late-season treats like carrots, kale, spinach, and turnips can thrive in fall gardens. Many different foods are quick crops that can go from seed to table in about six weeks. When sown in early fall, these vegetables will be ready to put

on the table for mid-October feasts. Beets, green onions, broccoli, and cabbages can be planted in late summer for fall harvest. Gardeners who live in hardiness zones eight through 10 (the southern portion of the United States) can plant fall vegetables as late as December. Many of these plants can tolerate light frost, which may even

help sweeten the vegetables.

A handful of unique factors need to be taken into consideration when planning fall vegetable gardens.

- The summertime location of the garden may still be adequate, but be sure to choose a location that gets

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Jacob Edwards Library hosts “Fairy House Craft” program

SOUTHBRIDGE — Jacob Edwards Library will host Minstrel Storyteller Mary Jo Maichack in a participatory family program especially recommended for children ages 5 and older with their caregivers. “Fairy House Craft” is a delightful “make and take” workshop. It will take place on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. till noon.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The show is free and open to the public, first come, first served.

Families will receive

natural woodland materials such as acorn, twigs, bark and pine cones, some fairy baubles, and use glue and imagination to create tiny houses or furniture for fairies, in small containers. If families wish to bring more of their own woodland materials, they are welcome to do so.

“Families have loved taking part in this program, and as they use their imaginations, they have fun collaborating and thinking of the housing needs of others, in this case, the fairy folk,” said Maichack, a professional storyteller and singer.

The craft program is a relatively new adventure

in programming for her, although many years ago she was a children’s librarian and after-school programmer.

Maichack is a national award-winning storyteller and teaching artist. Her craft programs have packed houses. She has performed some 3,000 shows in libraries, schools, festivals since 1989. She was featured several times at the Connecticut Storytelling Festival, Three Apples and Mark Twain Festivals and from San Francisco to Venice, Italy. Her recordings can be found at her Web site, www.MaryJoMaichack.com.

TIPS

continued from page A16

eight full hours of sunlight per day.

- If using an existing garden site, clear out any detritus from summer plants and any weeds that have sprouted. If you are planting a new garden, remove any turf before tilling the soil.

- Amend the soil with sand, compost, manure fertilizer, and any other nutrients needed depending on the types of vegetables you intend to grow.

- While fall vegetables can be grown successfully from seeds, it may be more time-friendly to work from larger transplants, advises the Texas A&M

Agrilife Extension.

- Some plants may need a little protection as they grow if temperatures begin to dip. Cover with a blanket, cardboard box or plastic tunnel to insulate.

Remember to water according to the vegetables planted and to keep an eye on readiness for vegetables. Turnips, beets, rutabagas, and carrots can be dug out when the roots are plump and crisp.

Vegetable gardens need not cease when the last days of summer vanish. Fall produce is delicious and can be easily planted and harvested even after the first frost.

The pumpkins have arrived!



Photo Courtesy

Church volunteers Mark Fancy, Susan Schwartz, and Kerstin Comtois helped set up the gourd display.

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale celebrated the opening day of its 2020 Pumpkin Patch this past Saturday.

“This was a highly successful opening with tremendous support from the community in unloading and setting up the pumpkins, and lots of interest and support from opening day customers,” according to this year’s committee chair, Jim Mansfield. “We sold 80 pumpkins on our first official day of sales!”

This annual church fundraiser, now in its third year, benefits church missions and a number of local charities, in addition to the Navajo Indian Reservation in Farmington, NM. In cooperation with the Navajo Nation, the church’s pumpkin supplier,

Pumpkins USA grows 1,200 acres, or approximately two square miles of pumpkins and employs over 700 Native Americans during harvest months of September and October. They also have a full time off-season NM staff that is composed entirely of Native Americans. This has a positive and lasting impact on a region with 42 percent unemployment.

The sale of pumpkins and gourds continues daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (weather-permitting) through Oct. 30 on the front lawn of the church at 8 Maple St., Sturbridge (in between Sturbridge Town Hall and the Joshua Hyde Public Library). Shoppers are asked to please wear a mask and practice social distancing!



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