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Thursday-Friday, October 10-11, 2024

# Cohen explores nature's free wild restaurant

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — A walk in the woods with Russ Cohen inevitably teaches you something new about the edible wild plants all around us.

Last week, he led a few dozen Walktober walkers up the trail in Plympton Forest to talk about around 20 of the 44 edible plants he knows of growing there.

The first of those was not one most of us would look at and say “That looks tasty” – burdock. The biennial plant’s best known for its spiky second-year burrs that attach to everything as you pass; Cohen noted “the guy who invented Velcro got the idea from this.”

But, at the end of its first year, you can dig up its roots, wash, slice and boil them for about 15 minutes to get something tasting “like a starchy artichoke.” That might take some work; he noted “very likely, your pa-



Gus Steeves

Russ Cohen talks about the edible qualities of one of our region’s most common trees, the birches.

ience is going to give out before the root does.”

For the second year, the cylindrical flower stalks are also edible. He said to peel off the outer layer then slice and boil

them about six minutes; they can be used in ways similar to artichoke hearts.

Burdock’s common, but even more common are roses, of various

types. All of them have edible hips (the red fruit forming after the pollinated flower falls off), but those vary hugely in size. The largest are on the su-

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# Charlton police consider leasing some vehicles

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Police Department is seeking to change its approach to purchasing new vehicles by embracing a hybrid plan that includes leasing as opposed to purchasing every vehicle outright.

Police Chief Daniel Dowd approached the Finance Committee in September about utilizing annually allocated monies for police vehicle purchasing to lease some vehicles with the plan to purchase at the end of the lease agreements while also still purchasing a certain number of patrol vehicles at the same time. Dowd recommended leasing the administrative vehicles which would allow for adding more cars in a shorter amount of time.

“Typically, you get a 36,000-mile warranty. I put it on patrol, it’s run 24-7 and I don’t get a year out of the warranty. It doesn’t make sense to lease patrol cars because of that, you might as well buy them. What I like about (leasing administrative vehicles) at the end of three or four years is you simply buy the car for a dollar, so those cars still have value – It’s not like a typical lease where you’re only allowed to put so many miles on it. That’s not the case. It’s basically financing it,” said the chief.

The budget for replacing police vehicles can range from more than \$240,000 to more than \$250,000. The chief’s proposal allows the town to add five vehicles instead of the normal three by using part of that money for leasing and purchase two more vehicles each of the next two years respectively within the normal purchasing budget.

“You’re not saving anything, you’re just giving me more cars up front,” said the Chief.

This approach is not unique to Charlton. Several departments in the commonwealth use a hybrid approach of leasing some vehicles while purchasing patrol cars while other departments lease all their vehicles. Town finance officials confirmed they would be working with the town’s attorney to clarify language of how this may change the motion during the annual fall town meeting.

The Board of Selectmen approved the warrant articles for town meeting on Oct. 1 which includes

Turn To **POLICE** page 5

# Donated car helps Southbridge woman move forward

SOUTHBRIDGE — With the average price of a used car currently around \$31,000, many people are unable to afford even the most modest of vehicles. For Emilsy Mata from Southbridge, these high prices have pumped the brakes on her ability to get around safely and reliably. Thankfully, a generous donor presented her with a life-changing gift that will put her on the road to self-sufficiency – a donated car.

Mata was awarded a 2013 Toyota Camry from the car-donation nonprofit Good News Garage. The Bur-

lington-based organization was founded in 1996 as one of the nation’s first charitable car donation programs. Over the last 28 years, it has helped car donors give nearly 6,000 vehicles to neighbors in need.

Upon being handed the keys to her donated Camry, Mata said, “Thank you for donating me a great vehicle. Your support is going to help me get to appointments, work and school. I will always be grateful.”

According to Good News Garage, post-pandemic

Turn To **CAR** page 5

# 16th Annual Brimfield Auto Show returns to Auction Acres

BRIMFIELD — The Brimfield Auto show returns to the grounds of Auction Acres 35 Main Street Brimfield on Saturday, Oct. 12 (rain date Oct. 13). Registration for those entering their cars for judging is \$15 and begins at 8 am. The gates are open 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Admission is \$ 5, free for seniors, military veterans & children under 13.

It is the 16th annual show and continues to be one of the largest in New England. The venue of Auction Acres combined with the Brimfield Winery offers a great atmosphere to enjoy the beautiful fall day on a holiday weekend.

With the inclusion of several more years and makes of cars being shown, the judges deemed it time to add a few categories. Judge Joe Ballou shared “For this year, we will have three categories for foreign cars including “Class U” for all years of Asian cars, “Class V” for European and British cars up to 1974, and “Class W” for European and British cars from



1975 to the present.”

There is also a new memorial trophy, the “William Bessett Jr. Memorial.” It will be awarded to the judge’s favorite car of the show. Billy was a regular participant of the Brimfield Auto Show until he passed away on

Sept. 9 last year at the age of 60. Billy’s greatest passion was classic cars and bringing them back to their original glory or chopping and molding them into “hotrods.”

Bruce Marshall of 97.7 FM, the Valley’s

Classic Hits, widely known for hosting car cruises, will be emceeing the event, and playing music throughout the day. Several food trucks will be on site serving a variety of options to satisfy every taste bud. Rusty and Kate Cor-

riveau, owners of Auction Acres & The Brimfield Winery are frequent hosts to events that support local community organizations. They both have local roots, growing up in Brimfield and Wales, and have a deep understanding of the lo-

cal community and feel it is important to give back and support the community who shaped them and now supports them in their business endeavors.

The auto show benefits both the Brimfield  
Turn To **BRIMFIELD** page 4



# UnderGround Wednesdays continue with the zombie flick that started it all

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Shawna Foundation Presents UnderGround Wednesday with a Screening of the zombie movie that started it all.

“Night of the Living Dead” (1968) was a low budget horror movie that defined what the flesh eating modern zombie looked like from then on.

Shot in black and white with radical political themes of racism that are still relevant today. George either forgot to do a copyright or did the paperwork wrong, so the film ended up in public domain, which made it the darling of the midnight movie craze. We may not know it otherwise.

But we do know it! And it is the night before Halloween! There is no better way to usher in that holiday. For the living and the dead!

The screening starts at 7 p.m. at starlite, 39 Hamilton St. in Southbridge.

The event is free and brought to you in part with the

support of the Southbridge Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council.

## Flamenco Boston to perform at Jacob Edwards Library

SOUTHBRIDGE — In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Flamenco Boston will perform at the Jacob Edwards Library on Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. with special guest dancer, Aylin Bayaz, from Barcelona.

Flamenco Boston will bring an authentic flamenco experience, filled with fiery footwork and emotional songs, showcasing the wide emotional range that this art form has to offer. Experience the various styles, or palos, of flamenco from the Cuban-influenced Guajiras to the folkloric dance of Sevilla. Flamenco is an eclectic art form originating from the cultural melting pot that was in Andalusia, blending the influences of the Spaniards, Moors, Sephardic Jews, Indians, and Gitanos.

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/

Sponsored by Southbridge Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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\$275,000, 122 Dresser Hill Rd, Duhamel, Mark P, and Duhamel, Sharon, to Stevens Jr, Willard, and St Laurent, David.

### HOLLAND

\$325,000, 10 Bernie Rd, Smith, Stephen, and Smith, Christine, to Conti, Sean, and Spinner, Emily.

### SOUTHBRIDGE

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\$475,000, 210 N Woodstock Rd, Corbett, Eric C, and Corbett, Patti J, to Hill, Heather, and Stanhope, Jonathan.

\$440,000, 66 E Main St, Hsil Property Mgmt LLC, to Santos, Henrique.

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\$290,000, 54 Lens St, Deya, Makayla, and Estrada, Carlos J, to Morales, Fabian.

\$250,000, 11 Williams St, Stamatakis, Keith R, and Stamatakis, Theresa A, to Thibeault, Statia M, and Thibeault, Richard R.

\$225,000, 97 Riverview Pl #A, Giro, Mark A, to Wetnicka, Rebecca G.

### STURBRIDGE

\$580,000, 210 New Boston Rd, Mahon, John R, and Mahon, Kimberley J, to Rainka, Alice E, and Maloney Jr, Joseph.

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Weekdays 8:30 - 12:30 and 2:00 - 4:30 and

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### • Central Baptist Church

256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550

Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

### • Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St.,

508-248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer

worship is 9:30 a.m.

www.charltonfedchurch.org

### • Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill

Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sun-

day worship 10 a.m.

### • Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Staf-

ford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.

org

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### • St. Anne St. Patrick Church, 16 Church St.,

Fiskdale (508) 347-7338

www.stannestpatparish.com

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am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5

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and Sat 7:30 am

### • St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-

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### • Assemblies of God Southern New En-

gland District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-

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### • Living Word Church of Charlton, 10 Main

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MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349

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www.livingwordcharlton.com

info@livingwordcharlton.com

### • New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel,

307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA,

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### • Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fisk-

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www.sturfed.org

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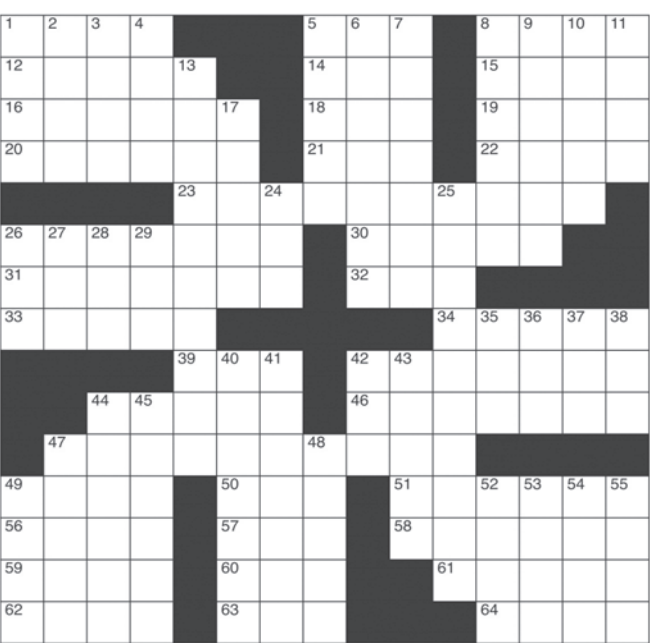
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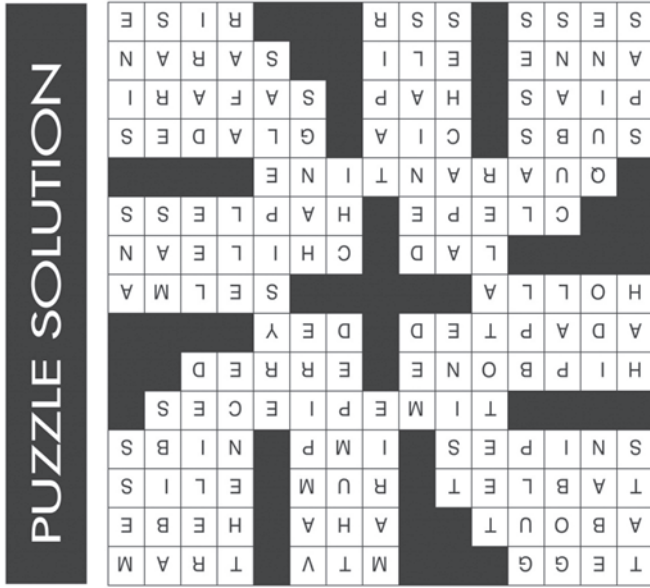


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unsheared sheep 34. Civil rights city in Alabama
- 5. Rock TV channel 39. Young boy
- 8. Streetcar 42. Type of sea bass
- 12. Concerning 44. To call (archaic)
- 14. Exclamation 46. Unfortunate
- 15. Greek goddess of youth 47. Separate oneself from others
- 16. Popular type of device 49. Hero sandwiches
- 18. Alcoholic beverage 50. Spy group
- 19. Ancient Olympic Site 51. Florida is famous for them
- 20. Sharpshoots 56. Irritating individuals
- 21. Tyron Lannister was characterized as one 57. Luck
- 22. Pointed ends of pens 58. Hunting expedition
- 23. Measuring instruments 59. WWII diarist Frank
- 26. Midsection body part 60. Peyton's younger brother
- 30. Made a mistake 61. Type of wrap
- 31. Adjusted 62. Type of overseas tax or levy
- 32. "Partridge" actress Susan 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 33. Yell 64. Wake up

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Works of body art 28. Crony
- 2. Israeli politician Abba 29. Where one begins (abbr.)
- 3. Renowned desert 35. Architectural designation
- 4. Eat greedily 36. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
- 5. She didn't make it through the Fr. Revolution 37. More (Spanish)
- 6. Beat 38. Autonomic nervous system
- 7. Bloodsucker 40. Indigenous peoples
- 8. From a place already noted 41. Deflections
- 9. Counted on 42. Circulating life force
- 10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools 43. Executes with a rope
- 11. Something one can make 44. Natives of an island nation
- 13. One who abstains 45. Girls
- 17. Wild ox 47. Logician and philosopher
- 24. Type of student 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
- 25. Bacterial infection of the skin 49. Relaxing spaces
- 26. Expresses surprise 52. From a distance
- 27. What engaged couples ultimately say 53. Form of Persian language
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Mathematical designation



PUZZLE SOLUTION



# DA hosts discussion on grief, finding support after overdose death

**SHREWSBURY** — With a goal to support all families experiencing the loss of a loved one to an overdose, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. hosted an event last Wednesday focused on grief and how to find support.

The event featured a panel discussion with Deb Dowd-Foley, a long-time peer grief support group facilitator; Cheryl A. Juaire, founder and president of Team Sharing, Inc. a parent-support non-profit, and Dennis Bates, CEO of Washburn House.

"Each life lost to overdose creates a void of grief felt by the family, friends, and loved ones left behind," said Early. "We want all those experiencing this grief to



**District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr., Washburn House CEO Dennis Bates, Peer Group Facilitator Deb Dowd-Foley, and Sully Roberts, Community Engagement Specialist at Veterans Inc.**

know they are not alone, and we want to help them find the support they need through the grieving process."

The panelists discussed their own personal stories of loss and grief, as well as talked through the options for

people to find support locally.

Before forming Team Sharing, Juaire talked about grieving the loss of her first son, Corey at the age of 23, to overdose alone for three years before later meeting with a small group of six moth-

ers who had also lost children to addiction.

"I finally realized I am normal. I finally realized I am going to be okay. It was lifechanging," Juaire said.

She also said the group rallied for her when she lost her second son, Sean, to overdose 10 years later.

"This community is how I survived the loss," she added.

Dowd-Foley agreed that participating in support groups was what helped her work through her grief after losing her 27-year-old son Brian to an overdose.

"I can't emphasize enough the importance of finding the support of people who understand what you are going through," Dowd-Foley said. "There was guilt

and shame that added to the grief...All the whys. Why didn't I hear him come in? Why didn't I save him?"

She said that finding support, whether it be a grief counselor, Facebook groups, or peer support groups, was a huge help in grief. She also advocated for people to practice self-care, including journaling and meditation, and said doing what's right for you is important through the grief process.

"The courage of these parents who come here and say this is what's really going on, I commend them. That is how we're going to end the stigma," said Bates. "The beauty of what we have here is community. The people here who've been hurt the most are also the

ones who can help the most."

Grief support services referenced at the meeting included: Support After a Death by Overdose (SADO.D.), which can be found at sadod.org; The Sun Will Rise Foundation, which can be found at the-sun-will-rise.org; and Team Sharing, Inc., which can be found at teamsharing-inc.org.

Early has been passionately committed to addressing the poly-substance use crisis, as well as trauma and mental health. In 2015, he formed the Central Mass. Opioid Task Force, which he renamed last year the Prevention and Support Network. There are more than 700 members in the network.

# Local youth performers to appear in "The Nutcracker" at Hanover Theatre

**WORCESTER** — Quaboag students Samantha Carr and Violet Atwood, Tantasqua's Eiley Kennedy, Grace Moiles, and Olivia Merrick, West Brookfield's Lilian Benkert and Aspen-Rose Marshall along with Trottier School students McDowell and Schiavo, will take the stage at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts in "The Nutcracker," generously sponsored by Berkshire Bank, from Nov. 29 – Dec. 1.

Featuring live music from The Hanover Theatre Nutcracker Orchestra conducted by Eric Culver; this production of "The Nutcracker" will enchant you with dazzling lighting and scenery by Broadway designers, brilliant dancing and vibrant costumes.

Tickets are on sale now for Nov. 29 at 2 and 7 p.m.; Nov. 30 at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Dec. 1 at 1 p.m.

"The Nutcracker" is a two-act ballet by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky first performed in Russia in December 1892 and based on the stories of E.T.A. Hoffmann and Alexandre Dumas. The story revolves around Clara, a young girl who receives a nutcracker doll as a Christmas gift and then enters a fantastical world where the Nutcracker and other characters come to life.

"This is my 16th year as artistic director of 'The Nutcracker' at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts. I genu-



**Bottom row (l to r): Aspen-Rose Marshall, Lilian Benkert, Eiley Kennedy, Samantha Carr. Top row (l to r): Quinn McDowell, Olivia Schiavo.**

inely love working with all the dancers to put on a magical performance in front of our central Massachusetts community. I remember auditioning as a little girl for the Boston Ballet and the Pittsburgh Ballet at the Worcester Auditorium. It was a priceless opportunity, and I still think of that time every year we begin rehearsals for 'The Nutcracker' at The Hanover Theatre," shared Jennifer Agbay.

Tickets to "The Nutcracker" range from \$39 to \$59 depending on seat location, performance and availability. Discounts are available for Broadway subscribers. Please contact the box office at 877-571-7469 or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org for more information.

Discounts are also

available for groups of 10 or more. To learn more about group rates call 508-471-1689 or email groupsales@thehanovertheatre.org.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the

revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

The Hanover Theatre Conservatory (THTC) provides performance opportunities, classes, and individual instruction in theatre, dance and technical theatre

and design to more than 600 young people and adults from across central Massachusetts each year. Established in 2016, the conservatory cultivates individual attention, ignites creativity and inspires confidence through arts education led by outstanding teaching artists. The state-of-the-art facility includes classrooms, rehearsal and teaching studios, and tech and costume labs for advanced education in stage craft and design. Students receive access to master classes with national touring artists and gain professional experience from performance opportunities with The Hanover Theatre Repertory (THTR) and on The Hanover Theatre's world-class stage. THTC believes in access to arts education for all and provides financial aid for those in

need. Many conservatory students have continued their pursuit of the arts at institutions such as Emerson College, Boston University, NYU, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee College of Music, Hofstra University, Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Marymount Manhattan College, Syracuse University and more.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THTR) and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester's Brick-Box Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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# Country Bank, Worcester Red Sox unite for 2024 Police Vs. Fire Baseball Classic

WORCESTER — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, and the Worcester Red Sox Foundation recently held the third annual, “POLICE VS. FIRE BASEBALL CLASSIC,” presented by the WooSox Foundation and Country Bank on Monday, Sept. 16, at Polar Park. A \$15,000 dona-

tion was made to the Worcester Fire Department Memorials Care Fund, a Worcester-based nonprofit that supports the perpetual care and maintenance of fallen firefighter memorials throughout the city and their families. “At Country Bank, we are deeply honored to support our community’s police officers and firefighters through



events like the Police vs. Fire Baseball Classic,” said Mary McGovern, President and CEO at Country Bank. “These brave men and women selflessly serve and protect, and it is a privilege to contribute to the care and maintenance of memorials that honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Our commitment to this cause reflects our ongoing dedication to strengthening the communities we serve and supporting the heroes who safeguard them.” “As this annual tradition grows, we find that the poignant ceremony and competitive baseball game are emerg-

ing points of pride in our community,” said WooSox President Dr. Charles Steinberg. “We give wholehearted thanks to Country Bank for continuing their outstanding community service. Our police and firefighters have found an extraordinary way to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and then to honor their memory with a fiercely competitive, marvelously entertaining performance of our national pastime. Our community is unique in the central role played by these frontline heroes.”

## SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 23 to Oct. 7.

Joshua Sanchez, age 28, of Southbridge was arrested on Sept. 23 for Domestic Assault and Battery and Assault & Battery on a Pregnant Victim. A juvenile, age 17, was arrested on Sept. 23 for Speeding and operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Carlos Alberto Rodriguez, age 37, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 24 in connection with a warrant for Threatening to Commit a Crime.

A 21-year-old female from Springfield was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 25 for a Number Plate Violation and Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license.

A 33-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 25 for Speeding and Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license.

Jessica Alicea, age 42, of Southbridge was arrested on Sept. 25 for Assault & Battery on a Child With Injury.

A 32-year-old female from Bronx, N.Y. was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 25 for Use of a Motor Vehicle Without Authority.

A 27-year-old from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 26 for a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID and operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

A 46-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 26 for Unarmed Robbery.

Justin Ray Thomison, Jr., age 19, of Southbridge was arrested on Sept. 27 for multiple counts of Possession of a Class B Drug.

Jacob Michael John Stevens, age 20, of Southbridge was arrested on Sept. 28 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Tire Tread Depth Violation, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

A 26-year-old from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 30 for Leaving the Scene of Property Damage, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Wanton Property Damage.

A 40-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 30 for operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle and operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker.

A juvenile, age 17, was arrested on Oct. 1 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle and operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Megan Olivia Novaco, age 32, of Leominster was arrested on Oct. 2 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, Possession of a Class B Drug with Intent to Distribute, and Failure to Stop or Yield.

Michael Antonio Machado, age 22, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 2 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

A 43-year-old female from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 3 for operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

A juvenile, age 15, was arrested on Oct. 3 for making a bombing or hijacking threat.

A 21-year-old female from Worcester was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 3 for a Lights Violation and operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

A 38-year-old male from Webster was taken into protective custody on Oct. 3.

Grant A. Normandin, age 55, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 5 for Shoplifting By Concealing Merchandise.

Sarah E. Silverman, age 37, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 5 in connection with a warrant for Possession of a Class B Substance.

A 48-year-old female from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 5 for Disorderly Conduct.

Joshua Beuparant, age 36, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 5 in connection with a warrant for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license. Michael K. Welty, age 39, of Worcester was arrested during the same incident for Open and Gross Lewdness.

A 30-year-old male from Worcester was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 5 for multiple counts of Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

A 39-year-old female from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 6 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order.

A 71-year-old female from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 6 for Domestic Assault and Battery and Assault & Battery on a person over the age of 60.

## Boating safety always wins

REGION — US Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts held Vessel Safety Check stations at Wallum Lake, Douglas State Forest and Memorial Beach, Webster boat ramps in June; also, at various locations during 2024. All types of watercrafts are checked by qualified, volunteer examiners to see if they meet federal and state equipment regulations. Boaters are informed of concerns or any potential problems by consent, with no citations, or reports to any law enforcement agencies. Passing the check is rewarded by getting a VSC decal for the year. Some inland waters require boats to be examined and it could also result in a discount on boat insurance. Examiners are few around the local inland waters and not readily available, so getting the exam is a win.

For the second, and final year, as an incentive to get more boats examined, we again decided to request some great rewards from local safe boating supporters for a drawing on September 24. Local establishments were more than generous in their support with nine certificates valued at \$400 rewarded to boat owners getting a VSC, and our flotilla examiners performing over 100 VSCs in this year’s program.

Andrius Mingela of Webster received a certificate from Hazard Marine in Oxford; Joseph Houde of Mendon and Anthony Rodriguez of Worcester both won certificates from Lakeview Marine in Webster; Melissa Philbrook of Uxbridge and Michael Smart from Cumberland RI both received gift cards from Indian Ranch in Webster; Hassan Elmaola of Worcester won a certificate from Waterfront Mary’s Restaurant on Webster Lake; Scott Foster of Whitinsville won a certificate from Bistro Eighty Ates Restaurant in Webster; Christopher O’Neil of Uxbridge won a gift card for Saloon No. 6 Bar & Eatery in Webster. Michael Pietrowicz of Dudley, a lucky boater also winning in last year’s drawing, will enjoy a certificate from Point Breeze Restaurant on Webster Lake.

You can still participate in this program to make sure that your vessel is safe on the water by going to <http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org/> and click on GET YOUR SAFETY CHECK to locate an examiner and request a VSC. Make sure that you check out our Facebook.com/ 61565626541391 or our website <https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=013-10-02>

### Notice to paddlers

Canoes, Kayaks, and Paddleboards are considered vessels by law in the US and require lifejackets and a sound producing device, a whistle, onboard always. Children 12 and under on any vessel must always wear a lifejacket. Between Sept. 15 and May 15, anyone on a canoe, kayak or paddleboard must wear a lifejacket at all times in Massachusetts; in Rhode Island lifejackets are now required worn all year on those vessels.

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### Brimfield

continued from page 1

Fire Firefighters Association who continues to work to restore the antique buffalo Truck and ongoing training to hone their firefighting skills and Hitchcock Academy, the local community center that provides educational recreational and cultural events for the surrounding area. Be sure to visit them both at the show.

No matter what, there is one thing that has not changed, the owners love their cars and displaying them for others to see so take a look and be sure to put in your vote for the People’s Choice Award.



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**Cohen**  
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per-spiny rugosa roses, which are “very red and soft.” Those need to be cut in half and scraped to remove seeds and the irritating hairs inside, but are very rich in vitamin C. They can be used in tea, jellies and rose butter.

In our area, though, you’re more likely to see the white-flowered multiflora roses, which are extremely invasive. Their rose hips are tiny, red “Tic-Tacs” that ripen in November: Cohen said you can just pop them in your mouth and nibble them while walking, but make sure you spit the seeds in a baggie to avoid spreading the plant.

In general regarding berries, he observed, “I don’t know of any berry that’s tasty and poisonous that grows around here,” so if it tastes bad, spit it out.

His tour stopped at a couple other berries: autumn olive, wild grapes, blackberry, barberry and white baneberry. The latter highlights Cohen’s point – it’s very toxic (it’s also notably white and eyeball-like; one of the few other white berries is that of poison ivy, also toxic).

Like several things he discussed, autumn olive is invasive; “it might be the most numerous plant in the Last Green Valley,” he said.



Gus Steeves

**Cohen before a small American chestnut, which he noted is actually more than 100 years old because it regenerates from the same roots. It used to be a major species of the US forest.**

But it’s also “a wonderfully edible plant” – namely its red berries with distinctive silvery spots when ripe (those also give it the name “silverberry”). That silvery appearance is also notable on the underside of its leaves; Cohen said highway departments “planted a whole bunch of them” on roadsides, and it spread easily; the plant is also a nitrogen-fixer.

Regarding barberry, Cohen noted you’ll find two species in our forests – a naturalized European or “common” species and the invasive Japanese variety. The Japanese type is distinguishable by having each berry attached separately, while the common version droops “in clusters of a dozen” – he noted “Japan is one country, but Europe is many.” It’s not

toxic, but “not yummy,” while Cohen said he feels the common barberry “makes among the best jellies there is,” in part because it doesn’t need pectin. He noted he also accidentally discovered it “makes great wine.” the common barberry grows to six or seven feet tall; the Japanese one is shorter.

Almost everyone knows the other two – grapes and blackberries. Blackberries and their kin (raspberries, dewberries, etc.) are in the rose family, and “all the fruits in all these species are edible,” and they have various medicinal uses. Red raspberry leaves, for example, are noted for making a “female tea” that helps with period cramps (they’re high in iron), while blackberry is used for constipation and diarrhea, he said. Most of them are brambles (quite spiny), although some cultivated versions don’t have them. Dewberry is “basically a blackberry that sprawls along the ground.”

He said grapes ripen right around Sept. 8 and exist in many varieties; the most notable one is usually fox grape, which people often smell before seeing. He described that as “really yummy straight into your mouth right from the vine.” Another type, riverside grape, has a “musky” flavor; but its leaves are the best for making stuffed

grape leaves, although any will work. They’re best picked young; “after Fathers’ Day, they’re tough to use,” he noted.

Grapes can often be found near wild hazelnuts, which is where Cohen found them. Our area has two native types, common and beach hazelnut, but there are hundreds of species globally; the former’s nut “looks like a little head of cabbage.” When ripe, the nut falls out of that husk, or the whole husk falls off the tree; he recommended picking them before that happens around Sept. 8. They’ll grow in sun or shade, but you’re more likely to find nuts in the sun because that’s “a scary place for squirrels and chipmunks to be.”

Similar habitats still harbor struggling American chestnuts, which are “usually diminutive” today. He noted he occasionally finds one that “has escaped the blight long enough to produce burrs,” the spiky nut-holding balls, but most don’t. (Usually, that happens around 25 feet tall in good sun; if they flower; watch them for nuts later.)

The chestnut blight, which came here around 1900 from Japan, wiped out almost all American chestnuts. Today, their bark starts to split around age 15, and that lets the blight in and kills them. But the spe-



Gus Steeves

**Two of Cohen’s baskets contain a mix of edible nuts, mostly hazelnuts and black walnuts.**

cies grows back from the roots, so the ones we see now are actually at least 100 years old, Cohen said.

A non-nut tree that’s edible – well, actually, drinkable – is the birch. All types, if larger than eight inches in diameter, can be tapped for the very watery sap just after the maples stop flowing. The liquid “looks and tastes like molasses” once boiled off, “but you can drink it straight out of the tree,” he said. Two types – yellow and grey – smell like wintergreen if scratched; their inner bark contains methyl salicylate, the precursor to aspirin.

Three much lower-growing edibles are sweet fern, sweet cicily (anise root) and spicebush. The misnamed sweet fern (which is a low bush, not a fern, but its leaves look like tiny fern fronds) was used by the colonists for tea, but it also has at least two

medicinal uses. Cohen said he could vouch for its effectiveness as an insect repellent – “it’s not DEET, but it does reduce the severity of attacks” – but wasn’t sure of its use as a topical rub to counteract poison ivy.

Sweet cicily’s edible part is the root and immature, green seeds (not the older black ones); it’s in the carrot family and smells like licorice or anise. But this one’s related to some highly toxic plants, namely poison hemlock, he noted.

Spicebush was also an early American tea substitute. It’s berries look like Japanese barberries; when dried, they’ll keep for years and can be ground to use as a savory spice. Deer don’t like it, but birds do, “so leave lots on the plant so birds get what they need,” Cohen said.

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

**Car**  
continued from page 1

car prices have meant that many lower-income individuals and families are unable to afford reliable vehicles, restricting their ability to obtain steady employment, bring their kids to school or childcare, and

live self-sufficiently here in New England. The organization also says the need for donated vehicles is at a critical level. Car donations are down and being far outpaced by the demand and need for reliable used cars.

Good News Garage awards cars to Vermont

residents through a partnership with the state’s Reach Up agency. Car recipients must be Reach Up participants to qualify for cars. Those interested can find out more about Reach Up at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/reachup>.

For more information

or to donate, visit [www.GoodNewsGarage.org](http://www.GoodNewsGarage.org).

Good News Garage is a member of Ascentria Care Alliance, one of the largest human services organizations in New England. With locations throughout the region, Ascentria is creating measurable, positive im-

pact in communities by empowering people to reach beyond life’s chal-

lenges and thrive. For more information, visit [ascentria.org](http://ascentria.org).

**Police**  
continued from page 1

a series of proposed purchases from free cash, a normal topic of conversation for the fall town

meeting, including more than \$250,000 on police vehicles as well as expenditures for the fire department. The annual fall town meeting will take place on Oct. 21.

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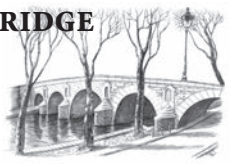
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EDITOR

## Why fall is the best season of all

Fall in New England is something else. It's the kind of season that makes you stop and take it all in—the crisp air, the explosion of colors, and the cozy feel of it all. After a busy summer, it's the perfect shift into a slower, more connected way of life.

There's just a lot to love about a New England fall. The trees light up with reds, oranges, and yellows, creating landscapes that look straight out of a postcard. And it's not just the scenery, it's the traditions, too. Fall is when small towns come alive with festivals, harvest fairs, porch concerts, and outdoor markets. It's an invitation to gather with neighbors, whether around a bonfire, at a farm stand, or during a weekend spent raking leaves and chatting over cider.

Fall in New England also has that perfect balance. The days are cool but not too cold, just right for a hike, a stroll through town, or picking apples in a local orchard. As the leaves change, they remind us that nothing stays the same forever, and that's okay. This season encourages us to embrace change while appreciating everything we've got right now.

It's also a time for reflection. With winter coming, fall feels like a last big celebration of the year before things quiet down. It's a chance to be thankful for what we have and to focus on what really matters, time spent with family, friends, and neighbors.

So, while the pumpkins, apple picking, and Halloween costumes are fun, the real magic of a New England fall is how it brings people together. It's about enjoying what's around us, building connections, and making the most of this cozy season before the snow flies. That's what makes fall in New England so special.

### Letter submission policy

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

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

# OPINION

## Of transformers and Guardsmen

BY GUS STEEVES

Just in case you still thought the US isn't run by greedy psychopaths, our government recently sent dozens of transformers to Ukraine just as we need hundreds in the states devastated by Hurricane Helene.

According to a recent tweet by Ambassador Bridget Brink, USAID provided "50 voltage transformers, 9 current transformers, and 80 isolators" for Kharkov's energy grid. Obviously, this shipment was planned before Helene roared through, but there have been warnings for a long time that the US doesn't have enough transformers in case of emergency, and they'd take months to replace (mostly from overseas).

They should have stayed here, and I have to wonder who profited from that transaction. It sure wasn't us.

Another story noted FEMA just got \$100 million for Helene recovery work, which is nowhere near enough. We have massive fires, more hurricanes (Milton is ramping up to flatten Florida as I write this), blizzards and other things damaging roads, bridges and community facilities that have needed repair for years. But Washington keeps sending billions to Israel and Ukraine to continue destruction there. We need that money here!

Also related to Helene, I saw the following at one of my favorite websites, Naked Capitalism, Oct 6 (<https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2024/10/links-10-6-2024.html>):

"Report from the field (KLG):

"I drove cross country yesterday, a week after Hurricane Helene, on GA19 between Lumber City and Dublin. About 50 miles through utter devastation. No power; the traffic signals were dark and every intersection was a 4-way stop. Power and phone lines down. At least 20% of houses had major damage from wind or falling trees. ...

"... I have heard that FEMA is basically absent and that the state of Georgia is not much better. After previous storms the Georgia National Guard was out in force the next day. They must have been on another road. I counted utility maintenance trucks from at least 15 companies around the Southeastern United States. Those linemen are local heroes. Otherwise these very rural people have been mostly ignored, or so it seems."

That last paragraph sparked a Web search, which immediately found this:

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article-View/Article/3297441/georgia-guard-embarks-on-1st-stage-of-overseas-deployment/> and, closer to home, this: <https://www.westernmassnews.com/2024/01/23/hundreds-army-national-guard-members-deploy-middle-east/>

The first line for Georgia says what the underlying problem is – a "two-decade history of continuous global engagement." If they're overseas, they aren't "on another road," or at least not with enough people to do things effectively. I bet that's true of the Guards from most states, including ours, which is in the Middle East this year. Other Guard units are scattered all over the globe.

How many of them see the news from home, see where they are now, and know quite well they should be home helping our people, but they can't because of greedy warmongers?

I strongly support "global engagement" in the civilian and diplomatic senses. We must always keep talking to other nations and sharing ideas with them, especially our supposed "enemies." But our government's warmongering is undermining diplomacy at the same time it torpedoes our ability to fix anything at home, and the need will only rise with climate change. It's time to bring all of our Guard and regular troops home.

One step toward sanity is the Defend the Guard Act, which would require a formal, Congressional declaration of war to deploy the National Guard overseas. Some states (mostly conservative ones) have passed it, some are still considering it, and I've asked Rep Marsi to introduce it here. Here's a story about it in NH: <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/new-hampshire-defend-the-guard/> and a page on the concept itself: <https://www.lp.org/defend-the-guard/>.

Gus Steeves can be reached at [gus.steeves2@gmail.com](mailto:gus.steeves2@gmail.com).

## Use fresh herbs to flavor holiday meals

GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

Grow, harvest and season your holiday meals with fresh herbs grown indoors in a windowsill garden. Add to the experience by using potted herbs and a few holiday adornments to dress up the table. You and your family will enjoy snipping a few fresh herbal sprigs to season your meal to your own taste.

Include herbs your family likes, those that complement your menu and are easy to grow indoors like basil, oregano, parsley, chives, thyme, and sage. Purchase plants so they will be ready to harvest for the holidays. Many garden centers now carry herb plants year-round; some grocery stores sell them in their produce department.

Grow plants in individual containers or plant several in one larger decorative pot. Select a container with drainage holes and one that complements your table setting. Use a quality, well-draining potting mix when transplanting herbs into another container.

Place a saucer or tray under pots with drainage holes to protect your furniture. Or double pot plants when using a decorative container that lacks drainage holes. Plant herbs in a smaller pot with drainage holes or set several pots in a larger container. Place



Melinda Myers

Grow herbs that complement your family's favorite recipes and are easy to grow indoors.

pebbles in the bottom of the decorative pot. This elevates the inner pots above any excess water that collects in the bottom of the decorative pot, helping avoid root rot and the need to empty the water in the saucer.

Dress up any meal by creating an edible centerpiece with your herb plants. Set them on a decorative placemat to protect the tabletop and add a few seasonal items to complete your display.

Grow herbs in a sunny window such as an unobstructed south-, east-, or west-facing window when they are not decorating the table. Consider adding artificial lights if sunlight is limited

Turn To **GARDENING** page 9

## Do you need to fear retirement?

FINANCIAL  
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NIELSEN

If you're planning to retire in a few years, are you looking forward to it? Or are you somewhat apprehensive? Are you asking yourself: "What sort of retirement can I afford?"

It's a good question — because the answer can make a big difference in your ability to enjoy life as a retiree.

And retirement can indeed be enjoyable, exciting and fun. Consider this from a recent survey by Edward Jones and AgeWave: A majority of respondents said retirement should be looked at as a whole new chapter of life, and not just a time for rest and relaxation. In other words, people are viewing retirement as a chance for new experiences and new opportunities, rather than a time to simply wind down. But if you're going to make the most of your retirement — which could last two or even three decades — you need to be financially prepared.

This preparation can involve many steps, but here are some of the key ones:

Decide what your retirement lifestyle will look like. How you choose to spend your retirement years can make a big difference in the financial resources you'll need. For example, if you plan on traveling the world, you might need more income than if you were to stay close to home and pursue your hobbies. If you can envision your retirement lifestyle and estimate how much money you'll need to support it, you can help reduce some of the uncertainties you might face once you do retire.

Review your income sources. During retirement, you'll likely need to draw on all your income sources, so it's a good idea to know what you'll have available, such as your IRA, 401(k) and other investment accounts. You'll also need to decide when to take Social Security — if you wait until your full retirement age (probably between 66 and 67), you'll get much larger monthly benefits than if you started taking them at 62. And here's another variable: earned income. Even if you've retired from your career, you might, if you desire, use your acquired skills in a consulting or part-time position. The more you can earn, the less you may have to withdraw from your investment accounts and the better position you'll be in to delay taking Social Security.

Consider adjusting your investment portfolio. For most of your working years, you may have invested mostly for growth — to increase your assets as much as possible. But growth-oriented investments are also, by nature, riskier, so when you retire, you should review your portfolio to determine whether you need to move it toward a more conservative position. Also, more conservative investments may provide more current income in the form of interest payments. However, even in retirement, you may need some investments with growth potential if you want to keep ahead of inflation.

Retirement is certainly a major milestone in your life — and adjusting to it can take some time. But there will be much less to fear — and much more to enjoy — if you've done what you can to prepare yourself financially.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or [trevor.nielson@edwardjones.com](mailto:trevor.nielson@edwardjones.com).*



# It's Pumpkin Season!

Although we think of pumpkins as a vegetable, it is officially classified as a fruit since it grows from a flower and has seeds. Pumpkins contain 90% water, and they float!

Pumpkins are very popular this time of year and consumer demand for pumpkins remains high, with last year's U.S. pumpkin production up to 15.97 cwt (hundredweight), almost double the amount produced just three years earlier! It's no wonder people love pumpkins – not only are they an autumn decorating staple, pumpkins have many virtues beyond their aesthetics: they are delicious, are a rich source of both fiber and vitamin A and naturally low in calories. Best of all pumpkins are very versatile, which have made them the spotlight of many Autumn feasts via pumpkin soups, casseroles and hearty pies.

Read on for a roundup of pumpkin tips, tricks and ideas:

Keep in mind when choosing pumpkins that the variety you select should fit your need. For example, if you desire a pumpkin for pie, a medium sugar pumpkin, which is typically small and sweet with a dark orange color, is the best choice. For carving, look for well rounded pumpkins that have good color with stem intact. Pumpkins earmarked as Jack-O-Lanterns are usually larger and contain too many strings and seeds to be practical for pie making. Choosing a proper pumpkin for your table is important. Pumpkins should be mature and firm, with taut skin and a nice orange hue. Select pumpkins that feel solid and are heavy for their size. If still growing on the vine, look for stems that are solidly attached to the pumpkin. A general rule to test for maturity is to scratch the skin slightly with a fingernail. A mature pumpkin will resist scratching.

Preserving and Preparing Pumpkins: Pumpkins can be successfully stored for up to six months, as long as conditions are favorable. Storage temperature should not exceed 50 degrees and should be stored in a dry, frost free environment.

Whole pumpkins keep better if picked leaving two inches of the



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stem on the fruit. Dry them in the sun for a few days before storing. For safety's sake, wipe pumpkins down with a common disinfectant such as Lysol before storing. Whole pumpkins should not be allowed to touch each other in storage. And be sure to keep an eye out for rot spots that may form. Any pumpkins that are found to be decaying should be promptly removed from the storage area.

If you want to store pumpkins beyond several months, you will need to preserve them. Several methods of preserving pumpkins are used. Freezing cooked, pureed pumpkin is a favored way to preserve the taste and texture of pumpkin. Sugar or pie pumpkins are ideal candidates for freezing as the pulp is thicker and firmer. To easily prepare a pumpkin for pureeing, simply place the whole fruit in the microwave for about a minute or so to soften the skin. This will make the pumpkin much easier to peel. Cut the pumpkin in large slices, peel the skin and remove the strings and seeds. Then cut the slices into smaller pieces. Boil the pumpkin pieces until tender, then mash or process the pumpkin pulp until it forms a smooth, thick puree.

Those who are considering home canning pumpkin should be advised pumpkin puree cannot be canned due to its thickness, and although some people successfully can chunked slices of the pulp, it is safer to avoid the risk altogether.

Pumpkin can also be dried, which was a favored method of the colonists. Drying pumpkin must be done carefully in order to kill all the germs that would make it spoil. Here's how to do it the old fashioned way: Split the pumpkin in half and remove the seeds. Remove the skin and cut the fruit into thin slices. Steam for about six minutes. Spread on a tray and dry in the sun (it will take at least two days, and it will take about two

days. If flies are a problem, cover with netting. Pumpkin needs to be dried in hot sun so that it dries quickly before it spoils.

Or, you can dry pumpkin quicker and easier in the oven or microwave; here's how to do it in the microwave, which is the fastest method:

Arrange thin slices on a microwave safe tray or glass pie plate. You must leave space between the slices so air can circulate around them. Cook on high for 15 to 20 minutes. Check the pumpkin; if it is not crispy; cook again for five minutes, and continue until the dried slices are crunchy. Allow to cool before storing.

Did you know that dried pumpkin can also be made into a flour, which can be used just as you would all purpose flour in cooking and baking? To do, simply pulverize the dry pumpkin in a food processor.

Perfect Pumpkin Seeds: Many Halloween traditions include gathering the seeds from a carved Jack-O-Lantern to toast in a warm oven. The snack is both healthy and delicious, and the addition of spices gives the humble treat a flavorful punch. Plus, roasting up a batch of pumpkin seeds is not only an annual treat, it's a great way to use up every bit of the vegetable:

To properly toast pumpkin seeds, remove all pulp and clean strings from the seeds. Place seeds in a bowl and stir in melted butter or olive oil and salt to coat the seeds. Spread seeds on a cookie sheet and bake in a 275 degree oven for about an hour or until the seeds are golden brown and crisp. Avoid overcooking as seeds can become hard and tough.

Prefer crisper seeds? Prior to toasting boil the seeds in salted water for about ten minutes, drain and prepare for roasting. Pumpkin seeds:

Pumpkin Sprouts: Pumpkin seeds can even be sprouted to use on sandwiches and in salads. Pumpkin seeds are a healthy snack as they are over 30 percent protein and are high in and oil-sol-

Turn To **HINT** page 9

# Please don't sell me things

BY CHRISTOPHER J. MALLON  
SVP, PROGRAM MANAGER  
THE CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP

Several years ago, I was in the market for a new car and decided to visit a few car dealerships to explore my options. While I wasn't sure exactly what vehicle I wanted, I did know it would need a third row given my growing family and three young children. As I walked the first car lot a salesman noticed me looking at an SUV, and he eagerly approached to offer his assistance. "What's it going to take for me to sell you this car today?" he asked. I cringed. "I don't want you to sell me anything, but I do have some questions about the vehicle," I replied.

I don't know about you, but I don't want to be "sold" anything. Ask me what I am looking for, what options I value, what is important to me, and what questions I have. Educate me on features. Be transparent about pricing and list the pros and cons of various choices. You can even give me your opinion. Ultimately, I want information so that I can make my own decision. And this approach applies to more than just car shopping.

When it comes to the financial service industry, too many advisors try to "sell" things before understanding their prospective client's needs. Instead of building a relationship based on trust and value, their tactics focus on products or pricing. Are products and pricing important? Yes, but that's not where the conversation should start.

The primary role of a professional financial advisor is to understand each client's unique situation. He or she should understand your savings, cashflow, income, expenses, social security, and risk tolerance. Together you should prioritize your short and long-term goals such as retirement, downsizing your home, funding a child's college tuition, or leaving a legacy for your family. Only after those discussions have occurred should product recommendations be given.

Often, the best financial advisors approach their practice like a doctor. Would a doctor prescribe a treatment or medicine before performing a series of tests? Not likely. They'll ask you questions, conduct physicals, check blood pressure, order lab work, and any multitude of other items. They'll present their findings and explain the pros and cons of various treatment plans. And ultimately, the patient will choose which route they want to take.

It is for reasons like these that an ongoing personal relationship with your financial advisor is so important. While the emergence of discount online investment firms may appeal to some, they typically lack this major ingredient -- a genuine client-advisor relationship. To shift your focus away from this issue, online investment firms focus on low pricing. Or, if your account gets large enough, an advisor (from their revolving door of employees) may try to sell you something.

The goal of a financial advisor is to identify client needs, not to sell things. Advisors should approach their job as educators and provide information. They help their clients make informed decisions. They craft financial plans and offer recommendations based on their analysis and findings. That is where the true value of a financial advisor is found -- not in products or price.

This article was actually written by the author, Christopher Mallon.

About The Capstone Planning Group  
The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and insurance. They utilize an independent business model and do not sell proprietary products. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit [www.thecapstone.group](http://www.thecapstone.group) or call 508-764-0046.

## Blood rain

While I focus on the positive, I'm a fan of the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious. Who doesn't love a good mystery? I'm dedicating a series to some unsettling tales for this year's spooky season. There's no better way to start than with the chilling phenomenon of blood rains, documented by the legendary Charles Fort.

Fort once wrote, "There have been red rains that, in the Middle Ages, were called 'rains of blood.' Such rains terrified many persons and were so unsettling to large populations that Science has sought to prove that 'rains of blood' do not exist."

Scientists have documented red rains caused by sand and dust particles from the Sahara Desert. When strong winds sweep the desert, red sands mix with rain clouds, creating a reddish downpour. This phenomenon, known as "blood rain," is fairly common and has been analyzed to show high iron oxide concentrations, giving it a rusty hue. But what

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Charles Fort documented is far stranger. We're not talking about dusty rain, but actual blood-like rains—thicker, darker, and containing organic matter that defies simple explanations.

One of the most unsettling accounts of red rain comes from Fort's research on an incident in France on October 16 and 17, 1846. During this period, a vivid, crimson rain fell across several towns, staining the streets, rooftops, and fields in a disturbing shade of red. Locals were terrified, describing it as if the sky itself were bleeding.

Scientific journals of the time, such as Comptes Rendus, noted that the rain was so vividly colored that it looked more like fresh

blood than mud or dust.

Two separate chemical analyses were conducted to determine the nature of the strange rain. One scientist reported the presence of "blood-like corpuscles" in the samples, while another confirmed that up to 35 percent of the rain's composition was made up of organic matter—substances usually associated with living organisms. This appeared to be no ordinary storm.

Despite these findings, it was dismissed as a natural event, attributing it to dust swept up from the earth.

Was it really blood? If so, where did it come from? No birds or other animals were found dead in the area, and no other plausible sources of organic material were identified. And eerily, this wouldn't be the last time such rains were reported in Europe, leaving a question mark that lingers to this day.

Take the terrifying incident on May 15, 1890, in Messignadi, Calabria, Italy. Accord-

ing to Professor Luigi Palazzo, head of the Italian Meteorological Bureau, something the color of fresh blood fell from the sky over this small town.

Naturally, the locals were horrified. Supposedly, this wasn't just a light drizzle—it soaked their homes, fields, and streets in thick, crimson droplets. Samples

Turn To **POSITIVE** page 9

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# Charlton Dudley Youth Cheer holds Halloween Touch-A-Truck



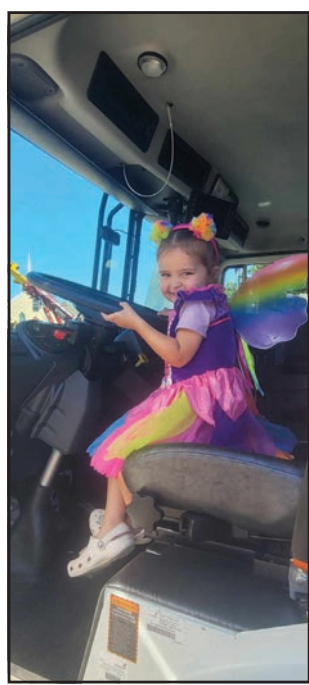
Jason Bleau

Visitors to Touch-A-Truck took their chances at winning raffle prizes donated to help support the Charlton Dudley Youth Cheer.



Jason Bleau

Volunteers greet guests at the food stand where they sold a variety of treats donated for the event.



Jason Bleau

Kinsley of Sturbridge smiles for a photo in a truck from recycling and disposal company Letourneau, Inc.



Jason Bleau

A group of trick or treaters pose for a photo as they make their way from truck to truck.



Jason Bleau

Hiway Recovery not only brought several trucks for the event, but also fully embraced the Halloween spirit.



Jason Bleau

Ethan of Webster tries out a bulldozer, one of the many vehicles brought on site by Daoust Enterprises.



Jason Bleau

Members of the Charlton Fire Department showed off how their trucks work as trick-or-treaters paid a visit.



Jason Bleau

Trick-or-treaters pose with local police officers who took part in the Touch-A-Truck and Truck-Or-Treat trail.

CHARLTON — Charlton Dudley Youth Cheer continued a new tradition on Oct. 5 with a special Touch-A-Truck and Truck-Or-Treat Trail event at St. Joseph's Church in Charlton featuring vehicles from local community entities

The Touch-A-Truck event featured some fun games including a lollipop pull where each pop was colored to represent a different prize.

and businesses allowing a unique hands-on experience for participating youngsters. The event included donated raffle prizes, food and more as



Jason Bleau

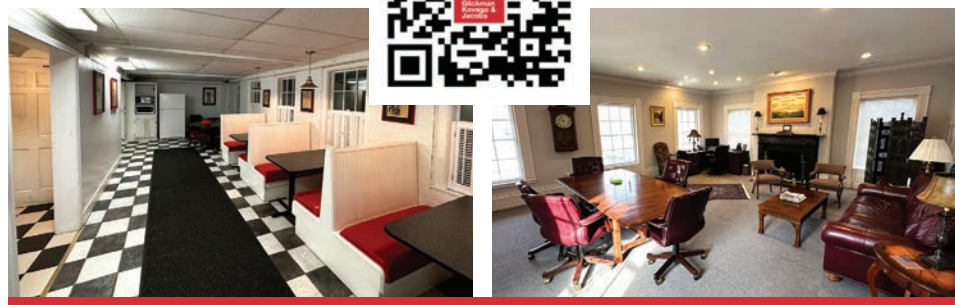
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Jason Bleau

Members of Dudley Charlton Youth Cheer pose for a photo in between assisting with trick-or-treating.

well as plenty of candy weeks early to kick off and awareness of the at the different trucks as the Halloween season. Charlton Dudley Youth young visitors dressed The event was designed Cheer's programs and in their costumes a few to help raise support membership opportuni-

## Charlton Public Library presents "Legends and Haunts of New England"

CHARLTON — On Thursday, Oct. 24, from 6-7 p.m., join author and paranormal researcher Tom D'Agostino for a trip through New England and hear about some fascinating haunts and legends of the region. You will not believe your eyes and ears as you take this journey to some of the most haunted places in New England. Bara-Hack, The Victorian, John York House, Belcourt Castle, an 1801 farm in Thompson, The Tavern on Main. These and many more complete with videos, pictures, EVPs and some amusing events await, as this presentation becomes your personal tour guide to the other side without ever having to leave your seat!

Tom is an educator and author of 17 published books on ghosts and legends of New England. He has been a paranormal researcher/investigator for 42 years with more than 2,000 investigations in both the public and private sector. His books have prompted several PBS series, documentaries and television shows.

This event is free and open to the public, however, registration is required. Visit our event calendar at charltonlibrary.org. Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton. Additional parking available across Main Street at Town Hall.



# Cornerstone Bank announces retirement of EVP, Chief Information Officer Thomas Dufresne

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, announces the upcoming retirement of Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer Thomas Dufresne.



Thomas Dufresne

“Tom has led the way to ensuring our customers have easy access for all their banking needs, using cutting-edge technology in a way that’s always user-friendly,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “We appreciate his many years of dedication and hard work and wish him the very best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.”

Dufresne, who lives in Worcester, began his career at Cornerstone 27 years ago, a pivot from his early years working in the insurance industry.

“I wrote the first web page the Bank had,” he said, adding that he is proud to

have been part of the growth “that now has Cornerstone poised to move adeptly into the future.”

Throughout his career, Dufresne was an integral part of the Bank’s technological evolution. This includes major initiatives such as implementing, managing and troubleshooting a full Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), which allows voice calls using a broadband Internet connection instead of an analog phone line. He was also responsible for authoring IT policies, auditing internal systems and developing IT instructional programs, in addition to branch implementation and

Enterprise Risk Management.

Dufresne also said that during his tenure, the Bank made it a priority to ensure customer information is secure.

“Finding quicker, better, faster ways to do business allows us to provide better services for our customers,” he said.

An avid outdoor explorer, Dufresne plans

to spend his new-found free time diving into the tranquility of nature, travelling across

the country in a small camper with his wife. “I want to relax and be

Turn To **DUFRESNE** page 12

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# Julia Balsevich Cardozo graduates from Georgia State University

ATLANTA, Ga. — Julia Balsevich Cardozo of Asuncion earned a Master of Science degree in Marketing and a Graduate Certificate in Brand & Customer Management from Georgia State University during summer 2024.

More than 2,000 students graduated with certificates and degrees during the semester.

Georgia State University, one of the largest, most innovative multi-campus public research universities, transforms the lives of students, advances the frontiers of knowledge and strengthens the workforce of the future. With campuses in and around metro Atlanta, Georgia State readies students for professional pursuits, educates future leaders and prepares citizens for lifelong learning. Enrolling one of the most diverse student bodies in the nation, Georgia State prioritizes student success ensuring that students from all backgrounds graduate at high rates. The university provides outstanding experiential educational opportunities and exceptional support for students seeking degrees from the associate to the doctoral level.

One of the nation's fastest-growing research institutions, Georgia State's scholarship and research focus on solving complex issues ranging from the most fundamental questions of the universe to the most challenging issues of our day, while our creative activities expand and enrich the world.

## Positive

continued from page 4

were quickly collected and sent to the public health laboratories in Rome for analysis. The result? It was confirmed to be blood. Human? Animal? The scientists couldn't say.

What could cause blood to fall from the sky?

As documented in Popular Science News, the official explanation was that a flock of migratory birds—quails or swallows—had been caught and torn apart by a violent windstorm high above the town.

But here's where the story gets even strang-

er: Not a single feather was found. No bird remains were recovered, and no witness recalled seeing birds struggling in the sky. It was as if the blood had appeared in the clouds, only to rain down on the terrified townspeople.

This eerie event should have been a one-time occurrence, but Fort's records show that blood rained again in the same town months later.

Twice, in the same location—each time with no sign of birds, storms, or any logical explanation.

Could some unknown atmospheric

phenomenon cause these bloody downpours, or are they evidence of something much darker?

Whatever the cause, the tale of the blood rains remains one of the most disturbing and unexplainable mysteries in Fort's work. So, the next time you find yourself caught in a storm and notice something red in the raindrops—don't assume it's mud or dust. Look closer. You might be witnessing something that has terrified and baffled people for centuries: blood from the sky.

# OBITUARIES

## Mary F. Eastman, 88

Sturbridge: Mary F. (Welch) Eastman, 88, of Westwood Dr., passed away on Saturday, Oct. 5th, in her home surrounded by family, after a short illness.

She leaves her husband of 65 years, Ralph A. Eastman; her daughter, Nancy E. Eastman of Sturbridge; a sister, Ellen L. Goodrow of Agawam; nephew, John Pulawski of Southbridge; nieces, Ellen Pulawski and her husband Jean of Woodstock, CT and Ann Proulx and her husband Michael of Webster; a life time friend, Marey Carey of Southbridge and several cousins. She was predeceased by her sister Patricia A. Pulawski and her husband Albert and brother in law Edward Goodrow. She was born in Southbridge the daughter of the late Francis and Loretta (Corish) Welch.

Mary was passionate about her family. She met the love of her life while working as a flight attendant for Mohawk Airlines in the 1950s. Together they raised their loving daughter, Nancy. They travelled and



vacationed as a unit, loving especially the Outer Banks with friends and winters in St Augustine, FL. Mary was an avid quilter, seamstress, golfer, gardener. She also had a twinkle in her eye and mischievous spirit. Her kind and giving heart will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Her funeral will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 15th, from the Daniel T.

Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 11:00am in St. Mary's Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in West Ridge Cemetery, Charlton. A Calling hour in the funeral home will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 15th, from 9:30 to 10:30am, prior to Mass.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to a charity of their choice.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

## Gardening

continued from page 4

and the plants have leggy stems and pale leaves. Keep the lights about six to 12 inches above the tops of the plants and leave them on for six to eight hours if supplementing the natural light. Leave them on for 14 hours a day, if this is the only light source. Set the plants on a reflective surface to help shine light back up into the bottom of the plants.

Avoid drafts of hot and cold air and water thoroughly as needed. Some herbs like basil, oregano, parsley, and marjoram like soil to be slightly moist but not soggy while chives, thyme, and sage like it a bit drier.

Grow basil to dress up a pizza, salad, or soup with a few leaves. Add some oregano to season

any tomato-based dishes such as pizza and pasta. Use fresh thyme to flavor cheese, eggs, tomatoes, and lentils.

Chives' mild onion flavor is great on potatoes, but consider adding it to soups, dips, seafood dishes, and omelets. Just snip a few leaves and cut them into smaller pieces before adding them to your dish.

Parsley is high in Vitamin C, and is often added to soups, pasta, salads, and dressings. Harvest a sprig at the end of the meal to freshen your breath.

Add several pairs of snips and let everyone add their favorite herbal seasonings to their meal. You may need to show your guests how to harvest and use the herbs to get them started. Let them know that harvest-

ing the herbs encourages new growth for future use.

Make this year's holiday meals memorable. Invite your guest to enjoy the fresh flavor and fun of seasoning their meals right at the table.

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

## Hint

continued from page 4

uble vitamins A, D, and E. In addition, pumpkin seeds are rich in iron zinc and magnesium.

To sprout pumpkin seeds, place the seeds in a glass jar (Mason jars are ideal) and cover with water just to cover. Secure a piece of cheesecloth over the top with a rubber band. Soak seeds overnight. The next day, drain the water out and place the jar in dark area that is room temperature. Rinse the seeds in the jar at least four times a day. After a few days, you should see the seeds sprouting. Rinse them again and place the jar in the sun for a day or so until tiny leaves form. They are now ready to use as a tasty garnish or salad addition.

\*\*

Pumpkin Hummus: Pureed sugar pumpkin adds just the right flavor to this hummus. To do:

Mix together in a food processor until smooth: two cups pureed sugar pumpkin; one 15 oz can of garbanzo (chi chi) beans; one tablespoon tahini, two teaspoons vegetable oil; one teaspoon cumin; one teaspoon salt; one eighth teaspoon cayenne pepper; one crushed garlic clove, and three tablespoons of water.

Adjust thickness by adding a little water if it is too thick. Makes two cups. Serve with pita bread or crackers.

\*\*

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 (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

## Friday's Child



Alexander  
Age 9  
Registration # 8542

Hi! My name is Alexander and I love to be busy!

Alex is a silly and funny young boy. He loves to swim and play at the local playgrounds. He has friends at school and typically can meet children on the playground and engage with them in a meaningful way. During down-time, Alex enjoys watching TV; however, he is always eager to join others in new activities. Alex's social worker describes him as being very sweet and helpful. Alex attends church and religious activities multiple times per

week. Alex would prefer his pre-adoptive family support him in maintaining these connections.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8542>

### Can I Adopt?

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

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

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



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- Webster Times
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# LEGALS

## SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A  
 Notice is hereby given by Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after October 26th, 2024 at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:

VEHICLE MAKE : 2007 Freightliner M2 106  
 VIN:1FVACWCS27HY08782  
 LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :  
 360 Auto Group  
 79-02 Cypress Avenue  
 Queens NY 11385

VEHICLE MAKE: 2010 Mitsubishi Fuso FE85D  
 VIN:JL6CCJ1S6AK000382  
 LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :  
 Lester Luis Jova-Rodriguez  
 7505 PARK AVE APT 203  
 NORTH BERGEN NJ,07047

VEHICLE MAKE: 2017 Nissan Altima  
 VIN:1N4AL3AP4HN352494  
 LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:  
 Ryan Martin  
 108 HARRISON ST  
 MANCHESTER NH 03104

VEHICLE MAKE :2005 Mazda MPV  
 VIN:JM3LW28J950550946  
 LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :  
 Luis A Verges  
 55 GODDARD ST APT 3  
 SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550

VEHICLE MAKE: 2008 Kia Amanti  
 VIN: KNALD125085166675  
 LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:  
 James P Downs JR  
 165 PLEASANT ST  
 SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550

VEHICLE MAKE :2007 Audi Q7 (Black)  
 VIN:WA1BY74L87D049247  
 LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :  
 Jyneisha Lahni Perucier  
 16 BEDFORD AVE, APT 1  
 WORCESTER MA 01604

VEHICLE MAKE:2007 Honda Ridgeline (Maroon)  
 VIN:2HJYK16257H535273  
 LAST REGISTERED OWNER:  
 Sylvia D Nelson,  
 338 MAIN ST  
 CHERRY VALLEY, MA 01611

VEHICLE MAKE:2002 Toyota Camry (Black)  
 VIN:JTDBF30K320043888  
 LAST REGISTERED OWNER:  
 Amber L Newell,  
 183 PLEASANT ST,APT 21  
 WORCESTER MA 01609

VEHICLE MAKE:2010 Lexus IS 250  
 VIN:JTHBF5C22A5122380  
 LAST REGISTERED OWNER :  
 Efrain Agosto  
 2561 SOUTHERN OAKS  
 CANTONMENT FL 32533

VEHICLE MAKE :2012 Nissan Altima  
 VIN:1N4AL2AP7CN510054  
 LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :  
 Louise M Deliddo  
 55 LAKE ST,  
 WEBSTER MA 01570

VEHICLE MAKE :2010 MAZDA MAZDA 3  
 VIN:JM1BL1SGXA1227496  
 LAST REGISTERED OWNER:  
 Derrike J Lacross,  
 1350 NARRAGANSETT BLVD  
 CRANSTON RI 02905

VEHICLE MAKE :2006 Toyota Highlander Hybrid (Silver)  
 VIN:JTEEW21A660024685  
 LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :  
 Leroy Edwards,  
 1047 LA CROIX AVE  
 AKRON, OH 44307

VEHICLE MAKE :2005 Toyota Corolla  
 VIN:2T1BR30E85C555058  
 Kelcie S Farrell  
 138 JOSEPH CIR  
 WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588

VEHICLE MAKE:2012 Ford Fusion (Black)  
 VIN:3FAHP0HAXCR138358  
 LAST REGISTERED OWNER:  
 Dorneus, Marckendy  
 3600 MYSTIC VALLEY PKWY APT W809  
 Medford MA 02155  
 OCTOBER 11,2024  
 OCTOBER 18,2024  
 OCTOBER 25, 2024

# Trinity supports breast cancer awareness!



Trinity hosted their 14th annual Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser on Oct. 1. Students were invited to get "PINKED" by having pink hair extensions or pink hair spray. Finally, Lisa's Hair Salon donated their time and products, allowing Trinity to donate 100 percent of the proceeds. TCA raised \$700 which will be given to the Harrington Cancer Center in Southbridge. Together, we can certainly make a difference! Courtesy photos

## Dufresne

continued from page 9

able to see the sky and the stars." He plans to fish, golf and visit family.

Dufresne said he will miss the Cornerstone family.

"This is the best, biggest family business I've ever worked for in my life," he said.

About Cornerstone Bank  
 Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of

supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts.

Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tag line, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

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# LEGALS

## NOTICE OF SALE Lein Sale

Request a Notice of Lein Sale be Published on the following listed Units

**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 041 Jeffrey Lohnes  
36 Freeman Road  
Charlton, MA 01507

**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 073 Kevin Mondor  
274 Charlton Street Apt 2  
Southbridge, MA 01550

**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 4517 Elvin Suarez  
10 Rose Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550

**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 716 Crystal Cafrr  
49 S. Sturbridge road  
Charlton, MA 01504

**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 160 Tyler Nanigian  
4 Solar Circle  
Haydenville, CT 06281

**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 381 Armstrong Opoku  
522 North Woodstock Road  
Southbridge, MA 01550

**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 1103 Michael McDonald  
10 Playground Drive  
Woodstock, CT 06281

**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 10 Kysha Roman  
45 Grand Street  
Worcester, MA 01610

**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 1641 Tawrin Seega  
182 Howard Street  
Ludlow, MA 01056

**LEIN SALE WILL BE HELD:**  
Date: 10/16/24  
Time: 12 Noon  
Location: 94 Brookfield Rd., Charlton  
MA 01507  
October 4, 2024  
October 10, 2024

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Raymond K. Perry, Lisa S. Phaneuf-Perry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, dated May 3, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66563, Page 353, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, recorded on June 12, 2023, in Book No. 69240, at Page 103 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on October 18, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 294 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

Land situated in the City of Sturbridge in the County of Worcester in the State of MA

THE LAND IN STURBRIDGE, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON SITUATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF BROOKFIELD ROAD (ROUTE 148) AND BEING LOT 4 AS SHOWN ON PLAN ENTITLED "PLAN OF LAND OF LOTS 2-3-4 IN STURBRIDGE, MASS. OWNED BY SWIACKI REALTY TRUST DATED AUGUST 20, 1985, ROBERT F. PARA, LAND SURVEYOR" SAID PLAN RECORDED WITH WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN PLAN BOOK 541, PLAN 77, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

WESTERLY BY SAID BROOKFIELD ROAD, (ROUTE 148), 150 FEET; NORTHERLY BY LAND FORMERLY OF SWIACKI REALTY TRUST, 290.40 FEET; EASTERLY BY OTHER LAND OF SWIACKI REALTY TRUST, 150 FEET; SOUTHERLY BY LOT 3 ON SAID PLAN, 290.40 FEET. CONTAINING 1.00 ACRE.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44353, Page 360.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having

priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

### TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,  
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.  
150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

26108

September 26, 2024

October 3, 2024

October 10, 2024

## Town of Brimfield Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday October 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM to review a Notice of Intent submitted by Green Hill Engineering c/o Marcel G. & Sandra L. Clavet. The Notice of Intent requests to raze existing cottage and rebuild a new single-family home and install a well.

**Project Location:** 105 Little Alum Road, Brimfield, MA (Assessor's Map (5-C-A-9))

**Meeting Location:** Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on October 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.

Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia  
Co-Chairs

Board of Health

10/02/2024

October 10, 2024

## PUBLIC NOTICE Town of Holland Massachusetts Public Hearing of Cable Television Franchise Renewal

The Select Board of the Town of Holland, Massachusetts, as the Issuing Authority for a cable television license under M.G.L. c. 166A, will hold a public hearing on October 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

The hearing will be held

In person at 27 Sturbridge Rd. Holland, MA 01521 1st Community Room or on-line at

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://meet.goto.com/466898621>

**You can also dial in using your phone. Access Code: 466-898-621 United States: +1 (571) 317-3112 Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>**

The purpose of the public hearing will be to determine whether to renew the cable television license of Cox Communications. All documents, license drafts, applications, reports, and statements to be considered at the hearing constitute public records under state law and are available for public inspection during regular business hours and for reproduction for a reasonable fee. Members of the public are invited to attend and be heard on the topic: (a) whether the current cable operator is in full compliance with its existing cable license; and, (b) what are the Town's future community cable-related needs.

October 3, 2024

October 10, 2024

(SEAL)

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 24 SM 003398 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

**Brian N. Rhea**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq.*):

## Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, numbered 328 New Boston Road, given by Brian N. Rhea to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated November 16, 2016, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56354, Page 196, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the *active* military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 11/11/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on 9/24/2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder

October 10, 2024

## Legal Notice Town of Charlton Highway Department P: (508) 248-2212

**E: dpwadmin@townofcharlton.net**  
**Private Snowplow  
Service Contractors  
Employment Opportunity**

Now seeking Private Snowplow Removal Service Contractors for the winter storm season of 2024-2025. Applications can be found online at [www.townofcharlton.net](http://www.townofcharlton.net) / Highway Department / Snow & Ice. We can also email you an application or you are welcome to stop by the Highway Department office located at 100 Flint Road, Charlton, MA 01507. The opening date for applications/specifications to be picked up, emailed or found online is **October 7, 2024**, and the **DEADLINE** to submit is **October 31, 2024, 3:00 p.m.**, EOE/AA.

October 10, 2024

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200

### Docket No. WO24P3376EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

**Forrest Aden McKinstry**

**Also known as:**

**Forrest A McKinstry**

**Date of Death: 06/28/2024**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Forrest Paul McKinstry of Charlton MA**

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Forrest Paul McKinstry of Charlton MA**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/29/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)** A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: October 01 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

October 10, 2024

## Legal Notice Town of Charlton Highway Department P: (508) 248-2212 E: dpwadmin@townofcharlton.net Temporary Part-Time Employment Opportunity

Seeking (2) Plow Truck operators (Class D License required), (1) Sander/Plow Unit Operator (Class B, CDL License required, 2B Hoisting Engineering License preferred) for the winter storm season of 2024-2025.

Please inquire by calling, emailing or stopping by the Charlton Highway Department office located at 100 Flint Road, Charlton, MA 01507. The opening date for applications to be picked up, emailed or found online is **October 7, 2024**. Positions available until filled. October 10, 2024

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. W024C0472CA CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:

**Kayla Marie Summers**

A **Petition to Change Name of Adulthas** been filed by

**Kayla Marie Summers of Southbridge MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Kaiden Marie Summers**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10/29/24 at 10 a.m. 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: October 02, 2024

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

October 10, 2024

(SEAL)

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 24 SM 003443 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Doris S Melendez-Lara

And to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq.*):

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 82 Hartwell Street, given by Doris S. Melendez-Lara to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC, dated September 30, 2022, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68296, Page 161, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the *active* military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before November 11, 2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on September 27, 2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

October 10, 2024

## TOWN OF CHARLTON INVITATION FOR BIDS WINTER WASHED SAND

Sealed bids appropriately marked "Winter Sand Bid" will be received, publicly opened and read aloud in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Bid specifications must be obtained from the office of the Board of Selectmen's Office prior to the submission of the bid.

The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to waive any minor informality in the bids and reject any or all bids and to make awards in a manner deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

October 4, 2024

October 11, 2024



# Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center welcomes Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

WORCESTER — According to Robin Fitch High, Administrator at Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center, “it is our pleasure to welcome Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students and faculty.”

High said, “Several of our employees graduated from Bay Path!”

The facility located at 26 Harvard St., Worcester, indeed employs several LPN graduates of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director met with High recently and was given a full facility tour. Bolandrina also met with Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumni

Meghan Reidy, LPN (of Leicester) Nursing Supervisor and Khamphan Houatchanthara, LPN (of Southbridge) Charge Nurse. Full-time faculty Nicholas McElroy, BSN, RN facilitated the contract signing between Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center as a clinical site for the academic year 2024-2025. He will serve as the clinical facilitator and is the liaison between the Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. He will assist nursing students with any questions they may have and evaluate students’ performance



Photo shows, from left, Houatchanthara, Reidy, Bolandrina and High.

and effort.

“The expertise and passion for teaching of Professor McElroy will undoubtedly enrich our academic community and inspire our students to new heights,” said

Bolandrina. “Together with the leadership at Lutheran Rehab, we will continue to foster a safe learning environment that values collaboration, innovation, and academic excellence.”

Clinicals can be scary, however, they are an essential part of learning in nursing. Along with classroom learning clinical experiences are important because it is where student nurses get direct experience. Nursing education is divided into three major components: didactic, simulation lab, and clinicals.

Didactic: In-classroom lectures that provide a fundamental layer of knowledge for students to apply in the clinical setting.

laboratory: Skills and simulation laboratory is where students practice various skills and tasks they need, in a safe, non-risk environment before

touching real patients.

Clinicals: Hands-on, clinical facility-site, “in-the-field” portion of nursing school.

At Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, nursing students complete 546 clinical hours. Clinicals are designed to provide nursing students with direct experience in the healthcare setting. It allows students to work on practical skills that are needed to succeed at the bedside. Bolandrina added, “I look forward to seeing a successful clinical coordination with the Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center and beyond.”

## Bay Path alumna on volunteering

CHARLTON — Edgine Pierre-Paul, LPN of Dudley exclaimed, “thank you for giving me the opportunity to volunteer.” A dedicated LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) with 5+ experience in delivering quality care to patients in Sub-acute and long-term unit, Pierre-Paul is eager to utilize her knowledge and skills to provide exceptional care, and by returning to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she aims to inspire the PN Class of 2025.

Pierre-Paul has native or bilingual proficiency in English, French, and Haitian Creole plus a professional working proficiency in Spanish. The 2019 graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy includes general studies: healthcare from Quinsigamond Community College in her academic background. The multi-lingual Bay Path LPN provides direct care, emotional, psychosocial, and mental health support to her clients at Brookside Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Webster since 2019.



Photo shows Edgine Pierre-Paul, LPN flanked by, from left, Professor Virginia Dockstader and Dr. Adeline Healy.

In an email to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, Pierre-Paul stated, “my reason for volunteering is very simple. I figured it would be helpful to the students to meet someone who has been through the program. I’ve learned enough in 5 years to offer my skills and some knowledge.”

Pierre-Paul’s clinical experience as a nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy included clinical observations at the Harrington Wound Care Center in Charlton. Wound care management is one among many of Pierre-Paul’s skills which includes but not limited to Tracheostomy care & management, Intravenous care & management, pain management, and post-surgical care. Aside from multi-lingual proficiency and skills competency, Pierre-Paul cares from the heart. Pierre-Paul added, “we need more nurses out there, so it was really great to see so many students. I gave a few words of encouragement to the students. I have also heard that volunteering allows nurses to practice and improve their communication and interpersonal skills.”

While at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Pierre-Paul was an active member of the UNICEF Club, attended SafeTALK, and the Innovation Summit at Northeastern University in Boston. She was a district champion for SkillsUSA in Practical Nursing earning a Silver Medal. Pierre-Paul was also a nominee for the Clinical Excellence Award.

## Bay Path Academy Director, Executive Assistant learn about simulation and moulage

SPRINGFIELD — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol, (formerly of Dudley) and Executive Assistant to the Academy Director, Donna Pope, LPN of Southbridge represented Bay Path at the recently concluded Springfield College Mini-Sun Event sponsored by Laerdal. The event was held at the Health Sciences Center of Springfield College, Springfield, Friday, Oct. 4.

Dr. Doherty of the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions discussed advancing interprofessional collaboration through simulation-based learning. Other speakers included Dr. Gladys Fernandez of Baystate Medical Center on using quality and patient safety data to develop simulation programming, Dr. Chris Scott of Springfield Technical Community College on integration simulation, lessons learned from accreditation, and debriefing with video by Katie Maxie-Brock, RN, a SIMCapture Ed specialist. Participants had the opportunity to work with moulage firsthand led by Jorge Yarzebski of UMass Chan Medical School Icels Program,

Pope, a graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Class of 2017, felt encouraged with the training. Pope was with the STDH Program at Center of Hope Foundation in Southbridge prior to joining Bay Path as the executive assistant to the Academy Director. She briefly worked as a Flu Clinic



Pictured: Regina F. Doherty, OT, OTD, OTR, FAOTA, FNAP with Donna Pope, LPN.

Nurse at Maxim Healthcare in Worcester. While a student at Bay Path, Pope was inducted to the National Technical Honor Society. She represented Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy at SkillsUSA District competition earning a Gold Medal and at State competition earning a Bronze Medal both for Health Knowledge Bowl. Pope is Mental Health First Aid Certified and volunteered for multiple events at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy such as the Admissions Panel Interview, Blood Pressure Clinics, and mentorship. She also volunteers for the Baptist Haiti Mission.

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# One fest, two fest...

Photos by Gus Steeves

Last weekend was a fall festival weekend in our area, with more to come. On Saturday, Dudley Grange and Black Tavern held their annual

(Right) Mike Daniels and Maureen Doyle check out the spooky-themed show inside the Art Center.



(Left) Arthur Martin with a couple of tin flasks he made (one to replace the other) as part of Old Sturbridge Village's demonstration of 1820s skills at the Apple Festival.



The Wicker Man comes down the stairs.



(Left) Family and friends have lunch on the wall of Oak Ridge Cemetery.



(Left) One of the art booths included this well-meaning oddity.

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& view of the lake, another bedroom & full bath. The finished walk-out lower level has brand new flooring, family room or 2nd living room, third bedroom, half bath & laundry. There are doors leading out to a private patio area. Off the patio you will find brand rebuilt stairs leading down to your private 150' beach area with 50' aluminum dock & ramps and 1998 Mastercraft boat INCLUDED. This home has gone through a modernized restoration in the past 5 years.



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(Left) A couple women check out one artist's fabrics.



(Left) Kevin Provost spins the tunes in the sun Sunday.



(Left) One of the craft tables displays lots of gnomes inside the Tavern's barn.

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Apple Festival/Craft Fair on Dudley Hill. The next day, Southbridge's Ruth Wells Arts Center held theirs, after a Halloween ball and art opening the night before. Here are a few scenes from each...

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