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Free by request to residents
of Charlton, Charlton City and
Charlton Depot

Thursday-Friday, August 14-15, 2025

Troop 163's Addie Oxman attains Eagle Scout rank

STURBRIDGE — Another Scout in Troop 163 has obtained the rank of Eagle Scout. Addie Oxman is a founding member of the troop, soon to be senior at Tantasqua, and member of Brookfield Congregational Church. She passed her Eagle Board of Review on Aug. 5.

Oxman has always had a desire to help others, and she started looking into organizations that help marginalized communities. The first organization she reached out to never responded to her request to meet and discuss a possible project. The second was set up and ready to go, but due to a reorganization of the organization the project was put on



hold indefinitely. Third time's a charm, it was a huge success. A connection was made with St. Luke Guest House in Southbridge and was a good match. St. Luke's works with those who are living on the street or out of their cars, helping them to become independent and self-sustaining by providing resources, helping them find a job, a permanent home, and how to save money.

Her project had two parts. First was to help build awareness of the mission and purpose of St. Luke's, handing out brochures and making presentations. Second was to collect supplies to help the Guest House and its residents. She set up outside local stores handing out information, an-

Turn To **SCOUTS** page 7

Long unsolved assault case laid to rest with suspect's sentencing

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

HOLLAND — Unsolved for more than two decades, a sexual assault case was closed last week with the sentencing of a Maine man.

Jamie Dodge, 49, of Brownville, Maine, pleaded guilty on Aug. 6 in Hampden County Superior Court to charges stemming from a 2000 sexual assault case in Holland.

Dodge was sentenced to 12-15 years in state prison on one count of aggravated rape, plus three years of probation on one count of kidnapping.

"This resolution brings a long-overdue measure of justice and accountability," said Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni. "For 25 years, the victim in this case lived without answers. Thanks to advances in forensic technology and the unwavering determination of investigators, we were able to identify the perpetrator and hold him responsible. I commend the victim for her strength and courage throughout this process."

On Sunday, July 23, 2000, just before noon, a sexual assault was reported to the Holland Police Department.

Massachusetts State

Police troopers assigned to the Hampden County District Attorney's Office immediately responded to the scene on Sand Hill Road in Holland. Also responding were troopers from the State Police's Airwing and Canine Units, who were actively looking for

a suspect.

The victim, an adult female, had been walking on Sand Hill Road when she was grabbed from behind, pulled off the roadway, and dragged into the nearby woods. She was then sexually assaulted by an unknown white male.

Over the following months, investigators heavily searched the area and interviewed dozens of people. Despite these efforts, a suspect was never identified.

In March 2001, forensic testing produced an

Turn To **DODGE** page 7

EDC looks at industrial park, Pike access

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — At its latest meeting, the fairly new Economic Development Commission took a stab at a couple issues that have been floating around town a really long time – the industrial park and Mass Pike access.

Peg Dean and Mike Colognesi started it off by looking at some potentially available parcels for such development, including several near Big Y and the AO, as well as Commercial Drive.

While she observed there's "not much available," Dean cited a couple owned by Elias Hanna's Asher Realty. Some off Dudley River Road already have solar

Turn To **EDC** page 7

Local historian explores region's numerous Bay Paths

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

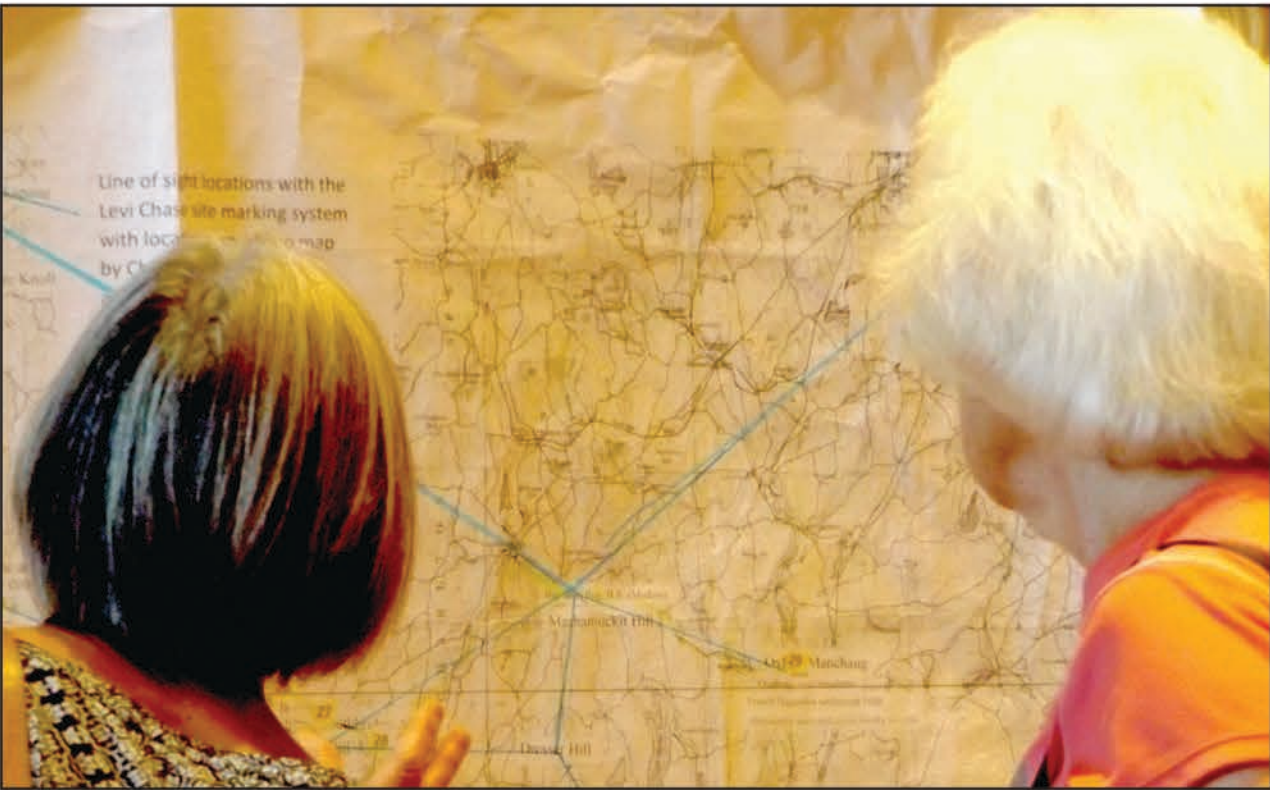
CHARLTON — Our region is littered with roads, trails and buildings called "Bay Path," including the vocational high school in Charlton.

As historian Don Duffy told a few dozen people at the library last week, they don't actually refer to a single thing. Over the centuries, the region has been crisscrossed by numerous "Bay Paths," all of them so named because they connected to some route leading to Massachusetts Bay.

The most famous of them wasn't at all a direct route anywhere, at least in this region.

"It wasn't a normal, let's go in the easiest way we can go path. It involved hills," he said.

His map depicted how the path was actually conceived as a network of line-of-sight connections between major hills



Two audience members look over Duffy's map depicting the lines of sight of various hills along the Native Bay Path network.

Gus Steeves

like Steerage Rock, Coys Hill and Mashamuckett (now Mugget), with lower levels typically running along rivers (Chicopee, Ware, Quinebaug,

Quaboag). People didn't usually travel the whole route; they just used it to get from one village to the next.

"When you got to the

hill, you didn't climb the last little bit," Duffy said. "They went around the steepest parts."

In fact, he said, there are actually at least

three Bay Paths. The original path was the Native American one, a single-file trail that's still visible in places as

Turn To **BAY PATHS** page 7

SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests from July 28 to Aug. 11.

Rey F. Delgado, age 49, of Webster was arrested on July 28 for multiple counts of drug possession with intent to distribute (joint venture) and in connection with a warrant.

Anayah Lee Espino, age 21, of Southbridge was arrested on July 28 in connection with a warrant.

Donnovin Michael Aviles, age 20, of Southbridge was arrested on July 29 in connection with multiple warrants.

Maria P. Gutierrez, age 28, of Southbridge was arrested on July 29 in connection with multiple warrants.

A juvenile, age 17, and an 18-year-old female from Southbridge both received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 29 for Assault & Battery.

A 53-year-old male from Putnam, Conn. received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 30 for Larceny totaling more than \$1,200.

A 28-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons on Aug. 2 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, a Number Plate Violation, and operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Tamil Jaheem Tate, age 24, of Southbridge was arrested on Aug. 5 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license.

A 30-year-old female from Worcester received a summons in lieu of arrest on Aug. 6 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Jose M. Rivera, age 43, of Dudley was arrested on Aug. 6 in connection with a warrant.

A 38-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Aug. 6 for Larceny From a Person age 65 or older, Larceny By Embezzlement, Identity Fraud, Fraudulent Use of a Forged, Expired, or Revoked Credit Card, making a False Statement to Procure a Credit Card, and Forgery of a Document.


A juvenile, age 15, was arrested on Aug. 7 for Open and Gross Lewdness and Disorderly Conduct.

Michael Aviles, age 38, of Southbridge was arrested on Aug. 8 for Domestic Assault and Battery, Malicious Destruction of Property valued at \$1,200 or less, and Daytime Felony Breaking & Entering into a Building.

Chrisvel Izamar Reyes, age 23, of Southbridge was arrested on Aug. 9 in connection with a warrant.

A 32-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Aug. 9 for Vandalization of Property.

Derek Matthew Patricks, age 42, and Julie Ann Daigneault, age 32, both of Southbridge, were arrested on Aug. 10 in connection with warrants.

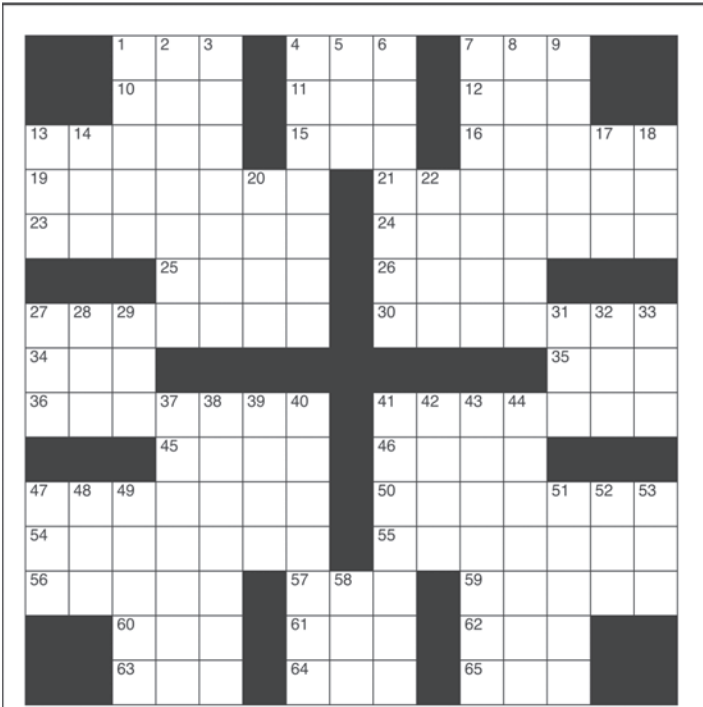


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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Auto manufacturer

4. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet

7. Two-year-old sheep

10. Member of indigenous people in Asia

11. Airborne (abbr.)

12. Actress de Armas

13. Not moving

15. Cool!

16. Plants of the arum family

19. Perceptible by touch

21. Rorschach test

23. Monetary units

24. Art

25. Cardinal number

26. Dueling sword

27. Hates

30. Fixed in one place

34. Pie ___ mode
35. Moved on foot

36. Passenger’s spot on a motorcycle

41. A way through

45. “Rule, Britannia” composer

46. Leader

47. Flowing

50. Common greetings in Arabic countries

54. Solution for all difficulties

55. Soft clothing fabric

56. Building material

57. Sea bream

59. A way to cause to be swollen

60. One and only

61. Skin color

62. Wreath

63. Nevertheless

64. They ___

65. Sea eagle

- CLUES DOWN
1. Policemen (French)

2. Toy dog

3. Inflamed colon disease

4. Muscular weaknesses

5. Helps little firms

6. References

7. Takes down

8. Facilitates

9. One-time empress of the Roman Empire

13. Engine additive

14. Chemistry solution

17. Written account

18. Consumed

20. Coming after all others

22. No (slang)

27. Government lawyers

28. Super Bowl winner Manning

29. Small amount
31. A way to save for your future

32. A way to travel behind

33. Midway between northeast and east

37. Head pain

38. Loud lawn insect

39. Actress Hathaway

40. Boat race

41. About fish

42. Nursemaid in India

43. Marketable

44. Tinier

47. Parts per billion (abbr.)

48. Paddle

49. Oneness

51. Bitter compound

52. Not around

53. Very fast airplane

58. Swiss river

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CHARLTON

\$630,000, 34-A Worcester Rd, 32-34 Worcester Rd LLC, to Abaskhiroun, Essam A.

\$625,000, 102 Haggerty Rd, Champoux, James C, and Champoux, Maureen, to Matias, Alejandro, and Matias, Nancy.

\$457,500, 22 Old Stafford St, Wiggin, Richard, and Wiggin, Jacqueline A, to Mcewan, Kathleen.

\$400,000, 7 Priscilla Ln, Pascucci, Jason, and Pascucci, Chelsea, to Leveille, Danielle.

\$62,000, 92 Turner Rd, Lundquist, Michael, and Raybeck, Kristin L, to Lundquist, Michael.

HOLLAND

\$620,000, 59 Wales Rd, Lucier, Nancy E, and Lucier, Richard A, to Quinn, Theresa, and Quinn, Harrison.

\$475,000, 12 Brandon St, Holguin, Nicole C, and Aharony, Dor, to Mcclary, Kevin.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$865,000, 109 Morris St, Byrnes Inv Group LLC, to Saint Maria & St Bishop L.

\$260,000, 82 Prince Rd, Parenteau, Seth, and Guild Mortgage Co LLC, to Mk3 Properties LLC.

\$230,000, 65 Charlton St, Xanthakos, Helen, and Xanthakos, Stella, to Big Dee LLC.

STURBRIDGE

\$895,000, 72 S Shore Dr, Giuggio, Anthony R, and Giuggio, Kristin L, to Theresa M George RET, and George, Theresa M.

\$690,000, 82 Allen Rd, Zandy, Robin, to Pover, Mark.

\$650,000, 537 Main St, Cormier, Gregory, to Premier Rental Prop LLC.

\$551,000, 127 Paradise Ln, Gregoire, Pamela A, to Lowe, Kylie, and Thom, Bradley.

\$550,000, 340 The Trail, Ford, Sadie R, to Molloy, Michael.

\$545,000, 6 Vinton Rd, Andrade, Jose M, and Bocciarelli, Catherine T, to Plourd, Michael, and Plourd, Samantha.

\$450,000, 32 Sturbridge Hills Rd #32, Pover, Mark B, to Zandy, Robin.

\$405,000, 10 Vinton Rd, Plourd, Michael, and Plourd, Samantha, to Tomlinson, Brian, and Houston, Molly.

\$355,000, 59 BROOKFIELD RD, KOPACZ, RACHEL, TO ARCOUETTE, JARED J.

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CHURCH LISTINGS

• Central Baptist Church

256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550

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

• Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org

• Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org

Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

•St. Anne St. Patrick Church, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338

www.stannestpatparish.com

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

• St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• Wayside Church, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• Living Word Church of Charlton, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349

Sunday Service 10:00am.

www.livingwordcharlton.com

info@livingwordcharlton.com

• New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

• Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021

www.sturfed.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• Bethlehem Lutheran Church- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

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Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

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Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org

Sunday Service 11:00 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

The Bluegrass Prayers shake it up at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

STURBRIDGE — Come set your rule and reign, in our hearts again... the tight bluegrass harmonies of the opening hymn, backed by acoustic guitar riffs and driven by the upright bass, filter throughout the congregation. Those at the Sunday morning service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sturbridge involuntarily sing along and clap to the beat of the music. They can't help it. It is contagious.



Even a few of the more traditional, laid-back Lutherans in attendance often let out an "Amen!" "Music is essential to worship," says Dan Purcell, pastor of this small community church. "It's

one of the many ways God's given gifts are shared." And this Sunday, it is The Bluegrass Prayers who are sharing their gifts. This gospel band is made up of congregants and long-time musicians Mike Wimberly on guitar, mandolin, and vocals; Beth Wimberly on guitar and vocals, and Victor Matheson on upright bass and vocals. Wimberly, the frontman for The Bluegrass Prayers, expands on Pastor Dan's statement, noting that "The fundamental role of music in the church is that it elevates us to a higher level of spirituality." He further describes the communal experience of singing together and connecting with each other. Music is another form of prayer. According to recent polls from the Pew Research Center and from Gallop, general church attendance in the U.S. has been in decline over the past several decades. While some denominations are seeing growth, most are not. According to Pastor Dan, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, which had also experienced a decline in active memberships, has been seeing an uptick in Sunday morning attendance. One way that Bethlehem is reaching out to deliver the message of God's love and to bring more people into this church community is through the music. "Let's face it," Wimberly says, "old hymns don't always connect with younger or 'unchurched' folks. But throw a couple of guitars and mandolins at them, Johnny Cash or Ralph Stanley, and it becomes more relatable...It makes

the service accessible." "Sometimes," he continues, "you just need to shake things up." And that is what The Bluegrass Prayers do — rearrange traditional hymns and perform them in bluegrass style, then mix in a healthy dose of old-time gospel tunes reminiscent of a Georgia tent revival meeting. Between the music, the rest of the service is standard Lutheran liturgy: prayers, sermon, and communion. The closing hymn, soulful and uplifting, has everyone remaining in the pews until the very last word is sung and chord strummed. "This service is never really finished," congregant Cindy Hollins says with a wide smile. "This bluegrass service helps keep my spiritual connection throughout the week." The next monthly Bluegrass Service will be on Sunday, Aug. 24 at 9 a.m. Traditional services are on the remaining Sundays. All are welcome.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is located at 345 Main St., Sturbridge. For more information, check out their website (bethlehemsturbidge.org) or call (508) 347-7297.

Master Masons gather for Family Fun Day

HUDSON — On Sunday, Aug. 10, Master Masons, their family and friends converged to the grounds of the American Heritage Museum, located in Hudson, for the Masonic Family Fun Day.



The main field at the museum was full of pop-up tents, that represented all the Masonic Districts in the state. There were all kinds of foods and games for children and adults. Children were lining up at the 24th Masonic District's pop-up tent, that was selling cotton candy and snow cones. Master Masons, as far as western Massachusetts, traveled the long distance to attend this event. What a way to meet other Brethren and their family from other lodges throughout

the state. The fellowship and comradery were fun for all. The best part of this family fun day was at the American Heritage Museum exhibits. Representing Americas conflicts from the American Revolutionary War to today. The amount of military equipment on display was amazing, there were tanks of different wars, from different countries, to cannons, artillery, trucks, war plans of all kinds and much, much more.

Craft supply material dropoff at Charlton Public Library

SOUTHBIDGE — In anticipation of our Craft Supply Swap on Saturday, Sept. 6, the Charlton Public Library will be accepting donations of supplies from Aug. 25-Sept. 5. Supplies that will be accepted are arts and crafts materials only (fabrics, yarn, paper, patterns, tools, beads, etc.) These items must be able

to be reused (new or gently used, not expired). When in doubt, use the best friend rule – would I give this to my best friend? We cannot accept opened liquids such as paints, chemicals and glue. We will not be accepting office supply donations (binders, file organizers, etc.). Everyone is invited to

come back to the Library from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6 for the Craft Swap to take whatever you need for free, regardless of whether you donated items. Remaining supplies will be used by the library for programs, donated to charity, or recycled. Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St.

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Friday's Child

Elvin
Age 13
Registration #9084

Elvin is a unique and thoughtful child. He is naturally shy and prefers to avoid confrontation, finding comfort in calm and familiar environments. Although he loves sports, Elvin chooses not to join sports teams, enjoying physical activity in his own way. He has a special love for toys, especially locks and keys, and always carries a heavy set of them with him. Along with his locks and keys, Elvin also treasures a set of walkie-talkies that he enjoys using. When he grows up, Elvin hopes to become a custodian, inspired by the custodian at his school. Elvin attends an after-school program where he takes Taekwondo classes, an activity he truly enjoys and looks forward to. His quiet strength, unique interests, and dedication make him a remarkable child with a lot to offer.


https://www.mareinc.org/child/22664085795

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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Striving for a world free from stereotypes

In a world where information is at our fingertips and connections span continents, it is baffling to us that stereotyping still prevails. We pride ourselves on progress, yet we allow preconceived notions to shackle our understanding of each other. It's high time we collectively recognize the damage of assumptions and vow to liberate ourselves from the confines of stereotypes.

Stereotyping is the enemy of empathy, born from our innate need to categorize and simplify complex realities. It's natural for the mind to seek shortcuts, but these shortcuts often lead us astray, blinding us to the richness of human diversity. When we assume we know someone based on their appearance, background, or a single characteristic, we deny them the depth of their individuality and inadvertently perpetuate ignorance.

Let's face it, we've all been victims of stereotypes. Whether it's being judged by our nationality, gender, appearance, or hobbies, we know the frustration of not being seen for who we truly are. So, why do we continue this harmful practice? Fear, laziness, or perhaps a lack of awareness? Regardless of the reasons, it's time to shatter this cycle.

Consider the story of the introverted librarian who's also a salsa dancing champion, or the tattooed artist who spends weekends volunteering at a shelter or going to classical music concerts. These are glimpses into the lives that stereotypes fail to capture. It's not enough to say, "Don't judge a book by its cover." We must actively seek to turn the pages, engaging with the stories beneath the surface.

The path to change begins with acknowledging our biases. Recognizing that we all hold them allows us to confront them head-on. Education is a formidable weapon against stereotypes. By learning about different cultures, histories, and experiences, we open the door to a more inclusive perspective. It's a journey toward realizing that our world is a mosaic of vibrant, individual lives, each with its own colors and textures.

But this change isn't just about self-improvement; it's a societal shift. By resisting stereotypes, we create an environment where empathy flourishes. We extend the hand of understanding to those who've been marginalized and silenced. We pave the way for collaboration that's based on shared goals rather than preconceived judgments.

It's time to rewrite the script of our interactions. Let's ask questions and listen attentively. Let's engage in conversations that bridge gaps and build bridges. Let's be curious about the people we encounter, seeking to understand their unique perspectives.

As we strive for a world free of assumptions and stereotypes, let's remember that change is gradual. But every step taken is a step closer to a society where each person is seen, heard, and valued for who they truly are. Let's be the generation that breaks the chains of stereotype, forging connections that are genuine, lasting, and transformative.

OPINION

Library Loft offers “a smile and a book”



READER'S
JOURNEY

GUS
STEEVES

PALMER — If you're seeking the Library Loft in Palmer, it looks like what it once was – an elementary school at 1085 Park St.

Inside, the classrooms still have their old numbers and if you need a bathroom, the staff takes you to the principal's office.

But these days, far more than learning goes on in those classrooms. Among other things, Schoolhouse Commons hosts a craft store, a clothing alteration shop, a frame and print shop as well as the Library Loft.

As the store's name suggests, it's an outgrowth of the Palmer Library, specifically started by the Friends of the Library 26 years ago to raise funds for library events. It's the first door on the left as you climb the fairly steep stairs to the main floor; a small, well-lit maze of thousands of titles including tons of children's books and some that are quite old.

They're all donated, and some have come from hundreds of miles away.

“We have a man who comes down from Vermont,” and another from New York, “because they don't have anything like this where they live,” said volunteer Barbara Lynn Marriott. Often, she noted, “people buy books, read them, then bring them back [as donations] and we resell them.”

Marriott's been helping out here more than 12 years, after coming in as a customer “all the time.” She said the



Barbara Lynn Marriott gets a little sun from the Library Loft window

woman working there then was sick and considering closing it, so she urged her not to and stepped in to help. (The Loft is managed by Friends' President Eleanor Szlachetka, but she wasn't there when I visited.)

One of Marriott's favorite events is seeing kids bring in boxes of books to donate.

“They're so proud. They feel they can part with these books they don't even want me to take them out of the box. They want to do it,” she recalled.

On the other end of the spectrum, she recalled having a little girl come up 25 cents short, so she gave her the book

Turn To **LIBRARY** page 6

Don't pray like a beggar!

Stop praying like you're begging for scraps.

That's why your plans fall apart. That's why the world ignores your voice.

You kneel, you whisper; you plead—but all it shows is a lack of faith.

You weren't made to beg. You were made to command.

Don't get me wrong—prayer is a form of faith. But if you pray like someone who doesn't believe... if you doubt, if you're just hoping for a miracle you secretly think will never come... if you're waiting, crying, complaining—then it's not faith at all. It's a broadcast of fear and lack.

Neuroscience tells us your brain listens to the story you repeat. It takes your words as marching orders. Pray like a beggar, and your brain wires itself to expect scraps. Pray like a commander, and you activate the networks in your mind that seek solutions, recognize opportunities, and pull you toward what you claim.

Scientists found that just watching tiny particles changed how they behaved. Prayer works the same way—what you focus on with expectation shapes what shows up.

Life works the same way. If you expect little, you'll get little. If you expect abundance with unwavering certainty,

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

you start tuning into the version of reality where it's already yours.

You're not here to plead for crumbs—you're here to speak as if the feast is already set before you.

The master put it plain: "If anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them." That's authority! It's knowing reality bends to conviction.

He also said, "According to your faith, let it be done to you." In other words, you don't get what you want; you get what you expect.

And "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." That's the mental blueprint—see it done before it's done.

Begging mode doesn't just feel weak—it makes you weak. Neuroscience calls it a low-agency mindset. When you approach your goals from desperation, your brain flips into survival mode. You become less capable of spotting opportunities or making bold moves. You're programming your reality to deliver the same disappointments, over and over.

Flip the lens, and everything changes. When you speak and act with certainty, your nervous system recalibrates. Dopamine and serotonin rise, your motivation climbs, and your tolerance for risk increases. You start scanning for proof that what you've declared is already unfolding. It's not magic—it's chemistry.

Faith in command mode looks different. It's not passive, waiting on the sidelines for something to change. It steps onto the court and plays to win. It's the voice that says, "This will happen," instead of "I hope this happens." It's moving your feet before you see the finish line, because you know it's there.

Every great spiritual teacher, every revolutionary leader, every game-changer in business, art, or science—whether they spoke in the language of God, the universe, or the human spirit—operated with that same unshakable conviction.

Before David killed the giant, he de-

Turn To **PRAY** page 8

Let a financial advisor help plan for life's curveballs



FINANCIAL
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NIELSEN

Think estate planning is only for the wealthy or elderly? Think again. If you own anything — a home, a car, a savings account, even a pet — you already have an estate plan. The only question is: Did you create it, or will your state do it for you?

When someone passes away without an estate plan, state laws take over, deciding who gets what and when. This legal process may not reflect your wishes. That's why taking control of your assets through a personal estate plan should be a top priority.

At its core, estate planning is about clarifying your wishes and making things easier for your heirs. It ensures your assets are distributed according to your preferences, designates who will make decisions on your behalf if you can't and provides guidance for your care in a medical crisis. Most plans include four key components:

1. A Will – This document outlines how your assets should be distributed after your death and names an executor to oversee the process in probate court. It can also designate guardians for minor children. Keep in mind that a will doesn't cover everything — certain transfer on death (TOD) accounts and jointly held property may bypass your will entirely.
2. Power of Attorney – If you become incapacitated, you'll want someone you trust to be able to make decisions on your behalf. A durable power of attorney designates such a person, helping to ensure your bills are paid, your business continues (if you have one) and your wishes are honored.
3. Health Care Directive – Sometimes called a living will, this document spells out your preferences for medical treatment if you're unable to speak for yourself. It can also designate someone to make health care decisions for you.
4. Beneficiary Designations – Accounts like 401(k)s, IRAs, and life insurance policies transfer directly to the people you name, regardless of what your will says. It's essential to review these beneficiary designations regularly, especially after significant life events such as marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or the birth of a child.

One common myth is that a will is all you need. But wills only take effect after death; they don't help if you're alive but unable to make decisions. Another misconception is that estate planning is only for the wealthy. In truth, planning is about more than money — it's about making things easier for the people you love during difficult times.

An effective estate plan can prevent costly legal battles, reduce confusion and give your loved ones a clear roadmap to follow. It also allows you to leave a legacy that reflects your values and priorities.

As your life changes, your estate plan should change along with it. Review your documents every few years or after major life events. It's often a good idea to seek help with such reviews. Your financial advisor or attorney can guide you through the process, ensuring your plan fits your unique circumstances.

In the end, estate planning isn't just about planning for what happens when you are gone. It's about feeling confident, knowing that what matters most — your family, your purpose, your legacy — is protected.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

.....

WAYNE TUISKULA

We've reached number 1 on the top 10 list of antiques and collectibles that regularly sell well for us. As a refresher, here's the rest of the top 10 list that we've covered in previous columns.

10. Transportation memorabilia
9. Old Chinese antiques
8. Vintage and antique posters and advertising signs
7. Vintage and antique cars
6. Historical memorabilia
5. Comic books
4. Baseball cards and sports memorabilia
3. Gold and Silver Coins and Sterling Silver
2. Estate jewelry, gold, and diamonds, gold watches

And finally, art is number 1 on my top 10 list. Art encompasses a wide variety of styles and mediums. There are paintings, metal sculptures, stone sculptures, pottery, folk

art in wood and metal, and many other forms. Art of course has a long and varied history ranging from cave drawings dating back to around 40,000 years ago to a 2019 piece of conceptual art featuring a banana taped to a wall.

Unlike most antiques, older isn't always better when it comes to art. A 2019 Art Newspaper article reported declining sales in Old Masters paintings while contemporary art was seeing an increase in value.

In general, we have seen strong values for many works by listed artists over the past year. A J. L. (French sculptor Jean Leone) Gerome, "Gold leaf on Bronze Statue of Woman - Green Alabaster base" sold for \$6,300 last year. An Italian born



artist Arnaldo Pomodoro "Gold Patinated Bronze Sculpture" brought \$7,800. Bessie Potter Vonnoh was born in S. Louis, MO, and worked in New York. Her "In Arcadia" bronze statue brought \$11,400 last year.

Paintings also brought good auction results last year. An untitled oil on canvas landscape by Charles Gruppe went for \$2,100. Gruppe was born in Canada but painted in Rockport, Massachusetts, a hotbed of artists. The Rockport Artist Association was formed in 1921, and the town is

home to the Rockport Art Museum. An abstract oil on canvas painting by French born artist Jacques Doucet titled "La Promenade de Kafka" fetched \$5,400 last year. A Julian Onderdonk, a Texas Impressionist painter known for painting bluebonnet flowers, "A Glow Sky" signed oil on board painting sold for \$9,600 last year.

A Boston estate modern art collection featuring many paintings by United Kingdom artists was part of our January 2024 auction. A 1967 Craigie Aitchinson fish still life oil on canvas brought \$16,800. Barbara Hepworth's "Rhythmic Form" Abstract oil and ink on board sold for \$37,200. The two most valuable paintings were by United Kingdom artist

William Scott. Scott was a Senior Lecturer at the Bath Academy of Art in Bath, England, from 1946 to 1956. During a trip to New York, he met Jackson Pollock, Elaine de Kooning, Mark Rothko, and Franz Kline. Their influence changed his painting method completely and he became an abstract impressionist like them. A William Scott "Grey Theme I" oil on canvas painting reached \$105,000. William Scott's "Nine Pears on a White Plate," c. 1956 oil on canvas fetched \$141,000.

Maurizio Cattelan's "Comedian," the artwork of a banana duct taped to a wall that I alluded to earlier, sold for \$6.2 million last year. The piece includes instructions on replacing the banana when it goes bad, al-

though some have chosen to eat the banana before it rots.

Our online auction of the Harlansburg Transportation Museum in Pennsylvania starts this week. We continue to work on the Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction and Civil War memorabilia auction. We are accepting quality consignments for other upcoming auctions. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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



GARDEN MOMENTS

.....

MELINDA MYERS

Annual flowers that take the heat

your garden and those that may need to be left off the plant list for next year's garden.

Start looking for more heat-tolerant plants and cultivars to use in the future. A visit to your local botanic garden and viewing gardens in your neighborhood can help provide insight and inspirations for plants suited to your summer weather.

Zinnias are known for their heat and

drought tolerance. These long-blooming annuals come in a variety of colors and heights. Wheat, plume, and crested celosia not only add color, but also interesting flower shapes to gardens and arrangements.

Angelonias, also known as summer snapdragons, are upright plants that make great vertical accents and add season-long color to containers and gardens. Granvia

strawflowers are taller, more vigorous plants with larger flowers than older strawflower varieties. Enjoy them in the garden and for months after in arrangements, dried wreaths, and other decorations.

Annual vinca, Catharanthus, with its shiny leaves and long-lasting flowers, thrives in hot, dry weather. The dainty flowers of the Soiree® Hawaii series and the



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Turn To GARDENING page 11



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“It's not a dumpster, it's a big mousetrap”

Collier, Parks explore lives and myths of hunting birds

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — You wouldn't think cars would be a major issue for flying beings. But they are. “That bird didn't have a death wish, it saw something moving,” Julie Collier said. “That triggered the instinct to go get it. There's no instinct to look both ways.”

One of the most common ways raptors find their way to Wingmasters, the bird rehab Collier and her partner Jim Parks run in Leverett, is by diving for such prey and not seeing the oncoming car that hits them en route. They've taken many such birds to Tufts Animal Clinic in Grafton, but not all survived.

“When things go right,” they get to release the birds back into the wild; that can take years. Some, however, are never releasable, and Wingmasters has a permit to keep them at Rattlesnake Gutter Land Trust and use some of them for educational events.

Last Thursday, they brought several of those birds – mostly owls, but also one peregrine falcon – to Charlton Library to talk about what they do, the lives of such raptors, how they hunt, some myths, and other details of the species they work with.

“If you're looking for gratitude in this world, do not raise a teenager and don't rehab birds of prey,” Collier noted, describing one they'd cared for as being “six ounces and all of them nasty” even after three years in their care.

In their experience, the peregrine is “the wisest bird here today,” Parks said, while Collier added the smartest one they've rehabbed was a golden eagle and the second was a red-tailed hawk, far brighter than their owls. On a scale of 1-10, they rate eagles as 10, the hawk as 9.75, and owls as 1-4 depending on species. Parks later cited the barn owl as a 4, while Collier noted some other types are just 1 or even 0.5.

The peregrines are “the opposite of owls” in various respects, she said. Peregrines hunt by day using speed and sight – diving at 200 mph



Julie Collier with their rehabbed peregrine falcon.

it's “nature's jet,” so that even when the prey hears them, they don't have time to react. They migrate south for winter and can't deal with cold. Owls, by contrast, are cold-adapted, slow, silent night hunters by sound who stay year round (snowy owls are from the Arctic and find this area usually too warm). Collier flicked and waved feathers of both; the former were clearly audible, the latter, not at all.

Most owls hunt rodents (peregrines mostly hunt birds in flight), and have somewhat adapted to human settings. The owls have fluffy, fur-like feathers evolved to insulate, with most of them

having feathered feet and camouflage. Peregrines have thin, bare taloned feet which they can use as fists to knock prey birds out of the sky or grab them in flight. An owl's bark-looking camouflage is often so good people can walk right by one and not see it watching them from a tree's hollow. Collier said to “let the bird reveal itself. Owls are very, very good at sitting still, which falcons are hopeless at.”

Peregrines have become an urban species; Parks noted there's a nest of them atop Worcester's Travelers Insurance building that has driven away most of the other



Jim Parks with one of their barred owls.

bird species that used to be there. Years ago, there were just 39 nesting pairs of peregrines in the US, and they were endangered due to DDT use. (Today's parallel is rodenticides; they urged people not to use them at all. “You'll never wipe out the rodent population. You'll just create havoc for beautiful birds,” Parks said.) Now there's at least 50 pairs in Massachusetts alone, with recovery thanks to captive breeding.

The owl species they brought faced similar recovery paths except for the barn owl, which is still endangered. It's also the least camouflaged of their sample species and

would normally migrate but has taken advantage of human places for warmth in winter. Barred owls, by contrast, have recovered alongside the beavers, since they favor wetlands.

All birds of prey share four traits, Parks said – binocular vision, flying ability, talons and curved beaks. Many also love our trash since they can't smell it but it attracts lots of prey; as Parks put it, “Ask the owl or hawk, it's not a dumpster, it's a big mousetrap.” Often, they hunt the same things at different times; he noted “where you see a hawk by day, you've got an owl, too.”

When it comes to myths, both had several they sought to debunk. Some were inaccurate names; Collier noted screech owls do not screech, they call with a “melodic trill.” (The screeches we hear are usually foxes or fishers.) Likewise great horned owls aren't horned; those tufts are for insulation and silent hunting. (They are “the most aggressive hunting bird of anything that lives in the northeast” and favor “things marked with white.” Females will attack people who come too close to nests, aiming for their faces – not out of viciousness, but to protect their young.)

Owls also aren't “wise,” and can't turn their head 360 degrees – just 180. Also, she said she “wished more Americans understood” that waving hello to animals is seen by them as a threat. The birds don't see the spectrum of shades we can; mostly, they just see the bright colors (red, yellow, orange, black and white) with others being shades of grey to them. But they can also “see by the light of moon and stars in a way you and I can't.”

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

Courtesy



BARTLETT HIGH CLASS OF 1995 CELEBRATES 30-YEAR-REUNION

The Bartlett High School Class of 1995 from Webster will be holding their 30th high school reunion on Saturday, Sept. 13 at Tree House Brewing, 129 Sturbridge Rd., Charlton. There will be a designated area for the members of the class to gather and celebrate starting at 2 p.m. Outside food and non-alcoholic beverages are allowed to be brought to the brewery. For more information contact Erin at (508) 341-5347 or elanderson1228@gmail.com.

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LIBRARY

continued from page 4

anyway.

“There was no way I was going to deny it to her for 25 cents. Her face lit up, and she went out to tell others about it,” Marriott said. “Those are the things that make me want to be here.”

So do the fairly frequent times when she's turned into counselor and friend to people who simply need someone to talk to – one, she noted, “just wanted human contact.” She notes she's often gotten into conversations with people and ended up closing the place, but continuing to talk. (Store owners in the place tend to check on each other's safety, since some are still working past closing hours.)

Marriott notes the store often gets visitors who went to school here years ago. She also often gets book recommendations from patrons, and sometimes ends up selling donations “right of this desk before they get shelved.”

Library Friends' groups frequently have at least for-sale bookshelves or nooks, but not too many have their own full-fledged stores like this one. Among

Turn To **LIBRARY** page 7

EDC
continued from page 1

arrays, but might have space for other uses. Similarly, some large town parcels exist off Guelphwood, near the school; they also have solar arrays, although she brought up one across from the DPW that doesn't. Colognesi noted that has use restrictions from contamination that would prohibit residential use, but other uses might be doable. (It's one of a few neighboring sites affected by decades-old PCBs from what was the Cotton property, now the DPW.

Final clean-up there has been in limbo for so long due to EPA repeatedly seeking more monitoring that trees are now growing through the plastic liner atop the mound of debris.) "Because it's so isolated, could you imagine warehouse trucks coming through that area?" Dean speculated, with Tomasz Owca adding, "right by the school." Chair Shelley Klein wondered if the road infrastructure could support development there, later asking if there's "an existing,

occupied, fully-functioning industrial park" elsewhere. The answer there is no. As Dean said, in the 20-teens, people built Commercial Drive primarily as access to the landfill (in part because of serious complaints from Pleasant Street residents, which had been the route for many years by then). There's been sporadic talk about making an industrial park there, but today just one firm besides Casella is up there – Mid-State Welding. Other parcels have what Colognesi described as "topography that's challenging" – lots of ledge and wetlands. Despite that, a few years ago, Green Meadows started the process of buying a town lot (originally for a large growing facility), but Dean noted they've never finished it. "So it's sitting there in limbo now." A few businesses have asked about the Blue Building for various uses, and there's a "potential plan" for a warehouse nearby. One key issue is water – the town has looked at completing a water loop up there to Pleasant Street, but cost

has always delayed that idea. Another is power – she noted NEC Corp's gas plant on Rte 169 has suggested running a gas line up there, but the Board of Health opposed it some time ago as a risk to puncture the landfill's cap. Despite those concerns, Luel-la Perez said the EDC and town should "face the headache ... of putting focus on Commercial Drive, because it's already sitting there, and untie those knots to see what it looks like" rather than "creating two messes" with a plan elsewhere. To Colognesi, that sparked the question "Is the airport worth keeping? ... It's a great piece of flat land to develop, worth \$30-\$40 million up there." That's also been considered before. Years ago, there was some talk of closing the airport and building on it, but it was nixed mostly because doing so would require the town to repay the state DOT and FAA for millions of dollars in grants. Some of those have come more recently, including upgrades to the fuel farm, a new hangar, fence replacement, and an updated master plan that includes runway extension. Dean said the airport is a "revenue generator." Regarding Pike access, Co-

lognesi cited a couple options, including running a road from Rte 20 near 49 to the airport or adding a new exit closer to 169. Either idea would be very expensive, he noted. (There are now emergency access ramps off Stafford Street and Center Depot Road, but they aren't open to the public.) Dean said she wants to seek a new MDOT grant to do a feasibility study of such a thing. She noted it's "a huge, huge endeavor: I was laughed at when I brought it up at CMRPC a couple years ago." To Klein, some of these issues are interesting, but have taken the EDC away from the January list they came up with to accomplish this year. Among those are smaller projects like seeing how nearby town have addressed issues and fixing the website. For the latter, Perez said she'll layout what she thinks needs to be done for the September meeting. She also suggested having food trucks along Main Street as a way to "take advantage of the bottleneck" caused by road-work "even though we don't have the ideal situation." Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

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PRAY
continued from page 6

clared it first. Standing in front of Goliath—armed with nothing but a sling, a few stones, and an unshakable belief—he didn't whisper a prayer of survival. He spoke a statement of victory. "This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands!" It wasn't just a declaration; he was saying that his prayer was already answered, and the answer was yes! You are not here to rehearse defeat in your mind. You are not here to train your nervous system for scraps. You are here to speak life into your own story—out loud, without apology, without retreat. Every word you speak, every image you picture, every act you take is casting a vote for the reality you will live in tomorrow. Stop praying in fear: Stop reinforcing lack.

Pray like you own the place. Speak like the thing you want is already written in the book of your life, not from an attitude of pride, but from humility. The truth is simple: reality doesn't give you what you hope for—it gives you what you command, and then work for like it's already yours.



LEGALS

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 Jason Tom Patraw to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. D/B/A Norcom Mortgage, dated August 26, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54216, Page 249, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on January 27, 2022, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67013, Page 323, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. D/B/A Norcom Mortgage, its successors and assigns to Pingora Loan Servicing, LLC, recorded on August 28, 2019, in Book No. 60953, at Page 323 Pingora Loan Servicing, LLC to Freedom Mortgage Corporation, recorded on December 11, 2020, in Book No. 63955, at Page 177 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on August 22, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 40 Dennison Lane, Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:
The land with the buildings thereon located in Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts situated on the westerly side of Old Breakneck Road, formerly called Dennison District Road, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner thereof, at an iron pin on the westerly line of said Old Breakneck Road at the northeasterly corner of the land now or formerly of Anton Cubranich et ux; THENCE N. 42° 39' W. along a wall by said Cubranich land 231.4 feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Raymond J. Lataille et ux.; THENCE N. 41 ° 04' E. by said Lataille land 128 feet to an iron pin; THENCE S. 46° 56' E. by land now or formerly of Fred P. Campbell et ux., 229.65 feet to an iron pin on the westerly line of said Old Breakneck Road; THENCE S. 40° 45' W. partly along a wall by the westerly line of said Old Breakneck Road

145.05 feet to the point of beginning. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54216, Page 247. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 27460 July 31, 2025 August 7, 2025 August 14, 2025

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING
Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for 8/30/2025 at 1:00 p.m. at 914 Main Street, Southbridge, MA. The proposed Marijuana Retail and Courier Facility is anticipated

to be located at 914 Main Street, Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550 (Lot 033-134-00001). There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions. August 14, 2025

Town of Sturbridge Select Board Public Hearing
National Grid has made a petition to the Sturbridge Select Board to install underground facilities beginning at a point approximately 180 feet South East of the centerline of the intersection of Brookfield Road and Trail Road and continuing approximately 600 feet in a South East direction. National Grid to replace 600' of underground primary. Install two (2) new manholes on either side of the turnpike near poles 52-50 and 49, Sturbridge MA. The pole hearing will take place on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 6:45 p.m. at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566. August 14, 2025

Town of Holland Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice
In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Holland Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 6:30 PM to review a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) submitted by Kenneth Safft. The RDA requests to replace a retaining wall in front of the house. **Project Location:** 2 Sandy Beach Road, Assessor's Map (R35-C-) **Meeting Location:** Public Participation will be In-Person at the Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Road, 2nd Floor, Holland, MA 01521. 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 Holland Town Hall in the Conservation Commission Office. or contact the office at 413-245-7108 X114. August 14, 2025

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. WO25P1911 EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of: **George R McDonald Date of Death: 04/20/2025**
To all interested persons: A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Georgette Martin of Sturbridge 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: **Georgette Martin of Sturbridge 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 08/26/2025.** 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: July 30, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate August 14, 2025



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

Whether relaxing on the shore of still waters, or wrangling in a temperamental trout, the sport of fishing remains a simple pleasure life-long memories are made of. With several popular waterways in our area, fishing is an outdoor activity enjoyed by locals both young and old alike.

Planning to drop your line into the waters this weekend? Read on for an array of classic tips from successful anglers - all geared to help make your time at the fishing hole more productive!

Successful fishers make it a habit to change their line. Fishing line has memory- it will retain the twist, nicks scrapes, and it gets weaker every time it is used.

Don't chance losing the "big one" to brittle line!

And be sure to match your hook size to your bait: small for small, large for large. It makes a difference in holding your bait, and in how many strikes you will get.

Take a valuable fishing tip from old timers who say "if you find the bait you'll find the fish." To do this efficiently, they make it a habit to scan the water for bird activity. Follow the birds, who follow the bait, and you'll likely find the fish!

When throwing into the wind, drop your rod tip to the water right after making the cast. You'll get more distance and will also get the slack out of your line in case you get bit just when the bait hits the surface. If you leave the

rod held high, the wind will make an arc out of your line and you'd lose control of the bait.

Still no bites? It could be your bug repellent. Never handle bait after applying it as the scent will keep the fish away.

Tips to Track Trout

Did you know Rainbow Trout favor 56 degree water? Find that temperature and you're sure to find the fish! If it's cold out, trout can typically be found on the surface of a lake. If it's hot out, they'll be deeper in the water.

Remember, trout have tough mouths. Keep your hooks sharp - and use a number 4 hook for best results!

Want to up your odds of trout for supper? When lake fishing, dip your crawler in the oil from a can of

smoked oysters!

Trying to tempt the best trout? Try this secret recipe from anglers: Combine two ounces of cod liver oil with 20 drops oil of anise. Mix well. Dip your bait in the mixture and string up the trout!

These old fashioned bait recipes are tried and true secret weapons from successful fishermen - but best of all, you can whip them up with ingredients from your kitchen cupboards!

Anglers swear refrigerator biscuit dough is a great bait for trout. Just pull a raw biscuit apart and start reeling in the "big one!"

Even fish love spicy food, as this super lure recipe will attest. Mix together 8 ounce ground aniseed or fennel seed and two ounces ground allspice. Sprinkle 1/16th oz. oil of cloves over the

above and mix. Store in tightly sealed jars for a few days while the odors blend. Put a drop on fish bait.

If you're fishing with salmon eggs or worms, don't forget to add a miniature marshmallow to the hook to keep your bait buoyant!

Try this quick tip: dip your crawler in the oil from a can of smoked oysters! Fish love it!

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131

across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

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OBITUARIES

James L. Julian, 81



Sturbridge / Southbridge – James L. Julian, 81, a recent resident of Pine Ave. in Sturbridge and a longtime resident of Chartier Lane in Southbridge, passed away on Friday, August 8th, at UMass Memorial Medical Center, University Campus in Worcester, after an illness. His beloved wife of 58 years, Carol S. (Lapointe) Julian, passed away in January of this year. He leaves behind his two sons, James L. Julian II and his wife Sandra of Leominster; and Thomas N. Julian and his wife Melissa of Coventry, RI. He was a

proud grandfather to four grandchildren: Thomas J. Julian and Jake R. Julian of Coventry, RI, and James L. Julian III and Jack A. Julian of Leominster. Jim also leaves his brother, Dennis Julian and his wife Betsy of Sturbridge; two sisters, Margaret Partlow and her husband Frank of Southbridge, and Linda Ravenelle and her husband Paul of Lee, NH; and a sister-in-law, Janet Julian of Quinebaug, CT. He was preceded by his brother, Joseph Julian



of Quinebaug, CT. Born in Southbridge, Jim was the son of Leo Julian and Theresa M. (Lacasse) Julian Proulx. After graduating from Lowell Tech. in 1966 he served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War era. Jim was an industrial engineer and worked for Schott Fiber Optics in Southbridge for many years before retiring. Earlier in his career, he worked at the American Optical Company in Southbridge and Rand Whitney in Worcester

An avid golfer, Jim enjoyed retirement by organizing trips for the Southbridge Senior Center and especially loved traveling to Aruba and Las Vegas. Most of all, he cherished spending time with his family and friends. His funeral service will be held on Thursday, August 14th, at 11:00 AM at the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours will be held at the funeral home on Thursday, August 14th, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM, prior to the service. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Local officials go the extra mile in support of Pan-Mass Challenge

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — Local public safety agencies are thanked for once again teaming up to ensure a safe Pan-Mass Challenge.

Held on Aug. 2 & 3, the event brought together thousands of riders, volunteers, and guests in support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The annual ride requires countless hours of preparations from participants, including physical training and fundraising. The same level of commitment is invested in the event from a public safety standpoint, with multiple agencies working together to plan logistics for the big weekend.

“I’d like to thank all of our public safety partners for their tremendous support during this year’s PMC event,” said Sturbridge Police Chief Earl Dessert. “As always, this operation would not be possible without the collaboration and dedication of our fellow law enforcement agencies, support teams, and volunteers.”

The following agencies and departments teamed up to ensure a safe ride: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency; Sturbridge Emergency Management; Sturbridge Fire Department and EMS; Massachusetts State Police; Worcester County Sheriff’s Office; CEMLEC SWAT and the CEMLEC Motor Unit; the Environmental Police; East Brookfield Police Department; Sturbridge Police Department; Quincy Police Department; and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

“I also want to thank PMC staff members Sue Brogan and Matt Mc-

Guinness for their continued partnership, communication, and leadership throughout the planning and execution of this massive event,” Chief Dessert added.

The 2025 PMC marked the end of an era, as riders departed from the Sturbridge Host Hotel start line for the final time. Beginning next year, the start line will be moved to the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

For Sturbridge residents and public safety leaders, watching the final launch from the traditional start line brought a range of emotions, with riders pouring onto Route 20 in town for the last time.

“As this marks the final year the PMC will kick off from Sturbridge, it is bittersweet. While I am saddened to see the event move on, I am extremely proud of the many years we hosted the start of this ride without a single major safety issue,” Dessert said. “Our top priority has always been the safety of the riders, and I know we delivered the level of security they deserved—from full intersection coverage to detailed coordination across jurisdictions.”

Added Dessert, “To the men and women of the Sturbridge Police Department—thank you for always going the extra mile. The behind-the-scenes coordination and commitment each of you demonstrates every year is a point of pride for our agency and our community.”

To ensure a safe ride, local departments begin planning far in advance of the event, coordinating everything from traffic control operations to

rider and spectator supports.

“A heartfelt thank-you to Lieutenant Larry Bateman and Matthew Wyke (Sturbridge Emergency Management), who has overseen the security planning for the PMC for many years. Their work starts months in advance and is a major reason why this event has consistently gone off without a hitch,” Dessert said.

New Ruth Wells Center exhibit spotlights local artists

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is excited to present the works of Billy Bolster and John Polakowski for the August exhibit. The galleries are open Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., until Aug. 23. The exhibit is free and open to all. Visit the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com, or call 508-764-3341 for more information.

Many of you will know them as the Kleen Guyz soap makers, but they do other great stuff too.

John Polakowski paints in watercolor, oil and acrylic; the project dictates the medium. He enjoys the expressiveness of oils but will use acrylics if going for thick palette knife texture.

“My introduction to painting was under the guidance of Clair Birtz, the art department head at Southbridge High School,” Polakowski said. “Although I enjoyed the creative aspect, I did not pursue anything in that field until many years later. Around 2000, I got back into painting - my first class was in watercolor at the Worcester Night School program.

The PMC is a fully supported bike-a-thon that provides riders with fundraising tools and guidance; meals and snacks at hub sites; water stops along routes; and mechanical and medical assistance.

The PMC raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country. All funds raised by the event support the Dana-Farber Cancer In-

stitute, a world leader in adult and pediatric cancer treatment and research.

“I want to wish all PMC riders many more years of safe and successful rides,” Dessert said. “Lastly, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The PMC has raised an extraordinary amount of money for patients and families, and we are proud to

have played a small role in supporting that mission.”

The PMC is Dana-Farber’s single largest supporter. Since 1980, the event has raised roughly \$1.05 billion for Dana-Farber.

To learn more about the PMC and how you can join the fight against cancer by making a donation, visit www.pmc.org.

Until 5 years ago I did most of my work in watercolor and acrylic. In 2020, while on vacation at the Cape, I took a class in plein air oil painting. My apprehension to paint in oil quickly abated and it is now my go to. My love of the ocean and specifically the Cape has been a prime motivation in my work. Subsequently, I’ve taken classes at the Cape Cod School of Art, The Provincetown Art Association and Museum, and the Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill.

“I have shown pieces in these locations as well as the Falmouth Art Center, Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, JEL library in Southbridge, Pearle L. Crawford Library in Dudley and the Charlton Public Library. I’d like folks to see the diversity of life through my work. I’d like people to think, ‘Gee this guy’s had fun and experienced so much love that he wants to share it with everybody.’ I’d like you to love life, and enjoy the show.”

Billy Bolster weaves primarily in merino wool and baby alpaca. He likes the feel of these yarns,

the warmth they provide, and the sheen and softness of silk. He is starting to work more in cotton and linen in order to broaden the functionality of his pieces. After a lifetime of admiring and collecting classical art, Billy Bolster recently discovered his love for all things fiber. In 2024, he visited the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster. There he met Sharon Geyer, a weaver and instructor who has guided him in his work. Billy is fascinated with the concept of making yarns out of raw wool, silk, and flax fibers. He views spinning as an underappreciated skill. The creative dyes of the yarns in Billy’s pieces further enhance the mystique of both these ancient crafts. In using high quality yarns, Billy hopes to showcase the influence of other craftspeople in his work. His pieces are inspired by his husband John’s paintings, his heritage, the personality of the wearer, and Mother Nature.

Be sure to see these exquisite pieces- visit the Ruth Wells Center before Aug. 23.

Community soap making with Kulina Folk Art at Casaubon Senior Center

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Casaubon Senior Center, located at the Southbridge Community Center, 153 Chestnut St., Southbridge, is excited to present Kulina Folk Art with Soap Making. This a multi-genera-

tional workshop for ages eight and up. Grandparents are encouraged to bring their grandchildren to enjoy this fun-filled afternoon.

Kulina Folk Art by Geriné Arakelian was founded in 2017.

Growing up in Bucharest, she was influenced by her Armenian grandmother, who painted with oils, and artistic father who was both a skilled artist and graphic designer. After moving to the US at a young age she earned a BA in Commercial Art, then ventured into teaching art and instituting curriculum at esteemed institutions such as Worcester Art Museum, Fitchburg Art Museum, and more. During this time, she realized the boundless potential of creativity, leading her to develop creative workshops suitable for all ages and skill levels.

Soap making with Geriné will take place on Monday, Aug. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Casaubon Senior Center. Each participant will have the opportunity to make their very own soapy creation using high-quality glycerin-based soap. Ages for this workshop are for eight years and up, those 12 and under are required adult supervision. This program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Southbridge Community Center and Senior Center is a multi-functional facility providing social and recreational opportunities for all citizens of Southbridge and the local area. The Senior Center is very active and publishes the Casaubon Chronicle which details all the happenings each month. We hope to see you soon.

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GARDENING

continued from page 5

Flemenco series provide a unique flare. Include pentas with their star-shaped flowers to help attract and support butterflies. You'll find plants with white, red, pink, lavender, violet, and bicolor flowers, and even a few trailing varieties.

Cupheas are not only heat tolerant but are magnets for hummingbirds. These season-long bloomers are covered with flowers and do not need deadheading. Man-

devilla is another long-blooming, heat-tolerant plant that thrives in sunny locations. You'll find upright, trailing, and tall climbing varieties to include in gardens, containers, and hanging baskets.

If you are looking for a heat-tolerant, trailing plant, consider bidens. The BeeDance® series is an earlier and continuous flowering variety. Moss roses and other portulacas are also trailing and low-growing plants that can be used

as annual groundcovers, edging plants, and trailers in containers.

Look for more heat-tolerant cultivars of your favorite annuals that tend to stop blooming during hot weather. Heatopia™, Hot® Waterblue, Techno®, and Laguna® lobelias show more heat tolerance than many older lobelia cultivars. White Stream™, Snow Princess®, and Frosty Knight® are a few al-yssum cultivars to consider. They tolerate the heat but prefer moist well-drained soil.

Hot Pak™ French marigolds have been bred for increased hot weather tolerance. The triploid marigolds like Endurance™ and Zenith™ are a cross between the African and French marigolds. They have the longer bloom time of the French marigold and the heat tolerance of the African species.

Don't give up on heat stalled annual plants in your garden and containers. Continue to water the heat-stressed plants as needed but wait for them to

recover before fertilizing if needed. Trim back leggy plants and once the temperatures cool, the plants will start flowering.

Continue to watch for, try, and evaluate new, more heat-tolerant additions for your gardens and containers. Finding the right plants for your growing conditions and garden design can help boost your garden's beauty and your enjoyment even as temperatures rise.

Melinda Myers has

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



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Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd
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Bay Path awarded grant to expand adult workforce training

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is thrilled to announce it has been awarded a Career Technical Initiative (CTI) Round 10 grant totaling \$1,337,077.24, a workforce development initiative supported by the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet.

This highly competitive grant will allow Bay Path to deliver no-cost, credentialed training and job placement services to unemployed and underemployed adults across Worcester County. Training will be provided in Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Repair Technology, Building Maintenance, Culinary Arts, Diesel Technology, Electrical, HVAC, Manufacturing, and Welding—fields critical to the Commonwealth’s economic growth.

“We’re incredibly grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Workforce Skills Cabinet for this CTI grant,” said Superintendent-Director Kyle Brenner. “This funding allows Bay Path to significantly expand our adult training programs, directly addressing the critical demand for skilled tradespeople in our region. We’re proud to empower individuals with the skills they need to thrive, while helping build a stronger, more resilient workforce across Massachusetts.”

The Career Technical Initiative is designed to meet persistent workforce shortages in the trades and manufac-

turing sectors by leveraging the state’s vocational school infrastructure. Bay Path will continue its close collaboration with MassHire Career Centers and regional Workforce Boards to provide high-quality training leading to industry-recognized credentials and direct employment pathways.

Eligible participants must be 18 years or older and either unemployed or underemployed—defined as earning less than \$56,100 annually (or \$27 per hour). Most recent high school graduates qualify as underemployed and are encouraged to apply.

Bay Path is building on a record of success. Through previous CTI Rounds 7 and 9, the school trained more than 70 adult learners in trades such as Culinary Arts, HVAC, Manufacturing, and Automotive Collision Repair—many of whom are now working in their chosen industries.

“As a graduate of the CTI Program I am excited for the new group of students that will be able to take advantage of the hands-on vocational training. This program will provide them the skills and tools needed to acquire jobs and improve their lives. I am working in the auto collision field and am planning on more education to better my current position and enhance my career. The support that Bay Path and MassHire provided throughout the program and after with job assistance was key!” said Pamela Truenow / Long

Subaru, CTI Auto Collision class of 2025.

Bay Path’s CTI employer partners include Masonic Health System/The Overlook, ckSmith Superior, C&C Temp Control, Inc., Kinefac Corporation, Upper Blackstone Clean Water, Dexter, MassDOT, Sheet Metal Workers Local #63, BAPS, The Arc, Primetals, HVAC/R Service Contractors, Table 3 Restaurant Group, Fuller Collision Center, Long Subaru, Harr Motor

Group, UMass, and Flexcon.

As the need for skilled tradespeople continues to grow, Bay Path and its network of employer partners remain committed to building opportunity, strengthening local economies, and supporting the success of working families across the Commonwealth.

Interested participants can learn more or apply by visiting masshirecentralcc.com/baypathcti.

School District to receive free early literacy tutors

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District is among 272 districts that will receive free, high-dose early literacy tutoring in the upcoming school year thanks to state funding.

The announcement was made by Gov. Maura Healey’s administration on Aug. 4 which confirmed that the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District was among the hundreds of educational institutions that will receive the service with a primary focus on helping students in early education, particularly first grade, build foundational reading skills. The program, which is operated through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), provides tutors at no cost to the districts or students.

In her announcement, Healey touted the tutors as an important tool to help prepare younger students for later years in school and build a stable foundation for their education journey.

“It’s crucial for our teachers and schools to have access to the resources they need to support every young reader,” said Healey in a statement. “This initiative will help bring high-dosage early literacy tutoring directly to students who need it most, giving them the foundational skills essential for long-term success. With the partnership of the Legislature, we are delivering schools the support they need to reach all their learners.”

Our correspondent reached out to the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, where Assistant Superintendent Kelly True explained that this isn’t the first time the schools have received tutoring funding from different sources, but that this state funding, which will benefits first graders at Charlton Elementary School and Mason Road School in Dudley, will be essential to helping preparing students for their long-term education.

“Early literacy is obviously incredibly important because this is where our students are really just first starting to understand how to learn. Their learning the alphabet, their learning all the sounds and how to put them together, building phonological awareness. For some kids, it can be hard to put it all together. At this point, and especially this year, it seems to be even more critical that we have this kind of tutoring,” said True.

Dudley and Charlton had previously qualified for these support services through Title 1 grant funding from the state, which allocates money based on a formula involving the number of low-income students and families. Several district schools had been grandfathered into that program, but this coming school year is the first that Charlton Schools will not benefit from that funding making the Governor’s announcement even more significant to the district’s continue support of early literacy.

The program is funded through the Governor’s \$1.3 billion supplemental budget which included \$25 million in Fair Share money as part of the administration’s goal of improving literacy for students across the Commonwealth. Schools selected for the program were required to prove that they were embracing high-quality early literacy models to qualify.

The tutoring will be offered both in-person and virtually to allow flexibility with the child’s schedule and availability. The tutors are provided through a third-party contracted by the state.

Southbridge Rotary presents local student with telescope

SOUTHBRIDGE — At last Wednesday’s meeting of the Southbridge Rotary Club, the guest of honor was Jack Carney and his father, Wally.

Jack Carney is an 11 year old, sixth grader in the Charlton School system who has a keen interest in all things science. He has a special interest in astronomy. For the past few months Jack and his father, have been working with Southbridge resident Dino Tata, a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador assisting Jack in his search for astronomical knowledge.



Courtesy

Left to right: Marc Peloquin, Dino Tata, and Wally Carney, with Jack in the middle.

The path to Rotary presenting Jack with the telescope started when Marc Peloquin, a frequent guest at the Rotary Club, contacted Mr. Tata, mentioning that he had inherited a telescope. Mr. Peloquin did not need it and asked if a home could be found for it. Mr. Tata immediately thought of Jack and a plan was formulated to make the offering. While working with the telescope it was decided that while it was a very good telescope, it was not the appropriate one for a young boys first telescope.

At that point, the Rotary Club stepped up and agreed to purchase a new scope for Jack. The telescope purchased was a Celestron AstroMaster 120 AZ and appears to be the perfect first telescope for Jack or any young beginner. The original Peloquin telescope will be presented to the Aldrich Astronomical Society. Club members were very impressed with Jack’s intelligence and the way he handled himself at the meeting.

St. Vincent de Paul Society to host Friends of the Poor Walk and Family Fun Day

STURBRIDGE — The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale will host its second annual Friends of the Poor Walk, along with its first-ever Family Fun Day on Saturday, Sept. 13, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Sturbridge Common.

The event promises a full day of fun and community spirit, featuring Maggie the Clown, alpacas from Ledgecreek Farm, a variety of vendors, food, games for both children and adults, a DJ, live music by G Note & The Tinman, and much more.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward supporting local individuals and families in need across Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales, and other nearby towns. The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale provides practical assistance throughout the year, including emergency

housing, rental and utility help, food, clothing, and other essential needs—serving people of all backgrounds and faiths.

The Fiskdale conference raises funds through parish poor boxes, public donations, and events such as this one. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates in 153 countries, with more than 4,000 local conferences, and is run entirely by members committed to tackling poverty in all its forms.

Residents are encouraged to attend the event for a day of family fun while also supporting a worthy cause.

For more information contact svdpfiskdalepr@gmail.com. To make a donation, visit our Web site: svdpfiskdale.org and click on the “Donate” button. To register for the event, scan below or go to the events tab at svdpfiskdale.org.

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