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Thursday-Friday, January 25-26, 2024

Bay Path alum's act of kindness featured in Woman's World Magazine

CHARLTON — Kindness takes on many meanings. Everyone knows the Golden Rule: Treat others how you'd like to be treated and most everyone would like to be treated kindly.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, RN, CRRN congratulates Aminat Poku, LPN of Southbridge for her story's publication in the national magazine Woman's World Magazine. Poku graduated in 2023, Turn To **POKU** page **A15**



Aminat Poku

Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center undergoes name change, rebranding

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge, Massachusetts-based Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center has completed a name change and rebranding to the historically rich Wellsworth Hotel.

The change of name, brand reconfiguration and new website pays homage to the historic and entrepreneurial spirit of George Washington Wells, who was the owner of what became one of the largest and most respected optical companies in the world - the American Optical Company, locally known as "AO."

Wells believed that everyone who needed them - not just the elite - should have access to eyeglasses. Thus, he changed history by bringing eyeglass manufacturing to the U.S. in the late 1800's, by converting a textile mill in Southbridge into an optical factory, which houses the Wellsworth Hotel today. The company used the Wellsworth trademark starting in 1911 until 1927. The evolution of the Wellsworth brand began as a type of lens, the Wellsworth Crookes, then extended onto a frame, the Wellsworth Windsors a.k.a. "the most beautiful spectacle in America," and then to AO's ahead-of-its-time lifestyle magazine, The Wellsworth.

In fact, the historic landmark holds such reverence that the American Optical Historic District will be formally designated to the National Register of Historic Places during a plaque ceremony at the hotel on

Turn To **HOTEL** page **A15**

Charlton enters partnership to study regional dispatch options

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The town of Charlton has agreed to enter a multi-town study to examine the feasibility of regionalizing emergency dispatch. The study, funded through the State 911 Department, will also include the towns of Leicester, Spencer, and Sturbridge and will explore the potential for a regional dispatch center serving all four towns. It does not bind Charlton to commit to the plan if the other communities choose to proceed.

The Charlton selectmen hosted a discussion with Police Chief Daniel Dowd on Jan. 9 where they eventually cast their vote to submit an attestation letter expressing their interest in joining the study. Selectman Bill Borowski noted this isn't the first time the town has explored a regionalization option and expressed interest in seeing what the study has to offer.

"I think conceptually, it's normally a good idea. I think Chief Dowd would attest that our dispatchers do a lot more than just dispatching. They're literally there to check on people in the cells, to help monitor that hall, etcetera. I don't think there's a problem putting the letter in because there's no obligation. I've seen this in tons of communities, but I've never seen an option where it would work for us. I could be pleasantly surprised this time around," said Borowski.

Dowd said he feels the town should "test the waters" to determine if a regional option is right for Charlton. He explained that regionalization isn't just about cutting costs. It's more about increasing efficiencies, especially in a region where

departments work so closely together on a variety of emergencies.

"Obviously, everyone wants to be by themselves ideally, but there's a cost to that. There's

Turn To **CHARLTON** page **A15**



Fattman, Smola present \$10,000 to Old Sturbridge Village to fund field trips

STURBRIDGE — Almost everyone familiar with Old Sturbridge Village knows it because of a school field trip they or their children took at one point in the last 40 years. The Museum Education department at the Village has seen hundreds of thousands of students, teachers, and chaperones through its doors to date. Schools from surrounding areas and states plan visits to sup-

port their humanities curriculum and enjoy a day traveling back in time to learn about life in the 1830s.

On Friday, Dec. 14, Sen. Ryan C. Fattman (R) and Rep. Todd M. Smola (R) presented a check for \$15,000 to aid experiential learning opportunities for local school students. The funds were acquired through the 2024 Fiscal Year state

budget. As a result of the 2021 redistricting, the town of Sturbridge was added to Fattman's district (Worcester Hampden). Fattman's goal is to understand the economic and educational assets in his district therefore creating this relationship with the Village. This is the first time Senator Fattman has acquired a budget earmark for Old Sturbridge Village.

Says Fattman, "There are a number of gems within my district and there is no doubt that Old Sturbridge Village is one of those. Allowing students to visit and experience OSV is critical to their understanding of the history of our area."

Fattman continues, "This funding through the state budget will provide students in the

greater area the ability to see history come alive."

The Museum Education department offers several different options for school visits from self-guided tours to custom, hands-on workshop experiences, to Town Hall meetings or debates.

Says Jim Donahue, "We are grateful Turn To **OSV** page **A15**

Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale announces major renovation project for historic meetinghouse

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale has announced a significant renovation project is now underway for its Meetinghouse located at 8 Maple St. According to Board Chair Tim Bardsley, the project marks the first major renovation of the building in over three decades.

The renovation plan, which has been in development for more than two years, includes a complete refurbishment of the church sanctuary, that involves cleaning and painting the walls, ceilings, and other surfaces, and sanding,

and painting the pews. The sanctuary will be closed for four to six weeks during renovations, and weekly services will be temporarily held in Fellowship Hall.

In spring, the focus will shift outdoors with a gentle cleaning of the exterior siding, painting of all wood surfaces, and essential repairs to the historic clock faces in the steeple tower, which also houses the church's treasured Paul Revere bell.

"The total estimated cost for the project is \$200,000, but generous donations from church Members have made it possible to begin the interior work," said Bardsley. "We will also be applying for historic preservation grants and soliciting additional donations from the community to assure the project's completion."

According to Bardsley, W.C. Painting, of Worcester, is the contractor for the project. "We considered a number of firms for the job," he said, "but W.C. came highly recommended, they were the most reasonably priced and the most responsive to our completion schedule."

Constructed in 1910, after the original 1872 church at this location was lost to a lightning-induced fire, the classic New England Meetinghouse is a familiar landmark in the historic Town Common District, between the Sturbridge Town Hall and the Joshua Hyde Public Library. It became home to the Federated Church in 1923. In addition to being at the center of weekly services, funerals, and other church activities, the Meetinghouse has long served as a hub for community groups, hosting Boy and Girl Scouts, AA meetings, and other events, and it currently provides temporary housing for the Sturbridge Senior Center. The church's scenic location, New England charm, and proximity to the historic Public House Inn and Restaurant make it a popular choice for weddings, drawing both local and out-of-town guests.



Courtesy

The sanctuary of the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale is undergoing a major renovation.

For additional information, please contact the Church office at (774) 304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives. Community members are welcome and invited to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Services are also live-streamed on the church's Facebook page.

Southbridge Garden Club welcomes scholarship applications

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Garden Club will again offer scholarships to high school seniors who will be attending accredited colleges and universities. The amount of the award will be \$1,000, and we anticipate awarding two scholarships this year. Applications are due April 5.

Scholarships are available to students with a major focusing on horticulture, landscape design or architecture, conservation, forestry, environmental studies, land/soil management, botany, and allied subjects.

The applicant must be a resident of Massachusetts, have a minimum "B" average (3.0 on a 4.0 scale), and be of good character. Application forms are available at applicant's high school guidance office.

The student is required to complete all parts of the application. The review committee will not consider incomplete applications and the applications will not be returned. The application must include:

1. Student's name, address, email address and telephone number
2. Short paragraph on family background (parents and siblings).
3. Short paragraph or a resume describing extra-curricular school and community activities.

4. Names of colleges or schools to which student has applied and the acceptance status.
5. Short paragraph on area of academic concentration and future goals.
6. An essay (300-500 words) focusing on a person or event that influenced your career choice.
7. Student's most recent school transcript.
8. Three letters of recommendation.

Please return completed application and all related documents to: Southbridge Garden Club Scholarship Committee, c/o Elaine Bouvier, 37 Tipton Rock Rd., Southbridge, MA 01550.

The Southbridge Garden Club has been serving the Tri-Community area since 1953 and became a member of the Garden Club Federation in Massachusetts in 2003. The Club's mission is to "share an interest in horticulture and to expand our knowledge of gardening for our mutual benefit and that of our local communities."

REAL ESTATE

BRIMFIELD

\$165,000, 1477 Dunhamtown Brimfield Rd, Resi Asset Mtg Pro 2006-E, and Us Bank Na Tr, to Anischik, Richard.

CHARLTON

\$5,500,000, 130 Sturbridge Rd, Jencent LLC, to Premier Trailers LLC.

\$580,000, 86 E Baylies Rd, Oja, Joanne I, to Dion Jr, John A.

HOLLAND

\$183,000, 10 Barclay St, Lesbirel, Peter, and Lesbirel, Petra, to Downey, Christopher, and Downey, Deborah B.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$500,000, 152 Brentwood Dr, Gervasi, Richard A, and Gervasi, Catherine M, to Desharnais, Minhthu, and Desharnais, Jacob L.

\$490,000, 5 Bowlen Ave, Chlapowski, Tracey T, to Asongwed, Ismail.

\$470,000, 1047 Dennison Dr, Rosa, Marcos A, and Reyes, Deymi, to Guivas, William, and Guivas, Iliana.

\$300,000, 322 Worcester St, Miele, Joseph V, to Premier Rc Properties LLC.

STURBRIDGE

\$1,100,000, 446 Main St, Ying, Dong Y, and Ying, Chin L, to Chen, Dan, and Ren, Jinxiang.

\$478,500, 4 Crescent Way #4, Rougemont, Joan M, to Haddad, Candace L.

\$344,500, 493 Leadmine Rd, Ellen J Maguire RET, and Maguire, Michael T, to Michael T Maguire RET, and Maguire, Michael T.

\$320,000, 7 Village Grn #7, Nowak, Sharon A, to Eisnor, Steven G.

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Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

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Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200

Office Hours:
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Friday..... Closed

visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.

Individual offices may vary
PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)
For library hours please check www.charltonlibrary.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)

Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For emergencies, dial 911

FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)

Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

POST OFFICES

Charlton Center Post Office... (800) 275-8777
Charlton City (01508)..... (800) 275-8777

SCHOOLS

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
..... (508) 943-6888
Charlton Elementary School
..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435
Heritage School (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School..... (508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
..... (508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical
High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

HOLLAND: 413-245-7108
Mon - Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FISKDALE: 508-347-6486
Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463
Weekdays 8:30 - 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451
Weekdays: 9:00 - 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 - 12:30 and 2:00 - 4:30 and
Sat. 9:00 - 12:00

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., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.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.

• **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 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 Phone 508-347-7297

Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org Services - Sunday 9:30 am Pastor Dan Purtell

• **Holland Congregation Church** "Where the Bible is preached."

11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926 Hollandchurch.org

Sunday Service @ 10:00 am Pastor Dan Maketansky

Sturbridge Zoning Board OKs cell tower variance

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The Zoning Board of Appeals gave the Vertex cell tower proposed for Stallion Hill Road the green light on Jan. 17, in a public hearing that drew no public comments.

That decision, in practice, just sends it back to the Planning Board, which had postponed its own ongoing hearing to see what ZBA would do. The PB is handling most of the project's issues, but ZBA had to address one specific point: whether to give Vertex a variance from the bylaw's required 150 feet of frontage. The parcel has only had 100 for many years since being subdivided before zoning went into effect.

One key deciding point was that the board had granted exactly that same variance for the expansion of the home on the 22-acre parcel a couple years ago.

Before they made that decision, town-hired peer reviewer David Mackson said it "seems like a very simple question." If the ZBA approved, the PB could then look at "all the potential alternatives, if there are any," under the federal Tele-

Turn To STURBRIDGE page A15

DA offers grants for safe post-prom, post-graduation events

WORCESTER — The office of Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. is now accepting applications for its grants to support safe post-prom and post-graduation events that keep students from driving impaired.

The grant program has supported these events, organized and overseen by adults, which offer safe drug- and alcohol-free alternatives to the high-risk activities that often follow end of the year celebrations for high school students.

"Prom and graduation are supposed to be the best nights of high school. We want to avoid seeing these celebrations turn into tragedies," Early said. "We know that life can change in the blink of an eye, and often does. By encouraging kids to celebrate in safe, fun environments, we can prevent a tragedy before it happens and ensure all our youth go on to fulfill their bright futures."

The grant program is now in its sixth year and has supported post-prom



and post-graduation events schools across Worcester at more than 20 different

Turn To DA page A15

FEMA initiates update of Southbridge hazard plan

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

— The federal government is requiring (and funding) Southbridge to go through a process that might look quite similar to one the town chose to go through about two years ago.

Back then, Southbridge embarked on the state's Municipal Vulnerability Program to review key climate risks and potential projects. Now, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is beginning its renewal of the similar Hazard Mitigation Program process.

According to FEMA contractor Sarah Baryluk, federal requirements "aren't very flexible," and require such a review every five years. Some towns are able to dovetail HMP with MVP, but that doesn't work for Southbridge.

But she notes her team is already looking at the MVP plan and various other documents, with an intention to incorporate them into FEMA's work. They'll send out community surveys soon and release a draft report online in February. That will be followed by public comment forums over the spring, with a goal of compiling a final report later this year. The whole process, she noted, doesn't cost

the town anything; it's being done under the auspices of FEMA's relatively new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, which will also offer grants to fund some of the proposed projects.

Town Planner Ken Comia said the Conservation Commission and Planning Board's role will be to "get the word out" and help find participants.

To ConCom co-chair Natasha Nowick, that sparked an idea. She asked if it could help the town deal with "problem trees in Cady Brook" or even create what are effectively greenways on town waterways. She also asked if anyone has yet "brought up a neighborhood that's slowly liquefying and sliding downhill" — a reference to years-old issues at Pleasant Hills Estates that residents recently brought to the board.

At the Planning Board, Pam Paquin has also repeatedly expressed concerns about the safety of downtown levees and dams along the Quinebaug and major tributaries. (Those were also a major point of the MVP plan.) During their ongoing 40-50 Optical Dr. hearing, she has cited a FEMA report that points to a need to do some work on

the AO campus levees, although Franklin Realty's Chip Norton said he has never seen those recommendations.

Baryluk said the program can fund activities related to protecting Southbridge from the four identified key threats (and others this update might identify) — severe snowstorms, severe thunderstorms, flood and hurricanes. That report cited a total of around 12.

That list dates back to the previous HMP update in 2019, the report for which is on the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission's website. It identified about 30 possible projects, and Baryluk said this round will look at where those stand to plan the next five years. Those can be in several areas, including town bylaw and regulation updates, infrastructure projects, public outreach and citizen home upgrades, and natural systems like floodplain and wetland restoration.

"We're not trying to [list] pie in the sky projects that won't actually be done," Baryluk noted, later adding, "This is by far not the last time you'll be hearing from us."

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

Friends of the Charlton Library holding coffee fundraiser

CHARLTON — The Friends of Charlton Public Library is sponsoring a coffee fundraiser in partnership with Sturbridge Coffee Roasters. Seven different blends, including two medium roast, two dark roast, one decaf, and two seasonal favorites - Winter Wonderland, and Chocolate Raspberry - are available for purchase.

Order forms are available at the Charlton Public Library or online at the Friends Facebook page. The deadline to order is Thursday, Feb. 1. Orders

will then be filled within two to four weeks. For questions or more information, email charltonfriends@gmail.com.

The mission of the Friends of Charlton Public Library is to provide assistance to the Library through fundraising endeavors and volunteer service. The Friends promote and advocate for the Library as a center for lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and community gathering.

Local Eastern students named to Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester, in which more than 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among the students are:

Jordyn Szretter of Charlton, a full-time junior who majors in Economics.

Cooper Way of Charlton, a full-time sophomore who majors in English.

Hannah Johnson of Holland, a full-time first-year student who majors in Physical Education.

Eva Glaser of Sturbridge, a full-time senior who majors in English.

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded course work with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Jacob Edwards Library offers help with MassHealth applications

SOUTHBRIDGE — Received a blue envelope? Need to apply for MassHealth insurance benefits? Call now to schedule an appointment with a certified application counselor at the Jacob Edwards Library Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Counselors will be on hand in the Pioppi Room from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (508) 949-6640. The library is located at 236 Main St.



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Hailey
Age 16

Hi! My name is Hailey and I love animals! Below is a letter I have written to help you get to know me.

Hi, my name is Hailey. I go by Kai, and I am a sociable, funny, cool, kind, sweet, and outgoing person. I am someone who likes to stay on topic, listen to others, and am a good planner. I consider myself a brave person and a hard worker. I would also describe myself as artistic and creative. I enjoy singing, playing guitar, and making crafts. I was recently accepted to a local trade school, and I am excited to start there. I hope to open a restaurant one day and learn how to cook more.

I have several family members who I am close with including my aunt and grandmother. I am particularly close with my aunt who I speak with about funny things, my emotions, and my hopes. Along with my many strengths I also have many talents and interests. I like to ride horses, play hockey, video games, board games, and go swimming. I like to cook, bake, and draw anime.

I am looking for a family that will love me and have fun with me! I would like to do many activities with my family including horseback riding, arts and crafts, movie nights, and cooking/baking. I am also learning to play the piano. I also would be a big help to my family by doing chores, playing with any siblings, and making everyone laugh. I would also love a visiting resource. I hope to speak with you soon!

Sincerely, K
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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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Gateway Players presents "Death by Chocolate"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre of Southbridge presents "Death by Chocolate" by Paul Freed. Performances will be held on Feb. 23 and 24 and March 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m., and on March 3 at 2 p.m. All performances will be held at the Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Parking is available on Elm Street, or in the parking deck behind the Southbridge Town Hall. This production will be directed by Mikey Dearn, and produced by Eric Hart.

The Feb. 24 performance will be a Dessert Theatre. Tickets are \$25, and will include a variety of desserts and beverages served prior to the performance and during intermission. Tickets for the other performances are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://gateway-players.ticketleap.com/deathbychocolate>.

Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Members of the newly renovated Meadowbrook Health Resort are dropping like flies, including famed chef Edith Chiles! On the eve of the grand re-opening, this is not the best advertisement. It's up to John Stone, the manager, to find the cause and the murderer. Delightfully sarcastic and cynical, Stone finds himself teaming up with Ed Parlor, mystery writer and amateur sleuth, in a wacky race against time. The clues point to a sinister box of chocolates, and the suspects include all the outlandish characters working for the resort. Could it be Lady Riverdale, owner of the resort and a woman with dark secrets? Or Ralph Deadwood, gym instructor and all-around cad? Dick Simmering, the aerobics instructor? Anne, the panic-stricken nurse? Or could it be "Sweet Pea" Meadowbrook, overweight and grieving daughter of the recently deceased founder of the resort? "Death by Chocolate" combines all the elements of classic murder mysteries with a scathing satire of today's health crazes.

DCRSD utilizing capital plan funds for review of Shepherd Hill

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — With the Dudley Charlton Regional School District's application for Massachusetts School Building Authority money for Shepherd Hill Regional High School rescinded in 2023, the district has begun examining ways to continue progress towards the needed renovation or replacement of the high school. On Jan. 10, the School Committee took the first big step by utilizing money available in the district's Capital Expenditure Plan to move forward with a review of the building.

Director of Finance and Operations Richard Mathieu approached the committee with a proposal that would utilize money already available in the capital plan to include Shepherd Hill in a series of architectural reviews of several school buildings. Mathieu said the capital plan has been "very successful" and the architectural review is one of the final phases but original-

ly only included six schools as the district hoped to take advantage of the lucrative MSBA program for the high school. In 2023, the district was forced to withdraw its application for MSBA funding after Dudley voters failed to commit to the financial elements of the application. Mathieu said this hasn't changed the need for work at Shepherd Hill, so he proposed adding a review of the school to the capital plan.

"Our expected participation in the MSBA program for renovation or replacement did not come to fruition. However, the votes against participation in the MSBA program and the reimbursement that is offered did not remove the need for repairs at Shepherd Hill. As a result, the option of providing an architectural review for Shepherd Hill was included in the procurement of the firm to perform (the review)," said Mathieu.

Habib and Associates was the success-

ful respondent for the reviews and quoted their work at \$20,000. The district's Capital Outlay and School Safety Subcommittee approved bringing the proposal forward for the full School Committee to consider as a way to at least make progress towards the needed work at the high school without added expenses to the district's towns.

"The original budget for the project was \$125,000. The additional services for this review were quoted at \$20,000. So, by including Shepherd Hill, the total expenses would be \$145,000 which still leaves the overall expenses of the capital plan well below the \$7.5 million authorization," said Mathieu.

The School Committee voted unanimously to approve the appropriation. The architectural review does not replace the extensive work and access to resources that would have been included with the MSBA application. That program would have included a partially refund-

able feasibility study, which is different from a simple review of the building's condition, and qualified the district for grant opportunities under the MSBA to help cover the cost of renovations or rebuilding. As such, the architectural review will only give the district an idea of what work is required for the high school. Any further investment will need to be addressed at a future date.

School officials made clear last year that the decision by the town of Dudley did not permanently exclude the district from MSBA funding in the future, but will force them to restart their application from the beginning in a highly competitive program. Any future consideration by the MSBA would also still require a vote of approval from the public to embrace the cost sharing requirements. The School Committee has not made any indication they will re-apply in the immediate future.

Charlton Public Library launches new early literacy program

CHARLTON — Charlton Public Library is excited to offer the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program!

This nationwide program is a fun, free way to build your child's early literacy skills, and we're here

to help. The goal is simple: read 1,000 books to your child before they enter kindergarten, and help them

climb the ladder to reading success!

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Children from birth to age five can sign up in

the Children's Room at the Charlton Public Library starting Jan. 22. You'll receive a folder, bookmarks, reading logs, and a fun bag to help you carry your library books home. Please email Kathy McGrath at kmcgrath@cwmarso.org with any questions.

This program is made possible by a generous donation from the Friends of Charlton Public Library.

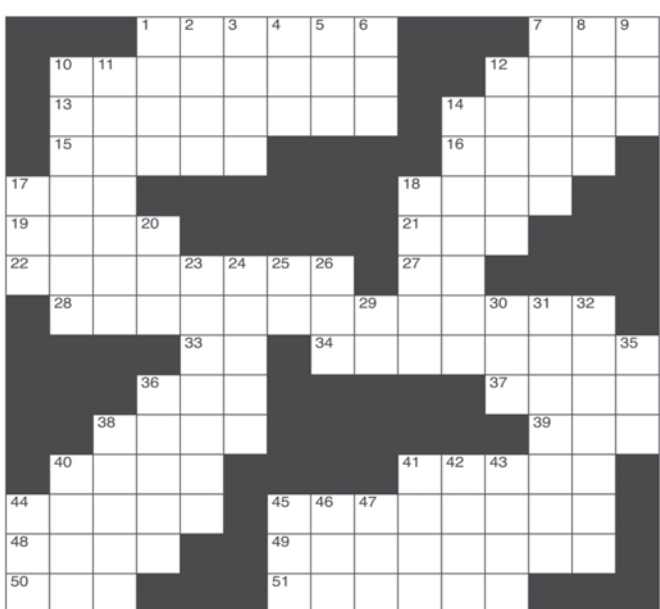
Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton.

Nomination papers available for Southbridge election

SOUTHBRIDGE — The annual town election will be held in Southbridge on Tuesday, June 11, and nomination papers will be available to persons who wish to run for local office beginning Tuesday, Jan. 17.

The offices needing to be filled are:
Councilor At Large (three years): Three
School Committee (three years): Two
Town Clerk (three years)
Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School Committee (three years)
Southbridge Redevelopment Authority (five years)

Nomination papers require 43 signatures for all town-wide offices. Nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk's office for certification of signatures by Tuesday, April 23 at 5 p.m. For more information regarding the town election for Southbridge and how to obtain nomination papers, call the office of the Town Clerk at (508) 764-5408.

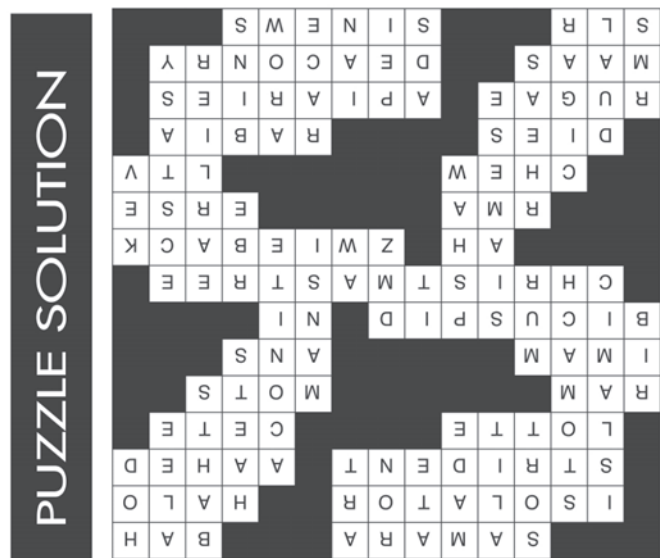


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Winged nut
- 7. ___ Humbug!
- 10. One who sets apart
- 12. Circle above a saint's head
- 13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh
- 14. Expressed pleasure
- 15. Feminine given name
- 16. Company of badgers
- 17. Popular Dodge pickup truck
- 18. Witty sayings
- 19. Leader
- 21. Autonomic nervous system
- 22. Premolar
- 27. Atomic #28
- 28. Holiday decorative item
- 33. Exclamation of surprise
- 34. Rusk or cracker
- 36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- 38. Eat
- 39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
- 40. Ceases to exist
- 41. Male Arabic name
- 44. Series of ridges on an organ wall
- 45. Places where bees are kept
- 48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
- 49. Church office
- 50. Single lens reflex
- 51. Pieces of fibrous tissue

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Classify
- 2. Dismounted
- 3. Produced
- 4. Consumed
- 5. Director Howard
- 6. The products of human creativity
- 7. Thai monetary units
- 8. Away from wind
- 9. Builder's trough
- 10. Relating to Islam
- 11. It can sometimes ache
- 12. Small quantities (Scot.)
- 14. Poisonous plant
- 17. Laugh at
- 18. Vogul
- 20. C. European river
- 23. Type of cat
- 24. Exclamation of disgust
- 25. Stephen King novel
- 26. Without armies
- 29. Expression of sympathy
- 30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 31. Previously
- 32. Illegal drug
- 35. Kiloelectronvolt
- 36. Large, flightless birds
- 38. For smoking
- 40. Binary
- 41. Competition
- 42. Mark resembling an arrow
- 43. Containers
- 44. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 45. Commercials
- 46. I.M., architect
- 47. 007's creator



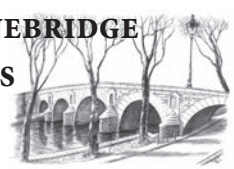
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STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK C. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DiNICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagenewspapers.com

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Charlton Federated Church calls first female minister

CHARLTON — The Federated Church of Charlton (FCC) has called the Rev. Shannan Hudgins to be its next settled pastor. She is the first female to hold the position of settled pastor in the 262-year history of the church.

Before assuming this position, she served as a hospice chaplain with Baystate Home Health and Hospice in West Springfield. She held this position for four years during which, she also provided sabbatical and pulpit supply for churches across New England. During the first 20 months of the pandemic, she also served as Minister Assistant at the First Congregational Church of Vernon, Conn. She holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Andover Newton Theological School at Yale University, as well as a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

A native of Texas, Hudgins had successful careers in various business and non-profit organizations in New York and New Hampshire before entering the ministry. At one point, she was also the co-owner of Gibson's Bookstore in Concord, a successful independent bookstore. She was ordained in the United Church of Christ in August of 2022. While the Federated Church of Charlton will be her first as a senior pastor,

she has extensive experience working in a variety of New England churches in both volunteer and paid staff capacities. She has two adult children and is awaiting the arrival of her first grandchild.

Hudgins began her ministry in Charlton with the Church Season of Advent on Dec. 1. She can be reached by calling the Church at 508-248-5550 or emailing her at pastorshannan@charltonfedchurch.org.

The FCC is a federation of the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association in Christian worship together. The Church descends from a number of churches active in the Charlton community over the centuries. The first of these was founded in 1761, six years after the town was formed in 1755. The FCC is the first church to be founded in this community and the only one remaining on the town common.

Highlights from its long history include the first minister, Caleb Curtis (1727-1802), blessing the Minutemen who left from Charlton to fight at Lexington and Concord in April of 1775. Curtis was also the area's representative to the Continental Congress and in the summer of 1776, read the Declaration of Independence from the pulpit as ordered by the Massachusetts General Court.

The Church's second meetinghouse was constructed in 1798. Con-

taining 100 pews on the main floor and 50 in the balcony it was one of the largest meetinghouses in all of Worcester County when it was built.

In response to the Unitarian controversy in 1825, the First Congregational Calvinistic Church was formed. A Unitarian church was also created and shortly afterwards it united with the Universalist Society of Charlton becoming the First Union Society of Charlton, which held Christian Universalist beliefs. The First Congregational Calvinistic Church and the First Union Society would draft Articles of Federation in 1922 creating the Federated Church. In May of that same year the Universalist church building burned. The property was donated to the town so that the Charlton High School could be built there. The building is currently used as the Charlton Town Hall.

On Christmas Day in 1939, the Federated Church building burned to the ground. Despite the severe economic times, the Federated Church was able to raise the funds to build a new building which opened in 1941, just two years after the disastrous blaze.

The Educational Wing was added to the present church building in 1964 and the building was made handicapped accessible in 2001.

Local residents named to Dean's List at Bridgewater State

BRIDGEWATER — The following Massachusetts residents were named to the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester at Bridgewater State University:

Auburn

Simon Benton, Abigail Gaudreau, Mackenzie Greenidge, Emily Healy, Shea Kobel, Anna Novakoski and Ava Novakoski.

Blackstone

Madison Abrants, Zoe Bergeron, Brad Chausse, Mackenzie Gill, Alexis Harrison, Erin McGuire, Mia Russo, Stephanie Spear, Gabriella Torricelli and Natalie Torricelli.

Brimfield

Spike Austin and Giana Uwazany

Charlton

Kayla Canty, Samantha D'Arcangelo, Olliver Dickinson, Molly Johnson and Kianaly Pedraza.

Douglas

Madalyn Carr, Essined Colon, Samantha Gibson, Lauren Johnson, Joshua McCullen, Matthew Mooney, Michael Pembroke and Cody Winchell.

East Brookfield

Mackenzie St Laurent

Fiskdale

Nate Eliason and Allison Morin

Leicester

Brynn Cooney, Hannah Dufries and Shannon Tuson.

Milford

Faith Ballarino, Julia Cacciola, Edith Caguana, Natalie Da Cunha, Megan Danahey, Mayra Desousa, Mack Enright, Tiago Filadelfo, Brianna Guerreiro, Tesha Houston, Alya Lainez, Frankie Lange, Ashley LaVergne, Brenna Mackie, Aiden Mandile, Yasmin Silva, Eric Stockwell

and John Tomaso.

Millville

Charlie Dakai and Myra Dehestani

Milton

Owen Flaherty and Kyle Mancini

North Brookfield

Shannon Daige

Northbridge

Emily Wheeler

Oxford

Rachel Fox, Corinne Holmes, Danielle Johnson and Lucas Lambert.

Southbridge

Adryanne Gonzalez

Spencer

Morgan Girard

Sturbridge

Megan Hooker, Ryan Manners and Alec Merrifield.

Sutton

Kiley Blanchard, Brynn Courtney and Kyla Rae.

Upton

Allison Ceruti

Uxbridge

Lilyanna Bain, Amanda Brochu, Geovanna Freire, Maia Harris, Riley Holt, Paige Irving and Brenna Neill.

Webster

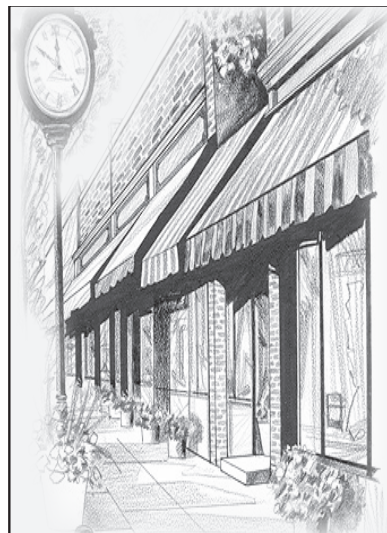
Lily Picchioni and Aryanah Walker-Sanchez

West Brookfield

Paige Latter

Whitinsville

Lizzie Duca, Mackenzie Gifford, Gabrielle Mateer, Ian Reed, Makayla Robinson and Nate Survell.



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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Dealing with the winter chill as days grow longer

As the winter season brings us negative degree temperatures, it's easy to succumb to the urge to hibernate. While the cold weather can be daunting, it brings with it the promise of longer, warmer, brighter days ahead.

Winter is often associated with shorter days and longer nights, a time when the sun's warmth feels distant. But it's important to remember that change is a constant in nature. With each passing day, we inch closer to the end of winter, and the natural world around us begins to respond.

One of the most remarkable transformations that occurs during winter is the gradual increase in daylight hours. It's as if Mother Nature herself is whispering words of encouragement to us, reminding us that brighter days are on the horizon. The winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, marks a turning point. After that, every day brings a little more daylight into our lives, and a little less darkness.

The crisp, clean air invigorates our senses, and the world outside is transformed into a winter wonderland. Snow blankets our worlds, turning ordinary scenes into breathtaking vistas. The stillness of winter can provide a sense of calm and serenity.

Moreover, the frigid weather can teach us valuable lessons about adaptability and resilience. Just as nature endures the challenges of winter and emerges stronger in the spring, we too can find strength in facing adversity. Winter encourages us to appreciate the warmth of our homes, the comfort of a hot cup of cocoa, and the joy of spending time with loved ones indoors as well as outdoors.

Each additional minute of daylight is a reminder that life is cyclical, and the seasons will continue to change.

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

Splitting churches

Since 2019, you may have heard or read about the United Methodist Church being, well, not united. Especially for the past five years, but truly for the past fifty years, we have been fighting one another about whether to marry and ordain (and treat) LGBTQ+ persons equally. As of last year, the denomination officially split, though it hasn't affected churches in New England nearly as much as other parts of the country. You may hear more news about us in the coming months as what remains of the United Methodist Church meets for its General Conference in April.

Why would I want to write an article about the fact that my denomination can't even live up to its name? It's quite simple, really. I'm not a fan of my denomination. I'm not a fan of yours, either. I'm not a fan of any denomination.

Indeed, the first Methodists, John and Charles Wesley, worked hard to convince Methodists to never become a denomination. The point of Methodism, as a movement, was to inspire and enliven Christians of all stripes, all doctrines, to boldly live into the fire of the Holy Spirit. Methodism was not meant to be another separation of Christianity but instead a unifying force, an opportunity for all Christians to re-engage their faith and take it seriously, so that whatever we believe, we live out our faith in daily life and do all we can, in all areas of life, to be faithful.

BEYOND THE PEWS

BY REV. DAWN M. ADAMS
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF BRIMFIELD

Denominations tend to deaden faith rather than ignite faith. Denominations put time and energy and resources into survival and self-promotion, and then with fighting one another, rather than ministry and spiritual growth. All denominations are fighting internal battles and, at least in some sense, fighting with other denominations. In the meantime, are we doing the world any good?

My denomination or yours can die for all I care. What matters, I think, is how we live. So if you read about the UMC splitting or fighting, or Catholic bishops fighting against the Pope, or whatever it may be, may we find in the ridiculousness of it all a call to action: to live not the way our denomination would have us do but live as the kingdom of God would.

And that means, I think, as John Wesley would say, joining hands with (and therefore welcoming and truly loving) all other faithful persons to love God and love neighbor. "Whoever is not against me, is for me," Jesus said, for a house divided cannot stand. We don't need to always or ever agree but we can join hands to love God and love neighbor, across doctrinal debates, across the Christian spectrum, across denominational lines, because loving God and loving neighbor is the first and most important commandment. Whatever your beliefs, believe them strongly, and then join hands. We are stronger together.

How can business owners plan for an exit?



FINANCIAL
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If you're a business owner, you always have a lot to do and a lot to think about. But have you put much thought into how you'll eventually leave it all behind?

Even if you're a few years away from that day, it's a good idea to create an exit strategy. If you're like most other owners, most of your net worth may well be tied up in your business — so how you exit that business can have a big impact on your finances and your retirement.

As you begin the exit strategy process, you'll need to examine some basic questions, such as how much you want for your business and how much it's worth. But you'll especially need to plan for the mechanics of your exit — that is, just how you're going to sell or transfer ownership of it.

Essentially, you have three main options: Internal sale or transfer — You could sell or transfer your business to someone affiliated with the company, such as a family member, business partner or even a group of employees. The advantages of this method are that you'll have greater control over the timing of your exit, and you'll be able to provide greater continuity for your employees, clients and suppliers. One potential disadvantage is that your net sales proceeds may be less than what you'd get from selling the business to an unrelated third party.

External sale or transfer — The biggest benefit of selling or transferring your business to an unrelated third party is that you can potentially maximize your net sales proceeds. But you'll need to consider some tradeoffs, too. For one thing, a sale to an outside person or business usually requires a long and possibly expensive due diligence process. Also, you'll have less control over the timing of your exit than you would if you sold the business to an internal source.

Liquidation — If you liquidated your business by selling all your assets and shutting down operations, you could end up with far fewer net proceeds than if you sold the business to an internal or external source. However, you could raise cash pretty quickly. But if you chose to liquidate or dissolve your business, it could potentially be disruptive for your employees, clients and suppliers.

Because everyone's situation is different, there's no clear-cut formula for deciding which of these exit options is right for you. And it isn't simply a matter of numbers, either, because you'll need to consider some intangible factors, too. How will your family be affected by your choice? How would you feel if your business was in someone else's hands, or no longer existed? You'll need to work out these issues, along with the financial ones, before you decide on your business exit strategy.

Fortunately, you don't have to go it alone. You may want to consult your financial, legal and tax advisors, and possibly work with a commercial banker and a business evaluation expert. By drawing on several sources of expertise, you can feel more confident that you'll make a decision that's appropriate for your needs.

One final suggestion: Don't wait too long before you begin putting together your exit strategy. Time goes fast — and when the time comes for you to say goodbye to your business, you'll want to be prepared.

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Seasonal Review of Snow Facts and Trivia

It's that time of year, and the recent snow reminds us that although we've had a mild winter, snowfall is the norm for this region.

It's not surprising that hardy New Englanders have had plenty of practice battling Old Man Winter through the years — often relying on farmer tales and folklore that prove true generations later! A few years ago this column featured a review of snow-related information, including eye-opening superstitions from a regional writer, that bears repeating. Read on for a roundup of informative and interesting snow facts and trivia:

Timeless "Snowisms"
Snow has always been a common topic of conversation for New Englanders, and in 1896 Hadley, MA native Clifton Johnson put together a volume of collected proverbs titled, "What They Say in New England - A Book of Signs, Sayings and Superstitions", which was republished in 2018. Read on for his entertaining musings on snow:

*If the breast-bones of the Thanksgiving chickens are light in color, there will be a good deal of snow in the winter following. If the color is dark, there will be little snow.

*If the snow on the roof melts off, the next storm will be rain. If it blows off, you can calculate on snow.

*The day of the month on which the first snowstorm comes gives the number of storms you can expect in the following winter.

*If the ice on the trees melts and runs off, the next storm will be rain. If it is cracked off by the wind, the storm that comes next will be snow.

*Snow that comes in the old of the moon is apt to last. Snow that comes in the new of the moon is apt to melt quickly.

*When it begins to snow, notice the size of the flakes. If they are very fine, the storm will be



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

a long one; if large, the storm will soon be over.

**
Snow or No?

Old New Englanders often used nature to predict whether or not a winter will be particularly snowy. Here are some examples that are signs snow will be abundant:

*Squirrels begin gathering food in September
*Black bugs crawl about in the fall.

*Hogs gather sticks, straw, to make a bed.

*Birds eat up all the berries early

*Birds huddle on the ground

*Muskrat houses are built big.

*Beaver lodges have more logs and the north side of a beaver dam is more covered with sticks.

*Squirrels' tails grow bushier

*Fur or hair on animals such as horses, sheep, mules, cows, and dogs is thicker than usual

*Squirrels build nest low in trees.

*An ant builds its hill high

*Hornets and yellow jacket nests heavier

*More than usual amount of caterpillars

*Caterpillars have heavy coats

*You see a caterpillar crawling before the first frost

*Crows gather together

**

Know Your Snow: Are we having a storm? Maybe a squall? Perhaps a flurry? Here's help on ID-ing the white stuff:

Snowstorm: When large amounts of snow falls.

Flurry: Snow that falls for short durations and with varying intensity; flurries usually produce little accumulation.

Squall: A brief, but intense snowfall that greatly reduces visibility

and which is often accompanied by strong winds.

Snowburst: Very intense shower of snow, often of short duration, that greatly restricts visibility and produces periods of rapid snow accumulation.

Blowing Snow: Airborne snow particles raised by the wind to moderate or great heights above the ground; the horizontal visibility at eye level is generally very poor.

Drifting Snow: Snow on the ground that is blown by the wind to a height of less than 1.5 to 2 meters (5 to 6.5 feet) above the surface.

Resources
*The Weather Channel
*National Snow & Data Center

**

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

Do you have a 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.

Adventures with Max

Dogs have been a good part of my life, and have brought a lot of joy and excitement to me and my wife. I have had beagles, English pointers, and Labrador Retrievers! When rabbits were plentiful back in the 50's through the early 20's, I had as many as four or five beagles, but as the rabbit population dwindled, I changed my hunting priorities over to bird hunting.

Max, a black lab, was one of my early dogs that was given to me by Dave Chabot of Uxbridge. He was just starting his siding business, and was busy working many hours a day as were most builders back then. He had purchased Max for hunting, but was too busy to spend time with him. One day, we were talking about Max, and he asked me if I would be interested in him. He cautioned me that he was a bit of an aggressive dog, and did not particularly like other dogs. "You can have him, Ralph," he stated! The price was right, and I decided to give the dog a chance!

I took Max to the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club for some exercise, and was happy to see the late Ralph Salvis there with his Lab Retriever! I thought that this would be a great opportunity to introduce my new dog, Max. Wrong! He charged at Ralph's dog and immediately started a fight. Fortunately, neither dog got hurt, as we both



This week's picture shows this writer with Max after a local duck hunt more than 30 years ago.

separated them immediately. Ralph was not happy about the incident, and I quickly apologized. After telling Ralph about how I got the dog, he offered to help me train him and hopefully break him of his nasty attitude.

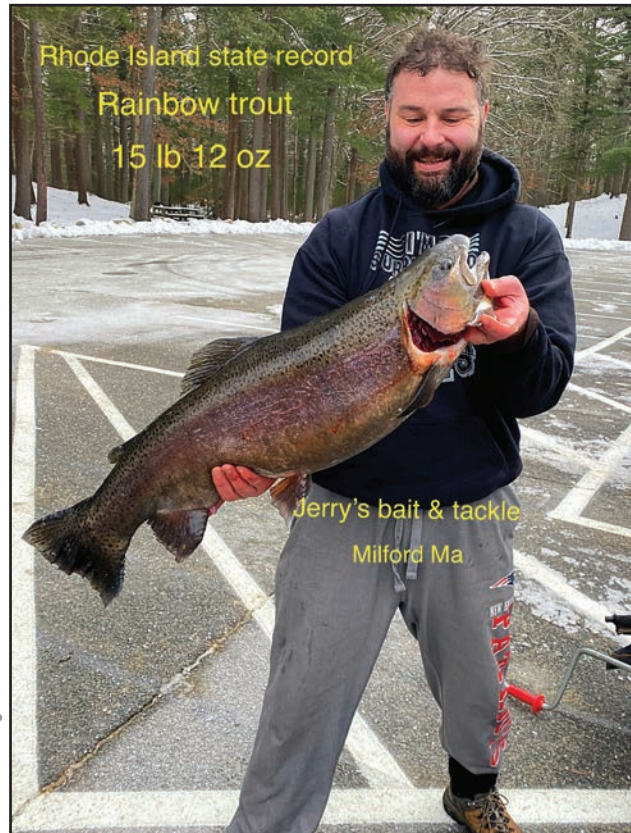
It was not long before Max was fully trained and hunting with other dogs with no problems. He turned out to be one of my best hunting dogs, and provided me with many memorable hunting experiences. I talked about Max in last week's column, and it was only one of three hunting incidents that he could have lost his life. Here is one of the stories of Max's close encounter with death: my brother Mel and I were asked if we would like to go on an Eider hunting trip with a seasoned guide from the then "Concerned



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Coastal Gunners Association" in Boston Harbor. The late Frank Anderson from Revere, who was then President of the Association, along with his good friend Gerry Woodmanse as Vice President, had set up the hunt for us.

Arriving at the boat ramp at 5 a.m., our guide already had the 18-foot boat in the water, which was full of decoys, his gun and numerous other equipment needed for the hunt. After we had loaded our guns and Max into the boat, we were soon



his week's second picture shows a Rhode Island Angler that caught a 15 pound, 12 ounce state record rainbow trout on a Jig stick recently.

traveling through the harbor at a pretty fast speed. Our guide was using a 40 hp outboard with a tiller to steer the craft through the somewhat dark cold morning. We soon arrived at a large rock pile in the middle of the bay, some distance from shore. Our guide set out some decoys, and told us he would be back in a few hours, as he had to pick up another group of hunters.

It was not long before

shooting time arrived, and we were having a great time, with max retrieving a few eiders. As the morning hunt was coming to an end, we noticed that the outgoing tide was becoming very strong. We only had one more bird to fill our limit, as Mel soon made the final shot. The Eider landed a good distance out, and Max was tiring from the numerous retrieves. After picking up the eider, he started his

return back to our blind, but we soon realized that he was not getting any closer, and the strong tide was carrying him out to sea. He soon disappeared from our sight and I thought I had lost him, when the guide showed up to take us back to shore.

I quickly jumped into his boat and motioned him to go in the direction that we had last seen Max. Luckily, we spotted him with the bird still in his mouth. Quickly pulling him into the boat, I removed one of my jackets and placed it around him. My brother Mel could not believe we found him. It was not long before we found ourselves in a nice warm coffee shop sipping hot coffee. Max was given a warm cup of coffee and a doughnut! Next week, we will tell the final and frightening near loss of Max during a sea duck hunt.

Ice fishing was enjoyed by a few seasoned anglers this past weekend, with the Nipmuc Rod & Gun Club holding their Ice fishing derby this past Sunday, but it may not be long before the ice becomes unsafe. A full report of the anglers' success and ice conditions next week. Check out this week's picture of a monster record breaking rainbow trout caught on a jig stick.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Cars and other 2023 auction results

This is the last in a series of articles discussing some of the best-selling items in our 2023 auctions. In previous columns I've discussed sports memorabilia, comic books, toys and collectibles, gold jewelry, sterling silverware, musical instruments, and Civil War memorabilia. We've also had success with a wide range of other items including coins and advertising signs. In today's column, I'll discuss an assortment of items that also sold well last year.

One of our top-selling items in 2023 was by a best-selling author. Kurt Vonnegut's most popular novel "Slaughterhouse-Five" was published in 1969. It was based on his experiences as a POW during World War II and the firebombing of Dresden, Germany. He is considered one of the best American writers of the

second half of the 20th century. We sold a 1954 Kurt Vonnegut signed job application for a Time Magazine writing position for \$1,180.

Folk art and paintings also brought strong prices. A sampler marked "Her Sampler 1736" with the alphabet and stitchwork featuring intricate designs sold for \$960. William Stubbs was the son of a shipmaster and was born in Maine in 1842. It's believed that he was the master of his father's ship from 1868 to 1873. He moved to Boston and was listed as a marine painter in the Boston directory in 1876. Despite having a large tear in the canvas with a repair, we sold a William Stubbs signed oil on canvas painting of a



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COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
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WAYNE TUISKULA

Boston schooner for \$2,655.

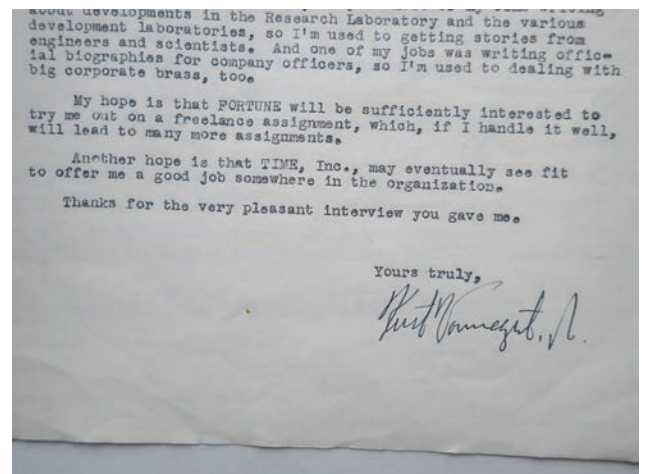
Switching from sea to land, Americans are said to have a love affair with cars. Sports cars and muscle cars are always popular with collectors. Merriam-Webster defines a sports car as "a low small usually two-passenger automobile designed for quick response, easy maneuverability, and high-speed driving." Chevrolet Corvettes are one of the top-selling American sports cars. Some consider the 1975 Corvette style as less appealing than other designs from the era. Despite this, a 1975 Corvette Stingray brought \$10,000 at one of our 2023 auctions. A

muscle car is defined by Merriam-Webster as "any of a group of American-made 2-door sports coupes with powerful engines designed for high-performance driving." The 1970 Plymouth Satellite shared the same body style as the Plymouth Road Runner. Classic Industries reports that 41,484 1970 Plymouth Road Runners and 82,654 Plymouth Satellites were manufactured. We sold a 1970 Plymouth Satellite that had many parts missing and needed restoration. Even though it was a project car, the bidding took right off, and it finished at \$12,980 when the checkered flag waved.

We have multiple auctions taking place this spring. We are accepting consignments of sports cards, non-sports cards, comic books, coins, and other memorabilia for a major collectibles auction. Later in the spring, we plan to run another

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auction with more art, jewelry, sterling silver, and other antiques and collectibles. I will also be teaching my night class at the Bay Path Evening School in Charlton on March 5, and I'll be at the Learning in Retirement event in Danielson, Connecticut on March 6. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links

to other 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).

Tips for selecting the best tomatoes for your garden

Whether you enjoy tomatoes sliced, sauced, or cooked in your favorite recipe, they taste best when grown and harvested from your garden or container. With more than 10,000 varieties available it can be difficult to select the best ones to grow in your garden.

Start by looking for those varieties best suited to the intended use whether for slicing, cooking, preserving, or snacking. Most seed catalogs and websites as well as plant tags and garden centers provide recommendations.

Bite-sized tomatoes are great for salads, relish trays, and snacking. Trailing varieties like Lizzano, Tumbling Tom, Litt'l Bites Cherry, and Red Robin also grow well in hanging baskets and even window boxes.

Paste and sauce tomatoes have meatier fruit making them perfect for sauces, soups, and preserving. Roma is the traditional favorite with an egg-shaped fruit that has thick walls and few seeds. The All-America Selections Early Resilience Roma has excellent disease and blossom end rot resistance and does not require staking. Use



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
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paste tomatoes during the growing season for sauces, chop and add them to an omelet, can or freeze them for future use.

Grow a few slicing tomatoes to enjoy on sandwiches, grilled, or on their own. Beefsteak and Better Boy are long-time favorites while Iron Lady, Galahad, and the colorful Chef's Choice series are more recent additions to this category.

Perhaps you are looking for an heirloom tomato, one that has been grown for more than 50 years and maintained its original traits and popularity. Cherokee Purple's rich flavor constantly rates high in taste tests. Brandywine, Black Cherry, Chocolate Stripes, Amana Orange, and Black Krim are also gardener favorites.

Coax reluctant veggie eaters of all ages to give tomatoes a try with some of the

sweeter varieties like Sun Sugar often called the candy of the garden. Consider having a taste test after growing a variety of super sweet tomatoes like Sungold, Super Sweet 100, Suncherry, and Sunrise Bumble Bee.

Boost your success by selecting disease-resistant varieties and growing your tomatoes in full sun and moist well-drained soil. Plant tags, internet sources, and catalog descriptions usually highlight this and other helpful information.

Look for tomato varieties suited to your growing conditions. Check with your University Extension for a list of recommended varieties for your area. You will also find helpful information on the best time to start tomato seeds indoors and when to place transplants in the garden.

Start enjoying the harvest sooner with fast-maturing tomatoes. These are perfect if you have a short growing season or are just anxious for your first garden-fresh tomato. Early Girl is a longtime favorite, Bush Early Girl produces more fruit on a compact plant, and New Girl produces bigger



Courtesy — All-America Selections

Lizzano is a semi-determinate tomato great for hanging baskets.

fruit and has better disease resistance. Glacier, Alaska, and Juliet are a few of the many others to consider. Check the catalog description or plant tag for the number of days to harvest.

Select plants with the growth habit that best works with your garden space and gardening style. Determinate tomatoes are perfect for small space gardens and containers. They grow a certain height, stop growing, and produce their fruit over a relatively short time. Indeterminate tomatoes continue to grow

throughout the season producing flowers and fruit until you prune out the tip or frost kills the plant. Stake or tower the plants to save space, reduce disease and insect problems, and make harvesting more convenient.

Gather your family and favorite recipes. Make a list of longtime favorites and new tomato varieties to include in this year's garden. Be sure to save some space as you are likely to find a few additional varieties you just can't resist planting this year.

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.



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SPORTS

Tantasqua takes lead, staves off Rockets' rally for victory



Photos courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones

Tantasqua's Sophie Webb, left, and Auburn's Marion Ngumi go up to the tip-off.



Photos courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones

Tantasqua's Nicki Vejack controls the ball and looks for an open teammate.



Photos courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones

Sophie Webb finds an open lane for Tantasqua.

AUBURN — The 2-7 Auburn Rockets were hosts to the 6-3 Tantasqua Warriors for a Friday evening girls' basketball matchup played on Jan. 19. This Southern Worcester County League A game is the second matchup for these two teams this 2023-24 season. Very earlier this season Tantasqua took the win 52-20 at home.

utes it was a tied ball game, 8-8.

It looked as though the second quarter was going to be kept to low point totals due to strong defenses and missed shots by both teams. With less than one minute remaining, Tantasqua went on a 10-point run, going into the half ahead 24-11.

Coming out of halftime, Tantasqua continued their scoring run, adding 13 points. Auburn, who had a difficult time finding the open teammate through Tantasqua's intense press, were

still able to add 8 points. The Warriors led the Rockets 37-19 at the end of the third quarter.

In the opening three minutes of the final quarter, Auburn came alive and put up 10 points, closing in on Tantasqua, 39-29. Auburn was able to get within five with a minute left, 41-36. Auburn moved the ball up the court with purpose and determination, not wanting to waste a shot, outscoring their opponents 17-5 this quarter. Tantasqua added a late free throw and sealed the win, 42-36.



Photos courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones

Maggie Johnson dishes off the ball at the top of the key for Tantasqua.



Photos courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones

Tantasqua's Gabby Scanlon looks for an outlet while being double-teamed by Auburn.

Top scorers for the evening were Gabby Scanlon and Sophie Webb both with 10 points for the Warrior and Samantha Jess with 12 points for the Rockets.

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Warriors win again, this time against Shrewsbury, to remain unbeaten



Nick Ethier photos
The Tantasqua boys' and girls' swim program hosted Shrewsbury last Wednesday, Jan. 17.



On Wednesday, Jan. 17, the Tantasqua boys' and girls' swim program hosted Shrewsbury. The final scores were as follows: Tantasqua girls 68, Shrewsbury 107; Tantasqua boys 108, Shrewsbury 60.

Abbey Korenda (100 breaststroke) and Alison Regan (100 fly) were the

Warriors' winners in the girls' meet.

First place finishes for the boys included Evan Dambly (200 freestyle, 100 freestyle), Sam Merchant (200 IM, 500 freestyle), Ethan Zhu (100 fly, 100 backstroke), Ethan Korenda (50 freestyle) and Jonah Scherer (100 breaststroke).

The Tantasqua boys ran their re-

cord to a perfect 8-0, while the girls slipped to 1-7.

Then, on Friday, Jan. 19, the Warriors swam in a co-ed meet against Worcester, which they won. First place finishers for Tantasqua were Sam Merchant in the 200 IM, Ethan Koren-

da in the 200 free, Jonah Scherer in the 100 butterfly, Evan Dambly in the 500 freestyle, Keenan Scherer in the 100 breaststroke, Zach Hilborn in the 100 freestyle and Ethan Zhu in the 100 backstroke.

Recapture your youthful spirit

Remember when you were young? Anything and everything was possible. You were innocent, you had faith, you were able to believe in your dreams, and with a trusting heart, you knew you'd be able to make of your life whatever you wanted.

As Pablo Picasso once said, "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

Our childhood selves were indeed artists of possibility and imagination. But what happened as we grew older? We got hit by life.

Bad things may have happened to you. You may have witnessed, seen, or heard things that destroyed your ability to believe that you could accomplish what you wanted with your life.

But is it better to grow

up and abandon those childhood dreams and beliefs? Some argue that it is, as a child often believes in things that aren't true.

Monsters under their bed, a rotund man with a white beard and a red suit who makes toys with elves at the North Pole, babies delivered by storks – these are the fantastical beliefs of youth. However, a child's brain is undeveloped and prone to believing anything it's told, and while some beliefs may be whimsical, there's a special kind of power in that innocence.

When you were young, you had a set of beliefs that weren't all true, but there were also truths in your beliefs. And as you got older and life's blows came your way, you

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

began to believe other things that weren't necessarily true. It's as if we exchanged one set of unfounded beliefs for another.

Take, for example, the case of Santa Claus. You stopped believing in his existence as you grew, but you may have started believing that your past determines your future. Does your past truly determine your future? If you fail at something, does that mean you're destined to be a perpetual failure?

Similarly, when you were young, you likely believed your family would always stay together. But then, a painful divorce experience followed, and since then, you've grown jaded, convinced that all relationships are destined to

fail. While it's true that relationships can pose challenges, it doesn't necessarily mean that every relationship is doomed from the start.

On a certain level, growing up does mean facing reality and letting go of childish fantasies.

However, embracing the optimism of youth doesn't mean ignoring reality. It means recapturing the belief that you can overcome challenges and achieve your dreams. Life is a blend of ups and downs, like a painter's brush strokes on a canvas.

Challenges, disappointments, and heartaches can shake our faith in ourselves and the world.

Picasso's journey reminds us of the transformation that life can bring. He shared, "When I was a child, my mother

said to me, 'If you become a soldier, you'll be a general. If you become a monk, you'll end up as the Pope.' Instead, I became a painter and wound up as Picasso."

In your youthful innocence, you believed in yourself, which gave you the courage to try new things, dream big, and persevere. Just as Picasso transformed himself from a child with dreams into an artistic genius, you too can create your masterpiece in life.

In 2024, amidst world turmoil and an uncertain future. It's time to rekindle that trust in yourself and your abilities. It's time to remember when you were young.

Those dreams and hopes were not foolish; they were the sparks that ignited your journey.

Embrace them again,

and you'll find that life still holds countless opportunities and wonders to explore. Just as Picasso's art evolved and matured, your life can, too.

So, the next time you think that growing up means abandoning your childhood beliefs, take a moment to reconsider. In recapturing that youthful spirit, you'll discover a renewed sense of wonder, determination, and joy in life's journey.

Remember when you were young, for within those memories lie the keys to a life painted with the colors of your dreams. After all, believing in yourself and your dreams is not foolish; it's the first step to making them come true, just as Picasso made his artistic dreams a reality.



Gateway Players offer youth theatre workshops

SOUTHBRIDGE — Have you ever thought about joining a community theater? How about directing or writing your own show. Gateway Players is offering you the chance to try out directing, writing, and/or acting at our upcoming youth workshops. You can attend one or all three of these workshops. They are designed for youths ages eight to 18. For more information, please call 508-764-4531. Descriptions for each of the workshops are below.

Cost per workshop is \$10 when paid in advance by mailing a check to Gateway Players, PO Box 171, South-

bridge, MA 01550, or by Venmo to @lou-ellen-corkum. If paying at the door (space available) the cost will be \$15.

To sign up for any of the three workshops, please go to the following link. <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdBBjrYaYS.../viewform...>

In May, we will give all participants the chance to showcase their skills with our "8 Days to Curtain" performance. You do not have to attend any of the previous workshops in order to participate. More information on this event will be posted in the near future.

Director's Workshop - Saturday,

Feb. 17, 10 a.m. - noon - Miriam Sas, M.A.T. Southbridge High School Drama teacher, will lead this workshop. This will be designed for youths interested in learning how to direct a stage play. At the end of this workshop each participant will have the opportunity to block a scene and walk the other participants through the scene.

Writer's Workshop - Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m. - noon - Mary Darling Maestaz, Playwright/ director/ co-owner of Museful Intent will lead this workshop. - This will be designed for youths interested in learning how to write their own short play (five to

10 minutes). At the end of this workshop each participant will have the opportunity to share the play they have each written.

Actor's Workshop- Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. - noon - Pat Haddock and Lou-Ellen Corkum, Gateway Players directors, will lead this workshop. This will be for interested youths to learn various acting techniques such as: auditioning, facial expression, memorization, stage positioning, and other general acting techniques. At the end of this workshop participants will perform a selection from a chosen play.



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OBITUARIES

Maureen Elizabeth Santilli

Maureen Elizabeth (Powers) Santilli passed away peacefully on December 31, 2023. She was predeceased by her husband of 64 years, George David Santilli and her sister Mary (Powers) Boukalis. With wonderful memories of being a loving sister, wife, mother, and grandmother, she leaves behind her brother James Powers, her four children, Marianne Santilli, Jack Santilli, Cathleen Smith (Dale), and Jimmy Santilli (Karen). She also leaves behind her three grandchildren, Sarah Santilli Pelletier (David), Anthony and Rachel Santilli, and her great-grandson Jayden Gallardo, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Family was her everything and 2023 was a year filled with good times and memory making as she went on a family cruise, traveled solo to visit out of state family and friends, sang karaoke for the first time, played charades at various Christmas parties, and celebrated with a surprise 89th birthday party. If you knew her, you know she was tiny but mighty and was a force to be reckoned with right until the end.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Southbridge, MA

Fall Dean's List announced at Stonehill College

EASTON— More than 1,000 students have been recognized for academic excellence at Stonehill College. To qualify for this honor, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

Megan Vanelli of Uxbridge
Rofail Wassef of Uxbridge
Rahni Bussiere of Charlton
Rory Paul of Uxbridge
Mark Wassef of Charlton
Allison Moloney of Brimfield
About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in

1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

Call to all Scouts for Scout Sunday Feb. 4 at First Congregational Church of Brimfield

BRIMFIELD — This annual event puts the worship service entirely in the hands of the Scouts. With the help of our pastor, Scouts form the service and even offer the sermon. If you are a Scout that would like to participate, please wear your uniform, join us for the run through at 9 a.m., and bring a snack to share for coffee hour.

If you would like more information or are interested in a speaking role, please email the church: brimfielducc@gmail.com.

Local West Virginia University student earns honor

MORGANTOWN, W.V. — Kyle LeBlanc of Charlton has been named to the Dean's List at West Virginia University for the Fall 2023 semester.

LeBlanc is a Junior majoring in Business with minors in Marketing and Communications. To see other students who earned honors from your area, you can visit <http://lists.wvu.edu/>. Outstanding undergraduate academic achievement is recognized by awarding President's List and Dean's List status to students who obtain a 4.0 GPA or 3.5 GPA, respectively in a semester. Only the highest honor is awarded, and it will be noted on the transcript. Students must be enrolled in 12 credit hours or more of graded

courses to be eligible for such recognition with no grades of I (incomplete), NR (not reported), or W (withdrawal).

West Virginia University is the premier land-grant institution in the 21st century and delivers high-quality education, excels in discovery and innovation, models a culture of diversity and inclusion, promotes health

and vitality and builds pathways for the exchange of knowledge and opportunity between the nation and the world. Founded in 1867, WVU is home to more than 30,000 students and has nearly 200,000 graduates shaping our world each day. For more information on WVU, visit <http://about.wvu.edu>.

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 January 27,2024 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 2000 MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS VIN: WDBJF82JXYX033063 LAST REGISTERED OWNER :

John Murphy
93 WINDSOR AVE
WATERTOWN MA 02472
2007 FORD EXPLORER SPORT TRAC

Vin: 1FMEU51857UA31724
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:

Yalhya Habbo

28 RODNEY ST APT 33
WORCESTER MA 01605
2012 NISSAN MAXIMA

VIN:1N4AA5AP3CC850403
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:

Derrick Crouse

1541 Howard Ave
UTICA NY 13501

2011 KYMCO LIKE2001

VIN:LC2D21008BC100234
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:

Eileen W Perez

29 WEBSTER ST, APT 2,
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2012 GMC TERRAIN

VIN:2GKFLREK3C6132881
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :

Joseph A Albano,

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FRAMINGHAM MA 01701

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VIN: 1HGCM72757A022022
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Mark E Deierlein,

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UTICA, NY 13502

2005 chevrolet express van
VIN: 1GAHG35U051166296
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWN-

ER :

William J Mcgowan III
50 April Ct, Apt 3

West Warwick RI 02893

January 12, 2023
January 19, 2023
January 26, 2023

Town of Southbridge, Massachusetts PUBLIC HEARING FOR SOUTHBRIDGE COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY

The Town of Southbridge will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm Eastern Time, before the Town Council meeting at 7 pm, to receive comment on the Southbridge Community Electricity Plan. Southbridge Community Electricity will be a municipal aggregation program, authorized under M.G.L. c.164 section 134. You may participate in person at Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm St Ste 1, Southbridge, MA 01550. A copy of the Plan is available for public review at <https://southbridgecommunityelectricity.com/> and in the Town Manager's office at Southbridge Town Hall.

Questions and comments can also be submitted ahead of time either using the online form at SouthbridgeCommunityElectricity.com or by contacting the Town Manager's office at 508-764-5405.

January 18, 2024
January 25, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO24P0036PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Robert Richardson
Of: Southbridge, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by UMass Memorial Health of Southbridge, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Robert Ricahrdson is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Jennifer Ryan of Quincy, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/06/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

January 08, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman

Register of Probate

January 25, 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. WO24P0079/EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Gail L. Saradarian
Date of Death: 08/30/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by

Anita K. Palmaccio of Lancaster 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:

Anita K. Palmaccio of Lancaster 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 02/06/2024**.

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: January 09, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

January 25, 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. WO23P4484EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Robert K. Sliwoski
Also known as: Robert Sliwoski

Date of Death: 12/11/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Stephen P. Mier of Webster 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:

Stephen P. Mier of Webster 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 02/20/2024**.

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: January 16, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

January 25, 2024

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held in the George Parent Community Room, second floor of the Town Hall on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in regards to the application of Juan Santa d/b/a Al's Auto, 121 Hamilton St., for the issuance of a Class II License. Those wishing to speak regarding this application will be given an opportunity to be heard.

This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
John D. Jovan Jr., Town Manager
Licensing Authority
January 25, 2024

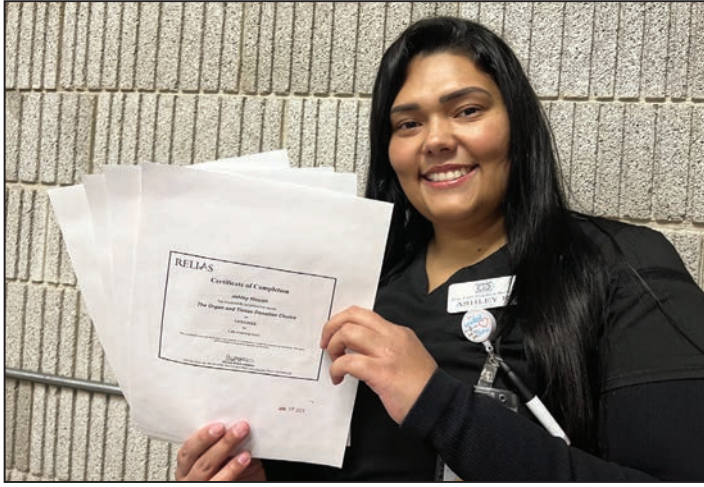
Bay Path nursing student obtains Relias Certificates

CHARLTON

— Ashley Rincon of Southbridge, a practical nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, recently completed multiple online training modules and obtained her certificates in The Organ and Tissue Donation Choice, Ambulatory Preceptor: Leadership, Auto-immune Disease: Causes and Treatments, and Common Sleep Disorders.

The online courses are self-paced learning experiences designed to increase health literacy and awareness. The training provides knowledge, skills, and confidence needed by healthcare providers. The courses are available at <https://www.relias.com/> a leading provider of workforce education and enablement solutions, empowering healthcare organizations and their staff with integrated tools and best-in-class learning content. Relias' healthcare workforce enablement and education solutions aim to attract and retain staff, elevate care quality, and reduce risk.

Rincon, a 2017 Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School graduate and an Associate in Criminal Justice degree holder with a minor in Science (2020) from Quinsigamond Community College, believes that as a student nurse being compassionate, hardworking, helpful, and patient includes learning new things and using the new skills towards helping others. She is certified in Mental Health First Aid, Dementia Care, Stop the Bleed, HCP/BLS Provider CPR and first aid. She recently participated in her clinical team's Luminary lighting project for the Alzheimer's Association's the Longest Night to shine a light to diminish the darkness and illumi-



ASHLEY RINCON

nate a path towards a world where Alzheimer's and dementia are nothing but a memory. She joins 31 other members of the 2024 with an anticipated graduation date of June 21, 2024. Photo shows Rincon with her certificates.

According to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, "At Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, we applaud student engagement. We believe that success is intentional and ensure that our PN students are relevant and actively engaged in empowering themselves. In person and online learning are both helpful."

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

The program is a 40-week (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing (www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn) and is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education (www.council.org). For more information, visit www.baypath.net.

Joshua Hyde Public Library

Joshua Hyde Public Library
306 Main St., Sturbridge
508-347-2512

KIDS PROGRAMS

WINTER STORY TIMES - Tuesday's and Friday's at 10:45am - Beginning Tuesday, February 6th drop-in for stories, songs, rhymes, and a take and make craft! Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. No registration required.

PRINCESS CHARM SCHOOL - Tuesday, February 20th at 10:30am. Come enjoy some story telling, singing and dancing as you learn to be a prince or princess during a royal coronation. Be sure to wear your favorite costume as there will be time for pictures. For children ages infant to 12 years old with an adult caregiver. Space is limited. Registration is required.

TOM KNIGHT'S MUSICAL PUPPET SHOW - Thursday, February 20th at 11:00am. Tom Knight is a musician, puppeteer and videographer based in Western Massachusetts. With his unique blend of musicianship and puppetry, he has been delighting children and their grown-ups with his original, interactive, musical puppet show since 1988. For kid's of all ages. Space is limited. Registration is required.

SING AND SWING WITH DEB HUDGINS - Friday, February 21st at 11:00am. Join Deb Hudgins for a musical story time! There will be a lot of movement and audience participation. For children, ages infant to 6 years old

with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

ADULT PROGRAMS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP - Tuesday, February 13 at 1pm ~ Exploring the Importance of Place - This month's book is "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS BOOK GROUP - Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30pm ~ Challenging Boundaries - This month's book is "Stolen" by Ann-Helen Laestadius.

AUTHOR AND CRAFTSPERSON PETER BELLERBY discusses "The Globemakers: The Curious Story of an Ancient Craft" - VIRTUAL - Thursday, February 22 at 2:00pm. Registration is required.

WORLD BUILDING BOOK GROUP - Tuesday, February 27 at 6:30pm. This book group discusses science fiction, fantasy, and other speculative fiction titles. This month's book is "This is How You Lose the Time War" by Max Gladstone.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF "THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE" - VIRTUAL - Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00pm. Can you believe it's been 30 years since the most amazing Sherlock Holmes retelling, "The Beekeeper's Apprentice" came out? Join author Laurie R. King as we discuss the origin story to the Mary Russell-Sherlock Holmes mystery series. Registration is required.

Fiskdale resident earns Dean's List honors from MassBay Community College

WELLESLEY HILLS — Lucas Emmanuel of Fiskdale has been named to the MassBay Community College Dean's List. Lucas, who studies Biotechnology, achieved this outstanding academic honor for the fall 2023 semester.

To be eligible for the MassBay Dean's List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, be in good standing with the College, and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

To learn more about MassBay, visit massbay.edu.

MassBay Community College is the most affordable higher education option in MetroWest Boston, offering a robust portfolio of courses and more than 70 associate degree and certificate programs with flexible day, evening, and weekend classes in Ashland, Framingham, Wellesley Hills, and online. MassBay students receive an unmatched educational value by earning stackable credits that transfer to bachelor's degree programs, and workforce-ready skills necessary to advance careers in high-demand fields such as health and life sciences, automotive technology, engineering, business, cybersecurity, and the humanities. MassBay's Associate Degree in Nursing (RN) and Practical Nursing (LPN) programs were both ranked as the #1 Nursing Program in Massachusetts in 2020-2021 by national nursing advocacy organizations RegisteredNursing.org, and PracticalNursing.org. Since its founding in 1961, MassBay has been accredited by several governing bodies and remains firmly committed to its mission of meeting the needs of the diverse local communities it serves. We value the intrinsic worth of all individuals, collectively in pursuit of inclusiveness and prioritize our work towards achieving equity within our community and beyond.

Nazareth University student Dakota Schantz of Sturbridge earns Dean's List honors

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Nazareth University is proud to announce that Dakota Schantz of Sturbridge has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester.

A student's grade point average must be at least 3.5 or above, and they must complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester in order to be included on the dean's list at Nazareth.

Nazareth University is an

inclusive community of inspired learners, educators, and changemakers who for nearly 100 years have been driven by a bold commitment to action, empathy, equity, and leading innovation for the common good. Impact experiences are at the heart of a Nazareth education, preparing each student to discover within themselves the potential to cultivate positive change

in their life's work, in any career field, and in a world that is constantly evolving and infinitely interconnected.

Our broad academic offerings present a range of study options typical of big universities, yet achieved in our supportive campus culture. Nearly 2,100 undergrad and 600 graduate students enroll in degree and certificate programs and engage

in collaborative, transformative learning experiences, preparing them for the professions and society of today and tomorrow. In a learning community that purposefully integrates liberal arts and professional programs, Nazareth graduates launch lifetimes of changemaking leadership in communities and workplaces near and far.

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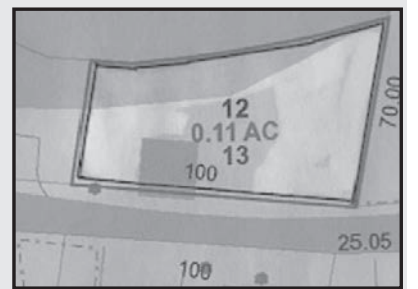


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Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for academic excellence for the 2023 Fall Semester.

Maya Belog from Sturbridge was named to the dean's list. Belog has a primary major of Psychology.

Aiden Casinghino from Brimfield was named to the dean's list. Casinghino has a primary major of Applied Exercise Science.

Katherine Wade from Sturbridge was named to the dean's list. Wade has a primary major of

Comm. Sci. and Disorders. Melanie Emery from Southbridge was named to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2023 fall semester.

Emery has a primary major of Exer Sci / Pre-AT. Andrew Sweet from Charlton,

MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2023 fall semester.

Sweet has a primary major of Physical Ed

Hlth/FCS.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum

of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing

grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

DA

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County.

Early felt it was vital to continue supporting these prevention programs and is utilizing his Drug Forfeiture Reinvestment Program this year. Funding to support these grants was previously provided by the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance Drunk Driving Trust Fund.

Schools and parent groups can apply for these grants to either support existing events or to assist in establishing new events. Applications for funding requests are due by Feb. 15. To request a grant application, contact Julia Baronowski at Julia.baronowski@mass.gov or 774-317-2321.

OSV

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to Representative Smola and Senator Fattman for their continued support for Old Sturbridge Village

and more importantly, for the students of Worcester County. We are eager to welcome the students who will be funded by this generous support."

CHARLTON

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also finding personnel. Everybody's got the same problem, finding dispatchers. It's like a house of cards as soon as somebody gets injured. We're not at two dispatchers twenty-four seven yet. I'm a strong believer that if we go to a substation there's going to be costs. Typically, regional dispatch is never about saving money. It's only about better supplying resources and efficiency," said Dowd.

Charlton has explored options for improving its fire and police departments several times in the 2020s, including voting down a large

emergency services center that would have included both departments and dispatch. Since then, several alternative options have been brought forward, most recently involving a substation for the fire department. This latest move allows the town to explore an alternative specific to dispatch that could serve to control costs while also enhancing services for more than just Charlton. In the end, the study will determine if regionalization is a viable or effective option for all communities involved. There was no timeline provided as to when that feasibility study would take place.

POKU

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passed the NCLEX-PN on her first attempt and is gainfully employed at Southbridge Rehabilitation Center.

"Sharing the story is likened to telling the world how valuable an act of kindness is," stated Bolandrina. "I am in awe at all the acts of kindness of our practical nursing students, alumni, staff, and faculty."

Bolandrina adds, "Even the littlest acts of kindness make a difference in people's lives."

While a student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Poku was certified in Healthcare Provider / BLS provider CPR and first aid, Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid, and Stop The Bleed. She completed Domestic Violence training with the distinction of achieving a 100 percent score. She attended EpiCorps Contact Tracing Training, through the University of Houston College of Nursing. Poku was a MassHire grant recipient. She was a member of the Mock Code Team and UNICEF Club. She was a nominee for the 2023 Clinical Excellence Award and a district & state Champion for SkillsUSA First Aid/CPR earning silver medals for both. Poku volunteered for the BP Clinic Charlton Senior Center, Health Screenings at Dudley Middle School and Shepherd Hill Craft Fair for Medical Care.

The submitted work of Poku published by Woman's World Magazine was about how grateful she felt towards Bay Path's custodial services. In an email to Bolandrina by the Woman's World Magazine Circle of Kindness Editor, it was expressed how they love Aminat's story! Below is the story as it appeared in the Jan. 22 issue of Woman's World.

"At the closing of the second semester, heading into my final term as a practical nursing student I bought thank you cards & gift cards for the school custodians. The custodians keep our lecture hall, classrooms, media center, and cafeteria clean. They greet us and encourage us. They keep our environment clean and safe. This helps me focus mainly on my studies. I am grateful for their service. Getting them thank you cards & gift cards is a small token to show my appreciation for how they positively impact my learning."

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing, 239 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800, www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Rd., Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, GA 30350; Telephone: 800-917-2081; Web site www.council.org. Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges 209 Burlington Rd., Suite 201, Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 www.neasc.org

STURBRIDGE

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communications Act of 1996, because the Planning Board has many more criteria to consider.

Mackson said he's reviewed "hundreds" of such towers, and noted they're typically not built right at the top of a hill (this one isn't either) for various reasons. This particular location, he said is "really special" because "there aren't other properties that have that specific topographic coverage." A similar site on the north side of Route 20 is too close to "dense residential development" and could experience interference with another nearby tower. If this site is rejected, he added, providing similar signal coverage would probably require two towers in the river valley.

"If there are alternatives, it'd take a lot of due diligence to figure out what they might be, and whether they're viable economically, viable in terms of construction and viable in terms of available property," he said.

"The fact there's no other available land or structure for a telecommunications facility is what creates the hardship," proponent Francis Parisi of Vertex said, referring to the fact the ZBA can only vote for a variance if a hardship exists. "not only is there no detriment to the public, I think there's a substantial benefit to the public."

HOTEL

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Jan. 25, a major step toward preserving the area.

"As the pandemic changed the way people travel, growing a larger mix of business and leisure travel clientele came into a stronger focus," said Charles "Chip" Norton, owner of the hotel. "The hotel embodies a distinctive hybrid of hospitality with storied history, top-notch amenities and a state-of-the-art-conference center. The re-brand better tells this story and carries it forward as we continue to attract new leisure guests and business clients."

Embracing the best elements of the former Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center, the Wellsworth Hotel draws on the original brand ethos that balances beauty, form, and function with rich historical significance. The property features 203 guest rooms and suites, a fitness center with a racquetball court and basketball court, indoor pool, outdoor courtyard, restaurant,

lounge and more.

Accredited by the International Association of Conference Centers (IACC), the hotel's event and meeting space is a hub for innovation and gathering of minds. Steve Gardiner, general manager, added "the Wellsworth Hotel offers 24,000 square feet of flexible meeting and conference space. We're also centrally located between all the major cities in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island creating an optimal setting for organizations, corporations, and associations across the Northeast to host business functions, whether intimate or large in size."

The property's meeting and event spaces include a ballroom, a 250-seat auditorium and multiple breakout rooms. The space can accommodate almost any setting, from a 500-person company retreat to a VIP board meeting. Ergonomic chairs, high-speed Wi-Fi, and audiovisual equipment and technicians will help support any company gathering.

For more information, visit wellsworthhotel.com.

About the Wellsworth Hotel
Situating in the quaint town of Southbridge, the Wellsworth Hotel gracefully blends historic touches with a modern feel and resort-style amenities, making an ideal setting for business and leisure travel. Formally home to American Optical Company, an eyeglass and optics manufacturer and innovator for 160 years, today, the property features more than 200 guest rooms and suites infused with modern comforts and traditional New England character. The historic landmark is designated to the National Register of Historic Places. Hotel amenities include a fitness center with indoor pool and basketball court, lounge, restaurant, and outdoor courtyard, as well as 24,000-square-foot of state-of-the-art meeting space. The hotel is accredited by the International Association of Conference Centers (IACC). For more information, visit wellsworthhotel.com.

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Ruth Wells Center offers kids' art workshop

SOUTHBRIDGE — Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is excited to host a Kids Art Workshop during school vacation week, Feb. 19-23.

The 9 a.m. session is for kids age six to 10. The 10:30 a.m. session is for the 11-16 group. The workshop runs Monday to Friday. On Sunday, there will be an open house for all family and friends to see the creative art hanging in the galleries of the historic Ruth Wells Center. The open house is 2-4 p.m., with refreshments served, and all are welcome.

The art workshop is led by Simone Delongchamp Germain, a talented lo-

cal artist, who will introduce the kids to a variety of art techniques. The week is always a fun learning experience, designed to encourage creativity.

The registration button is on the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com. The art workshop is free to paid family members. The membership of \$25 for the year will cover several workshops (August and February) as well as a holiday workshop. In addition, members are welcome to participate in all Center activities- exhibits, art and music sessions, festivals and other programs. The Ruth Wells Center was started in 1978 as Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities, and has served the community as a cultural enrichment center since then. This is



an all-volunteer organization and new members are always welcome.

For more information, check out the Web site (ruthwellscenter.com), our

Facebook page, or call 508 764 3341.

This workshop is funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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