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Friday, January 15, 2021

Victims in murder-suicide identified



Kristin Carey was identified as the female victim in a murder-suicide in Charlton on Jan. 2.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The District Attorney’s Office has released the names of the victims in an apparent murder-suicide that occurred in Charlton on Saturday, Jan. 2.

According to official reports from both the Charlton Police Department and District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr.’s office Charlton Police and EMS responded to a 911 call at around 7:15 p.m. for an incident at 28 Southbridge Road. Police said the caller reported an argument between a couple in the bedroom of the home. Upon arriving, police found two deceased individuals, a female who had suffered several gunshot wounds and a male who had suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The female was reportedly alive when police arrived but died later from her injuries despite medical assistance.

State Police Detectives assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office were assigned to the case along with State Police Crime Scene Services and MSP Firearms Identification Services. Forensic scientists from the State Police Crime Lab

were also part of the investigation. It was determined that the case was a murder-suicide.

On Tuesday, Jan. 5, District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. revealed the names of the victims, 49-year-old Keith Cuthbertson and 37-year-old Kristen Carey, who was the mother of two children. Town records show Cuthbertson was the owner of the condominium where the incident took place.

Following Carey’s death, a GoFundMe was set up with a goal of \$25,000 to help pay for Carey’s funeral costs and support her children. In the wake of the incident Charlton Police provided information on their Facebook page for those suffering from domestic situations especially during the ongoing pandemic. The community-based organization New Hope, Inc. provides domestic violence services to 41 communities including the town of Charlton with a officer in Southbridge. The organization also works closely with the Dudley Court to assist survivors with safety planning, restraining orders and legal protections. Those in need of help are encouraged to contact New Hope’s hotline at 1-800-323-HOPE (4673) or visit www.new-hope.org.

Frost condemns Washington riots on social media

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – On Jan. 6, a day when Congress was slated to perform what would normally be a procedural event of certifying the electoral votes for the next President of the United States, Democrat Joe Biden, hundreds of protesters supporting outgoing President Donald Trump took to the streets of the Capital and marched on the Capital building disrupting the counting of the votes. It was an event seen around the world that has sparked responses and condemnation from lawmakers both in the Capital and on the state level.

One of the most outspoken State Representatives in the wake of the riots was Rep. Paul Frost of the 7th Worcester District. While Frost’s job is helping lead the state in Boston, the events that unfolded in the United States Capitol caught his attention leading the lawmaker to voice his opinions on social media as many other elected leaders have in the days following the event.

“I’m truly saddened by the violence, vandalism and destruction taking place in our nation’s Capital Building. Raiding the House and Senate Chambers and offices is outrageous, appalling, and disgraceful. I support peaceful protests. For those in D.C. protesting peacefully, you have that right. Please continue to keep it peaceful. But those who are not, you do not bring sympathy to your cause and you are certainly not patriots,” Rep. Frost wrong on Facebook the afternoon of Jan. 6. “Just like I opposed the violence, riots and vandalism that resulted due to racial tensions as well as the post 2016 Election, I oppose the rioting, violence

and vandalism happening in D.C. right now too.”

Frost, who is in his thirteenth term serving the commonwealth, followed up his post several hours later after acknowledging a Tweet from President Trump that called the protesters “patriots” and asked for them to “go home with love & in peace” to “remember this day forever”. Rep. Frost called the protests “unacceptable” and called for the prosecution of those who invaded the capital building.

“The President must call for all offenders who vandalized, looted, broke into the Capitol, committed violence and disrupted the legislative sessions of Congress to be caught and prosecuted. There is no excuse or rational reason for their actions,” Rep. Frost said on Facebook also responding to comments on his earlier post accusing other extremist groups like Antifa and Black Lives Matter of coordinating the incident. “For those who want to say it was outside groups that caused the incidents that happened than why hasn’t the President condemned what happened and called for their prosecution? He has only said he loves them and wants them to go home peacefully. Where is the call for justice? It also appears it was Vice-President Pence who authorized the National Guard to protect the Capitol. If we find out that the President chose not to act and the Vice-President was forced to instead, I then pray Vice-President Mike Pence takes further actions as required to preserve and protect our Republic.”

Rep. Frost acknowledged in his Facebook comments that President Trump had been vocal

Please Read **FROST**, page **A3**

Shepherd Hill awarded second Skills Capital Grant

DUDLEY — In December, Gov. Charlie Baker announced \$11.7 million in vocational grants for education institutions statewide. Shepherd Hill Regional High School received \$100,000 to enhance their Biomedical Science Pathway with the purchase of a virtual dissection table (www.anatomage.com/table).

The Skills Capital Grants are competitive grants which are awarded to educational institutions across the Commonwealth to be used to update equipment and expand student enrollment in programs and pathways that provide hands-on, real world experience and amplify the learning in the classroom. Shepherd Hill Regional High School was designated an Innovations Pathway School by the Commonwealth in 2018 with the creation of their Biomedical Science Pathway and its Manufacturing Engineering Pathway. It’s important to note

that this is Shepherd Hill’s second Skills Capital Grant award. In 2019, they were awarded a \$323,000 Skills Capital Grant to renovate and update their Manufacturing Engineering Lab within the school.

Said the Governor, “At a critical time in our Commonwealth, these skills capital grants will

increase flexibility and support for schools and educational institutions to launch new programs and help more students develop important technical skills and prepare them for high-demand industries.”

Shepherd Hill Principal

Please Read **GRANT**, page **A3**

Sheriff’s Department announces promotion of Auburn’s Bryan Doray

WEST BOYLSTON — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis announced he has promoted Lt. Bryan Doray of Auburn to the rank of Captain.

“The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office is pleased to announce the promotion of Lieutenant Bryan Doray to the rank of Captain. Captain Doray will immediately begin serving in this important role and leadership position at our correctional facility. All promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office are based on merit, work ethic and a dedication to duty. Congratulations to Captain Doray as he represents the best in the field of corrections today and will work hard to make us a better department,” said Evangelidis.

Doray, a 16-year veteran of the

department, started his career with the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office in November of 2004, was promoted to Sergeant in June of 2013, Lieutenant in 2015 and most recently to Captain.

Doray most recently served as Lieutenant of Inmate Special Management. He will now serve as Captain of the modular housing units. With the rank of Captain, he will also be responsible for commanding and supervising lieutenants, sergeants, correctional officers and staff under his charge as well as monitoring the care, custody and control of inmate activity ensuring the safety of both staff and inmates.

Capt. Doray also serves in the WCSO Honor Guard, Special Operations Group and Military Peer Support Group.



Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis presenting newly promoted Capt. Bryan Doray of Auburn with insignia gold bars signifying his promotion to the rank of Captain.

The Worcester County Jail & House of Correction located in West Boylston is responsible for both pre-trial detainees and inmates sentenced to two and

a half years or less. The correctional facility houses up to 1,000 inmates and has a staff of more than 600.

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CHURCH LISTINGS

- **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. 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 Life/TEEN 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, sneadag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Lamblight Christian Church**, 37 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Rev. Stephen Wade, (774) 452-2393 - Pastor's Cell. Sunday Service 10:00am. www.visitlamblight.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Wojnar responds to new police bill

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Gov. Charlie Baker started off 2021 by signing into law a new police reform bill resulting from the call for action following protests against police brutality across the nation over the course of the year.

Titled “An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth,” the bill provides numerous mandates including a certification process for police officers, increasing accountability and transparency for law enforcement, and seeks to provide police departments greater ability to hire and promote qualified applicants.

While the law has had its supporters, police reform in Massachusetts has been a divisive topic. On the local level Dudley Police Chief Steve Wojnar, a former President of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, feels there are some good things within the bill but also stands by his previous assessments that simply implementing new laws to answer to widespread public outcries outside of Massachusetts isn’t the answer.

“We kind of knew something was going to happen. At least the Governor was able to temper some of the issues with the bill and get some things settled. It’s a far-reaching piece of legislation that is really going to need a lot of time, effort, money and work to implement,” Wojnar said in an interview. “I think we’ve always been in favor of a Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission, standardizing training throughout the state and doing a lot of

that type of thing. Some things just got into this whole mix where you have a 130-page bill people kind of put some wish things in there and threw everything they could into it and now it’s going to need a lot of vetting, straightening out and determine where we’re at. There’s some positives, but some things that needed more time and work.”

The new Massachusetts POST Commission which will be comprised of nine members including six outside of law enforcement and would be charged with investigating claims of misconduct, maintaining databases of training, certification process and other issues. The bill also strengthens due process protections for law enforcement which was an amendment specifically added by Governor Baker. It also better defines circumstances where physical force is warranted by an officer putting a ban on chokeholds and prohibiting firing at fleeing vehicles unless necessary to prevent risk of harm to others. Furthermore, the bill implements a strict limit of the “no-knock” warrants and requires court orders for facial recognition searches among other new restrictions.

One of Wojnar’s biggest concerns is that the bill implements numerous mandates effective immediately in 2021, however there is no POST Commission in place to help transition these mandates into place. This requires police departments statewide to have to anticipate how to implement these requirements themselves. Another concern is the cost some of the mandates may require especially during the ongoing pandemic where budgets are already tight. Chief Wojnar feels that the reform

package will require financial investments for departments to be in line with new mandates which will either force them to request more money from their towns, make sacrifices in their own budgets or depend on yet to be announced grant opportunities to see these changes through.

Overall, Wojnar stated he isn’t against police reform to a certain extent doubling down on his praise for a standardized training approach to all officers in the commonwealth. However, the chief still feels the bill was more a reaction to events outside of Massachusetts rather than a properly vetted bill addressing needs specific to the commonwealth. He feels the swift passage of the bill and the attention to national issues also undermines all the great strides that Massachusetts law enforcement agencies have made in recent years.

“I think a lot of things were kneejerk reactions to things that took place far away from us. The disappointing thing is a lot of the people who were spearheading change never really took the time to realize and understand what we are doing here (in Massachusetts),” Wojnar said. “This was a state where we were ahead of the curb, where we adopted things like the 21st century policing models and identifying training as something that was important to us going forward. We did these things on our own even when the state cut funding. We’ve stayed ahead of other parts of the country and the shame of it all is you felt like you paid the price for activities and actions that were totally out of your control. That’s frustrating.”

Area residents named to Dean’s List at University of New England

BIDDEFORD/PORTLAND, Maine — Allison Bolton, Grace Murphy, and Alexis Radziewicz of Charlton have been named to the Dean’s List for the 2020 fall semester at the University of New England. Dean’s List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

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Congressman Neal condemns new regulations as anti-LGBTQ

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Massachusetts 1st Congressional District Rep. Richard Neal is condemning new rules finalized by the Trump administration that he feels are discriminatory to members of the LGBTQ community.

Congressman Neal, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, released statements condemning President Trump’s finalized rule that would allow foster care and adoption agencies that incorporate religious criteria into their adoption protocols to accept federal funds. Neal called it a “dangerous move” that fails to serve all Americans regardless of their faith.

“These child services processes are already emotionally trying, and should focus on finding loving, safe placements, rather than discriminating based on sexual orientation or religion,” Neal said in a press release.

The Congressman further cited a decision in the Supreme Court in 2020 in the case of Bostock v. Clayton County which he called a “step forward” for the LGBTQ community in terms of individual rights especially when it comes to adoptions. That case ruled that under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 employees couldn’t be discriminated based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Neal feels the lessons learned from this case need to be expanded beyond the workplace and called for a reversal of the Trump administration’s rule after the Democrats take hold of both the House and Senate later this month.

“Now that the balance of power in both Congress and the Executive Branch is changing, we must reverse this new discriminatory rule before it causes any undue harm and extend full federal civil rights protections to the LGBTQ community,” Neal said.

Democrats on the Ways and Means Committee sent a joint statement in

early December with a unified condemnation of the ruling asking the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to investigate the impact the rule would have on minorities’ rights.

“We ask that HHS provide to the Committee on Ways & Means an analysis of the scope to which the changes proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking would affect racial and ethnic minorities, gender minorities, children, parents, people with disabilities, the aging population, LGBTQ people, children in the child welfare system, parents in the child welfare system, and all groups of people considered a ‘protected class’ under the law,” the Ways and Means Democrats wrote.

Neal also sent a letter to the HHS in December stating that the proposed rule rolled back civil rights protections and “abdicates the Executive Branch’s responsibility to prevent federally funded discrimination.”



ACCURACY WATCH

The Charlton Villager is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, email news@stonebridgepress.news or call (508) 909-4106 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

CHARLTON

\$440,000, 42 A Young Rd, Spencer, Jill, and Spencer, Matthew, to Sparks, Andrew C, and Durgin, Kaitlin E.

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Thrive to expand family support services to Worcester region

MARLBOROUGH — Thrive Support & Advocacy, a non-profit empowering youth and adults with developmental disabilities including autism, today announced it will expand its family support services, effective Jan. 1 to the city of Worcester and seven surrounding towns under a state contract with the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services, ultimately serving more than 600 families.

Starting in January, Thrive will operate a Family Support Center at 100 Grove St. in Worcester, and will provide client-centric support services to individuals and their families from Auburn, Boylston, Holden, Leicester, Paxton, Shrewsbury, West Boylston and Worcester. Supports will include connecting individuals and families to available services and resources, social and recreational experiences for youth and adults, infor-

mation and referral resources, and educational workshops and trainings.

“Thrive has nearly half a century of proven success in delivering compassionate, flexible, and individualized supports, and we are excited to bring our mission and commitment to the Worcester region,” said Sean M. Rose, President & CEO of Thrive Support & Advocacy. “As many families struggle to access the appropriate resources for their loved one with IDD, or on the autism spectrum, we look forward to guiding them on their journey to reach their unique potential.”

Thrive’s downtown Worcester location will provide easy access for families traveling by car or public transit, as it is served by two bus lines. It will also offer a centrally located base of operations for staff who will work throughout Worcester and the neighboring towns to assist the

newest members of the Thrive community.

“The Grove Street location will offer convenience for those we support and those who work for us. It positions us in the heart of an increasingly vibrant neighborhood, and we hope to contribute to that vibrancy,” said Rose.

About Thrive Support & Advocacy

Thrive Support & Advocacy has been empowering youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead active and self-directed lives since 1973. The Marlborough-based nonprofit supports over 500 individuals and families living in 46 eastern and central Massachusetts communities through recreational and social initiatives for youth and adults, community residences, and individual and family supports. For more information, visit www.icanthrive.org.

January 20, 2021
Happy 70th Birthday
Papa!!
We love you very
much,
Emelia and Fin

GRANT
continued from page A1

William Chaplin stated, “This is a wonderful opportunity in the advancement in how we reach our students within our Biomedical Science classes. To be able to utilize the same virtual dissection table that is used at UMass Medical School within our classes at Shepherd Hill is incredible. As we look to the future of work in the Commonwealth in

2021 and beyond, most opportunities are presented within STEM fields, with an increasing number of jobs being created in robotics, artificial intelligence and automation. Grant funding like this can help deliver educational opportunities for our students that will be a critical element in their future success in post-secondary life.”

Shepherd Hill Regional High School is a 9-12 high school located in Dudley, with more than 1,000 students residing within its district.

FROST
continued from page A1

against violence in the past, especially in 2020, and found it disturbing that he had not outright condemned the violence that broke out in the capital. “Any other time he was very strong and forceful with his words. But not this time,” Frost wrote.

He further defended his stance responding to comments on both posts. He solidified his opinion on the matter in one comment calling the riots an “assault on our country.”

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Pamala Holt joins Goodrich Insurance Agency

We are excited to welcome Pamala Holt from Dudley MA to our team of insurance professionals at Goodrich Insurance Agency in Milton MA.

Pam has over 20 years of insurance expertise and will be our Personal lines Account Manager. Pam joined our office family on November 23, 2020 and will be working remotely from Dudley and in our main office in Milton. Help us to give Pam a warm welcome! We look forward to providing our current client and new clients with professional, personal, knowledgeable valued client services you expect from Goodrich Insurance Agency!

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The Town of Sturbridge Council on Aging (COA) is currently seeking qualified candidates for the part-time (10 hr.) position of Food Service Coordinator.

Under the direction of the COA Director, the Food Service Coordinator plans, orders, tracks and sets up the daily congregate meals at the COA. With scheduling and training the volunteer kitchen aide to ensure that sanitary guidelines are followed.

Candidates should possess strong commitment to public service and serve the older adults, along with organizational, communication and basic math skills.

Complete job description and application available at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>. Hiring Salary \$14.00 hourly, 5 days a week 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. no Holidays or weekends.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest and completed application to Alex McConnon, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 or amcconnon@sturbridge.gov.

This position is open until filled. The Town of Sturbridge is an EOE.

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Learn more about the effects of pandemics

Much of the globe was introduced to an assortment of new terms throughout 2020. Phrases like “social distancing” or “flatten the curve” were commonly used, but these were all preceded by the utterance of the word “pandemic.”

What is a pandemic?

The World Health Organization defines a pandemic as a “worldwide spread of a new disease.” The word pandemic comes from the Greek words “pan” (meaning “all”) and “demos” (“people”). When a new disease emerges, most people lack the natural immunity to fight off illness, so the disease can spread rapidly between communities — and eventually around the world.

A pandemic differs from an epidemic in that an epidemic is the spread of disease in a community or region over a specific amount of time. Epidemics often grow into pandemics.

Facts and figures about pandemics

According to HealthCareers.com, the most lethal pandemics in history were the Spanish flu of 1918 and the Black Death. The Spanish flu lasted two years and claimed 50 million lives, according to the United States National Archives. In the 14th century, a bubonic plague pandemic referred to as “The Black Death” caused the deaths of between 75 and 200 million people over a period of five years. In comparison, as of October 2020, more than 1.1 million people have died of the COVID-19 disease worldwide, according to NBC News and Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center. Prior to COVID-19, the most recent pandemics occurred with the outbreak of the Hong Kong flu in 1968-69, the H1N1 Swine flu of 2009-2010,



and the Ebola outbreak of 2014-2016. The WHO says that most viral pandemics have been caused by influenza viruses.

Addressing pandemics

The National Center for Biotechnology Information indicates that globalization increases the probability of a pandemic. Urbanization, travel, trade, and human-animal interaction all lead to elevated pandemic risk. However, thanks to the science of epidemiology and the development of new medicines and therapies, professionals have helped to reduce death rates due to pandemics.

Health experts say one of the most efficient measures to help reduce the risk of pandemic infection is the simplest — the practice of social distancing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says social distancing means keeping a safe distance between oneself and others who are not from the same household. Many diseases spread among people who are in close contact (within about six feet) for prolonged periods.

Global pandemics are nothing new, but the public still needs to be vigilant and do their part to help reduce the spread of infectious diseases.

LEGALS

Town of Charlton Invitation to Bid Maintenance of Recreational Properties Mowing & Snow Removal Service

The Town of Charlton is seeking proposals from qualified landscape/plowing contractors, hereinafter referred to as the Bidder, for the purposes of maintaining town recreation fields, town common, and other municipal sites. Bidders must be able to perform varied landscaping services including mowing, trash removal, field maintenance and snow removal.

Prospective bidders may obtain a Request for Bid package, which is available for pick-up during the week, excluding holidays, Monday- Wednesday -Thursday: between 7:30 am and 5:00 pm and Tuesday, 7:30 am and 7:00 pm in the Board of Selectman/Town Administrator office of the Town Hall and returned **no later than 10:00 AM, Thursday, February 11, 2021.** The bid envelope shall be clearly marked “Request for Bids-Maintenance of Recreational Properties/ Mowing & Snow Removal Service.”

Sealed bids, appropriately marked will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Town of Charlton Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507. The Town of Charlton reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, to accept any part or portion of a proposal, to waive any informality in a proposal, to accept proposals and to award contracts as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Charlton. Minority and female owned businesses are encouraged to bid.

The Bidder shall separate and identify costs according to year and whether the work is lawn/field operations or snow/ice removal as internal accounting shall use two different accounts for payments. Bids shall be awarded based on the total, combined bid for both operations. This agreement is from date of award, projected to be February 23, 2021, until January 31, 2021
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OPINION

Views and commentary from Charlton, Charlton City, Charlton Depot and beyond

TO THE EDITOR

Will you choose to be a victor or victim in 2021?

A firsthand COVID experience

One of our local correspondents, Jason Bleau, submitted the following reflection on his personal encounter with the COVID-19 virus in the hope that it might prove helpful to others.

I remember when I first heard about COVID-19. I was sitting in a hotel room on Daytona Beach. I had just returned from watching the Daytona 500, and in between stories about the status of Ryan Newman following a horrific crash, details about a pandemic surging in China caught my eye. Less than a month later, everything shut down. The COVID-19 pandemic had gone global.

All throughout 2020, I found myself concerned about getting the virus. I quarantined, wore my mask, took every precaution I could. My goal was to make it through the holidays and reassess in 2021. I almost made it.

New Year's Eve, I felt what I can only describe as a "cloud in my lungs." I knew something was wrong. New Year's Day, a fever of just over 100 degrees struck me. I knew I had it. I didn't know how I got it, where I got it or who I may have infected, but I knew in my heart what it was. A day later, I took a test, and several more days later, my fears were confirmed, it was positive. After working so hard to avoid it in 2020, I had COVID-19.

The revelation wasn't as scary as I thought. I couldn't change what I had contracted, I could only wait it out. I isolated myself in my apartment and began the slow process of waiting...just waiting. By day three, my fever broke, and in the week that followed, my body experienced different symptoms almost daily. One day, it would be headaches and body aches. The next day, my energy was so sapped I could barely get out of bed. One day, it felt like just a bad cold. Some days, it was all of the above. For more than a week, I underwent a sickness I can only describe as an amalgamation of every cold and flu symptom you could think of, changing out the results on a daily basis.

But it wasn't the isolation or the sickness that weighed on me. It was the how, and who, I might have impacted without even knowing it. Symptoms of COVID show up days after infection, and in the days prior to New Year's Eve I had been around numerous people, family, friends, shopping plazas. Who did I infect? Whose lives did I complicate? Who infected me? These questions worried me more than the illness itself. The scariest part of COVID for me wasn't getting it, but who may have gotten it from me, and how easy it was to contract it without ever even knowing it was there.

I was lucky enough to survive COVID with minimal repercussions. Nobody I had been around tested positive, and to this moment I still don't know exactly how I was exposed. I did all the right things, and still I found myself dealing with the virus. While my experience may not have been deadly, I went through enough to understand that this virus is relentless, and the wrong immune system can be severely compromised by the variety of symptoms the virus employs, almost as if it is looking for the weakest point of your body's defenses to take permanent hold. If you're not fit enough to face even one kind of disease, this virus will exploit that.

Even having gone through the experience of COVID-19, I will continue to wear my mask and continue to take precautions although it might appear as though these efforts didn't keep me from being exposed. I will do this because to me, the worst part of being infected wasn't my own wellbeing — it was the wellbeing of those who may have innocently been exposed before I even knew what I had inside me. I was always confident my body could beat it, but my decisions could have inadvertently compromised someone else who would not be so fortunate. I would have had a hard time knowing I was responsible for someone losing their livelihood, precious moments with loved ones, or, God forbid, their life. This virus might seem like a small, inconvenient thing to a lot of people, but I can say from experience it's very real and it's nothing I would want anyone to have to experience firsthand.

Last week we spoke of the choice to make 2021 a better year and not remain stuck in our past. To act as if you have no power to change the course of your life only becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. If we want 2021 to be a better year, we must do something to make it so.

In other words, in this new year, will you choose to be a victim or a victor?

As I've said, maybe hundreds of times in this column, it is a choice we make. We can choose to remain (or become) a victim of circumstances or choose to create a happy, hope-filled life. Which will you choose?

I was CEO of a business with a distribution center in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit. It was a devastating event to the entire region and our business, creating losses that could never be recovered. I visited New Orleans several times afterwards, and even though time had passed, and life moved on, there was a minority of the population who chose to remain living in emotional devastation. Some call it "victim syndrome." I understand that loss of loved ones, property and lifestyle is devastating. I also suffered through it. However, there is a choice to be made. You can live in the past negativity or choose to positively move forward. I'm not making light of tragedy and loss. I am, however, encouraging those who have suffered to positively move on. Rather than choosing to remain in the sorrow and pain of these past events, make a conscious and active decision to put your eyes on a brighter future. Allow optimism to give you hope.

Apply the same logic to 2020, our year of pandemic, creating tragic loss and brutal politics. Our citizens have lost loved ones. We've endured the loss of businesses and careers, while suffering through financial hardships, the likes of the Great Recession and maybe the Great Depression. 2020 has passed. We now have three vaccines and more on the way. What will you choose for you and your family?

Victim or Victor?
For you "nattering naybobs of negativity," I can see you rolling your eyes and hear you shaking your heads, saying, "Just making a choice solves nothing," and you are right. The keyword is "just." If you choose to move forward in optimism, you also must move your mind and body in the positive direction. Making the choice is only the first step, but a big one. Taking positive action is also required.

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I'll leave you this week with these two truths.

Make the choice to move forward in optimism. Do not look to our government to solve your problems. Regardless of who sits in the Oval Office, they are incapable of doing for you what needs to be done. Become more self-reliant. Your heart, mind and soul feel more optimistic when you realize you have the power to build your own reality. Create the future you wish in your mind, engage the passions of your heart, and physically act to make your vision of a positive future come true. And ...

Do not look to the government to bring us back together. There is more benefit in the minds of both red and blue leadership to keep us divided. If we are to come together to create a better nation and world, it's up to us, and it begins with creating a better personal life. We can't help others if we can't help ourselves first.

Focus this year on what you care about and feel is profoundly important. Be optimistic and stay focused. Believe this new year will be better. Not by magic but by an optimistic look forward and positive actions to make your new vision of the future, real. And remember ... success is often just a matter of hanging on after others have let go.

Optimists are happier, healthier, and more active than pessimists. Optimists positively impact those they touch and make a positive, and often profound, difference in the world.

I'm extremely optimistic about our future. You can, and should be too.

Will you join me?

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

How to respond when risk tolerance is tested



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When you begin investing, you'll generally assess your comfort with risk, as your investment choices will be guided at least partially by your risk tolerance. But once you actually experience the ups and downs of the market, this tolerance could be tested.

Risk tolerance may appear less bothersome in the abstract but seem quite different in reality. For example, you might initially think you wouldn't be fazed by short-term market downturns, no matter how severe. However, when the financial markets really decline, as happened when the COVID-19 pandemic struck last March, you might find yourself being more concerned than you thought you would be.

Before you change your investment strategy, it's important to understand the potential tradeoffs. By limiting your downside risk by investing less aggressively, you may also limit your upside potential. You might need to change your strategy in other ways, such as saving more or working longer. That said, the tradeoff involved in reducing your downside risk may be worth taking, if it helps you cope better with wild market swings, as the best strategy may be one you can stick with through the inevitable ups and downs of the markets.

Because market fluctuations are a normal part of investing, here are some additional suggestions that may help you focus on your long-term strategy.

Look past the immediate event. While the market's pandemic-driven fall was sudden, its recovery was also fairly quick. Eight months after its March meltdown, the market had regained all the lost ground and reached a new record high. During the midst of what appears to be a real threat to your investment portfolio, it can be difficult to anticipate a more favorable environment. Yet, while past performance can't guarantee future results, every historical market decline has been followed by a recovery.

Understand that the Dow isn't your portfolio. When the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the other major market indexes such as the S&P 500 fall precipitously (or shoot up), it makes headlines. But the Dow and the S&P 500 only track the performance of large U.S. companies — and while their performance may be an indication of the U.S. economy, they aren't going to track the results of your portfolio, which should ideally include a personalized mix of large-company stocks, small-company stocks, international stocks, bonds, government securities and other investments.

Keep your emotions out of your investment moves. The market will fluctuate constantly — but you should always try keep your emotions in check. Excess exuberance when the market rises, or extreme despondency when the market falls, can lead you to make poor decisions. Specifically, we may buy when we feel good (when the markets are up) and sell when we feel badly (when markets are down). Your heart and your emotions may drive your financial goals — creating a comfortable retirement, sending your kids to college or leaving a legacy for your family — but when you invest for these goals, you should use your head.

Your risk tolerance is a key part of your investment strategy. But by taking the steps described above, you can gain a broader understanding of how risk fits into your overall picture — and a better understanding of yourself as an investor.

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

Latest antique, collectibles, and auction news

For my first column of 2021, I thought it would be fitting to recap and wrap up the antique news from 2020 and share exciting news that has already happened this year.

Some advertising pieces and slot machines brought strong results at an October auction, according to an Antiques and Arts Weekly report. A triangular shaped 1935 Coca Cola sign was one of the items in the auction. The double-sided hanging enamel sign brought \$21,600. An 1870s Proctor and Gamble advertising sign for Amber Soap was said to be historically significant, because it predated the company's production of Ivory soap. It sold for \$28,800. A Pepsi Cola syrup dispenser went for \$39,975. A five cent "Little Rip" baseball themed trade stimulator (similar to a slot machine) sold for \$132,000. A "Triple Centaur Jackpot" slot machine that accepted nickels and quarters in three separate sections reached \$240,000.

An upcoming auction expects even better results. Coin News reports that several coins in a January 20th-24th auction are estimated to bring seven-figure sums. A 1796 No pole cent is one of the valuable coins. 1796 was the first year that the United States produced every denomination of coin from the half cent to gold Eagle \$10 coin. Other coins that may hit the million-dollar mark are an 1838 Liberty Gold Eagle, 1796 Quarter Eagle \$2 ½ coin, 1885 silver Trade Dollar and a 1792 Silver Center Cent. A little silver was added to the center of the copper 1792 cent to make the intrinsic value of the coin worth one cent when the copper alone would have been worth less than that. An 1804 Proof Eagle and "1787 New York-Style Brasher Doubloon" are two of the other ultra-valuable

coins. The Doubloon will be coming to auction for only the third time since 1848. The previous two times it set a world record for any coin ever auctioned. As of Jan. 9, online bidding was already at \$3.6 million.

There was news that offers hope for those of you hunting for that big estate sale or thrift shop find. The Lewiston, Maine Sun Journal reported that a Norway, Maine man made a thrift shop find that netted him a nice sum. Like most of us, 2020 was a difficult year for the antique dealer who discovered the painting at a thrift shop. His antique shop was shuttered from March through May because of the pandemic. In October, he purchased the painting by Austrian-born artist Josef Floch. According to the Sun Journal, "after the upheaval of World War I, Floch left Austria for Paris where he joined the popular avant-garde movement. As World War II raged in France, he immigrated to the United States about 1941, permanently settling in New York." The exact amount



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TRAINOR

continued from page A7

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

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



Jules Lusignan



T.A. King



Maureen Cimoch



Ellen Therrien



John Kokocinski



Adrienne James

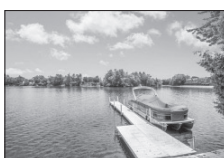


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WEBSTER – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Applianced Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Frplcd Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! The 2nd Floor You'll Find the Comfortable 12X17 Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/Amples Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Dble Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 AC, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**

DOUGLAS – 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24' Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Oak Hrdwd Flr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent CAIR, Heat & Roof! 2x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Walum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

WEBSTER – 55 Hillside Ave! 7 Rm, 4 Bedroom Cape! Great Highway Access! Walk to Memorial Beach! View July 4th Fireworks from Your Backyard! Liv Rm w/Hrdwds, Ceiling Fan & Pellet Stove! Eat-in Kit! Fam Rm! Full Bath! 1st Flr Master w/Hrdwds & Ceiling Fan! Oil Heat! Vinyl Sided! Younger Roof! Replacement Windows! Town Services! Fenced Yard! 1 Car Garage! **\$239,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 20 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Western Exposure w/Panoramic Lake Views! Beautiful Sunsets! 7 Rms, 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths! Recently Renovated from Top to Bottom! Move-in Ready! Professionally Landscaped! Exterior Stonework Front & Back! Open Floor Plan! 1st Level w/Huge Family Rm w/Lake View & Access out to Stone Patio, 1/2 Bath & Laundry, Travertine Tile Throughout! 2nd Level w/Custom Granite Kitchen w/Stainless Steel Appliances, Center Island w/Seating & Large Pantry! Spacious Living Rm w/Sliders to 14X34 Composite Deck! Dining Area w/Water Views, Hardwood Floors Throughout, Bath w/Tiled Shower, Guest Bedroom or use as Office! Lake Facing Master Bedroom w/Walk-in Closet & Private Deck! Bathroom w/Double Sinks, Tiled Shower & Separate Tub! Comfortable 3rd Bedroom w/Lots of Storage! Level Lot w/Room for Entertaining and Enjoying All The Lake has to Offer! **\$749,000.00**

CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrm w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Applianced! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**



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DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD
Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fire-placed Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot. **\$312,000.**



SORRY, SOLD!

OXFORD - 12 WINTER STREET
Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System! 1 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home, Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character! **\$281,000.**

June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Matthew Ross * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Brian Bohenko

THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD



5+ Acre Waterfront Land - on "Little Pond". Also known as Schoolhouse Pond. Private, pastoral setting. Open field surrounded by tree line. 250+ feet waterfront-age. At the end of a Dead end road! **\$179,900**

ON DEPOSIT

N. ATTLEBORO - 523 KELLY BLVD.



SORRY, SOLD!

Farmhouse style home! Sun-drenched interior! Spacious floor plan! living room, eat-in kitchen, 6 rooms total, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths! Heated by gas / hot water baseboard! Outdoor kitchen, pool! Jacuzzi tub/shower. Located just minutes from Rt 95 & 495! assisted sale **\$408,500.**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System! 1 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character **\$281,000.**

LAND

WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS
Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Front-age Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **\$115,000.**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**
Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**

OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE



SORRY, SOLD!

One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck, quiet cul-de-sac! **New Price \$314,900.**

SOUTHBRIDGE - 14 SERVANT WAY



SORRY, SOLD!

Young ranch with heated 2 car garage, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Efficient Propane heat, central air! Open floor plan! gas fireplace! Master Suite w/bathroom, Master California Closet! assisted sale **\$279,900.**

OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful home set back off road providing privacy and oversized yard. Kitchen w/granite counters & abundance of cabinets. Cathedral ceilings kitchen, dining and living room. Open floor plan! large deck with large backyard through sliders in dining room. Hardwood floors! Tile baths. Master bedroom/master bath! Finished walkout lower level w/bat! 2 car garage. Extras: above ground pool! **\$369,900.**

WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY



SORRY, SOLD!

NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$360,000.**

WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! **\$499,900.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind, Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining, formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplaced lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything! **\$1,075,000.**

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



SORRY, SOLD!

Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**

ANTIQUES
continued from page A6

he received wasn't listed, other than that it was five figures. When asked where he bought the painting, the dealer stated, "I can't divulge all the details. That would be like a fisherman telling where his best spot is."

Our online auction of paintings and other artwork from the estate of artist Fay Moore will be running soon. Bidding ends Feb. 17. We are planning a vintage and antique toy auction soon after. We have been acquiring some consignments of gold jewelry, 1960s and earlier baseball cards and other antiques and collectibles for our next multi-estate auction. We are still accepting quality consignments for that sale. You can sign-up for email updates on future events on our home-page: www.centralmassauctions.com.

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Decembers' Single Family Homes Real Estate Market

	December 2019	December 2020	Trend
Median Price	\$273,500	\$311,000	▲
Market Volume	\$3,597,000	\$5,252,154	▲
# of Homes Sold	12	16	▲
Avg Days on Market	44	26	▼

WEBSTER

Median Price	\$281,000	\$318,5000	▲
Market Volume	\$4,100,900	\$6,199,800	▲
# of Homes Sold	11	20	▲
Avg Days on Market	63	30	▼

Contact us to find more about your neighborhood market & what your home is worth!
Happy New Year from our family to yours!

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Nana Frimpongmaah
508-615-6149

Doreen Gagliastro
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Christabella Bamfo
(508) 579-2396

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SUDOKU

							5	7
6	3							8
9					5	1		
		3		7				
				4				5
5		2			6		9	
	9	4					1	
				9		8		3
1					7			

Level: Intermediate

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	6	9	5	6	3	7	8	4	1
3	8	4	1	9	2	6	5	7	3
2	7	1	8	5	4	6	9	3	8
4	9	3	6	1	2	7	8	5	4
5	7	6	2	3	4	9	1	8	6
1	8	2	9	7	5	3	6	4	1
6	3	1	5	2	7	8	4	9	3
8	2	4	9	1	3	6	5	7	8
7	4	3	6	8	1	9	7	2	5

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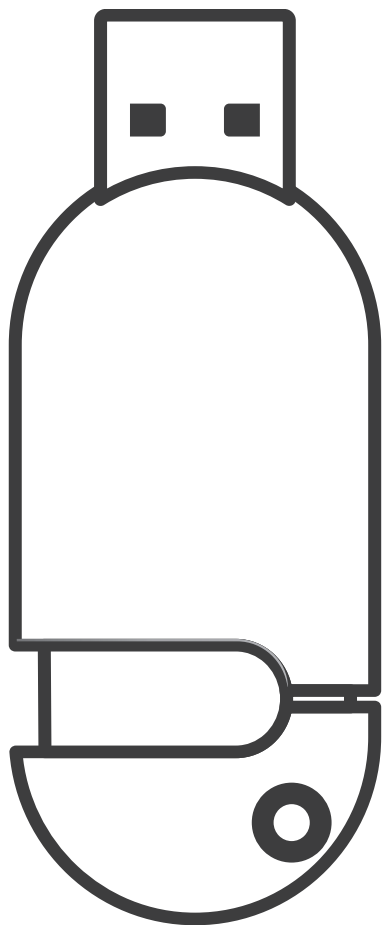

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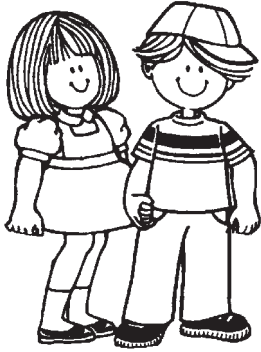
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symbols involved in
operations performed
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THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

• **1776:** THOMAS PAINE'S "COMMON SENSE," A PAMPHLET, WHICH PUSHED FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, IS PUBLISHED.

• **1901:** THE FIRST GREAT TEXAS OIL GUSHER IS DISCOVERED IN BEAUMONT, TEXAS.

• **1982:** DWIGHT CLARK MAKES A FINGERTIP TOUCHDOWN CATCH ON 3RD AND 3 TO SEND THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS TO THE SUPER BOWL.



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FT 7a-3p CNAs FT Maintenance
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