

Spirits of past soldiers to be honored Saturday

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Although it's not yet either Halloween or Veterans Day, the community will be honoring the spirits of soldiers past this weekend at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

On Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m., Gateway Players and other volunteers are gathering at the Oak Ridge Ave entrance to tell the stories of a veteran from each of America's wars who have been interred somewhere on the grounds. Afterward, participants will lead visitors on a tour to those gravesites. There's no charge, but the event is a donation-based fundraiser for the ongoing effort to build a new Veterans' Memorial in Dresser Park and move neighborhood monuments to the World War I site on Elm Street.

According to Gateway's Jeanne Dupuis, the idea has been in the making for a long time, to some degree. She was friends with the late News columnist Seaver Rice, and recalled one of his



Veterans' Council members share plans for the new Dresser Park monument with passersby at last weekend's AutumnFest.

first stories "Mysterious Ghosts of Oak Ridge Cemetery" (published in 1982), which relates an

insomniac conversation with one of those ghosts about planning for the Memorial Day parade of deceased vets.

"I tried to say a few

words ... I was confused ... No, this just couldn't be possible; the last soldier of the Civil War had passed away over 30

years ago, but yet here was a soldier of that war sitting right here beside me," Rice wrote, noting his narrator's own war

was World War I.

During the story, just three pages long, Rice mentions all of the wars to that time, and even has the ghost presciently remark, "They tell me there's one goin' on right now over in Arabia." Rice notes he'd "known many of them except the men who fought in the Revolution."

Specifically, he names a handful of soldiers slumbering there: Ben Dandridge, Earl Durfee, Bill Jones and Salem Marsh. Dandridge and Durfee will be among those featured this Saturday, alongside Caleb Ammidown, George Sayles, Watson Dillabar, James Dacoles, Robert and Ruth Bullard, and Frank Leo.

"Living at the back end of Oak Ridge Cemetery, I tried to find all of these people," Dupuis said. "...We talked about not just doing the famous veterans [like the Ammidowns]. How about bringing in the regular folk?"

So she went "grave hunting" and found they're scattered all over

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Blackstone Canal sparked big changes in central Mass.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Exactly one century ago, a little math changed the future of Worcester County. In 1922, a Worcester resident "calculated that it costs less to ship something 3000 miles from England to Boston than carting it the 40 miles from Boston to Worcester," historian Tom Kelleher told a small crowd at the Southridge Historical Society last Wednesday.

That bit of numeracy planted a seed for the creation of the privately-run Blackstone Canal, which would open six years later and make Worcester a "seaport" for all of 20 years. In its short and unprofitable lifetime (it paid stockholders just \$2.75 in dividends during its existence), the canal helped spur commercial development as far away as Gardner, brought in Irish immigrants, and supported the transit progress that did it in: the railroad.

It wasn't the first canal in the Bay State; that honor goes to the Middlesex Canal which made Lowell the factory city it became. It's also not unique in being a commercial failure; most canals were, and the only one with any significant cachet that became profitable is still running today — the Erie Canal. Coincidentally, that has a Southbridge link. Former local resident William Marcy was in charge of the funding as treasurer of New York, and later became governor. Massachusetts even briefly considered building an east-west canal to link to it in Albany.

Nor was 1922 the Blackstone's first iteration. Back in 1796, Rhode Islander John Brown proposed a canal that would have linked Providence to Worcester "and make him even more fabulously rich." The process from idea to execution ran into a long list of unpredictable soil conditions, political and financial problems, conflicts between the two states, and engineering issues in a society that had no real civil engineering base and had to learn as it went, Kelleher noted. As was typical in the early 20th century, the proponents sought stockholders at \$100 per share, but the shares never reached that value — they peaked at \$37.50 and soon fell to \$15 even before construction began.

Kelleher notes the canal's issues were partly due to its planning. To "cheap out," the designers had it bounce back and forth between using the river itself and a canal, a fact that sometimes resulted in boats getting stranded by low water and other issues on the river. Ironically, they invested in granite from a Northbridge quarry rather than wood for all but one of the 49 locks, at a cost of \$1000 more per lock.

New behavioral health pod opens at Harrington

SOUTHBRIDGE — UMass Memorial Health - Harrington has opened a new behavioral health emergency service pod in the Emergency Department of Harrington Hospital in Southbridge. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the new facility to officially mark the opening.

The new four-bed pod includes a dedicated nursing station, full bathroom and shower. The expansion will provide a more comfortable and calming environment for patients seeking behavioral health care who may experience longer emergency room stays awaiting inpatient psychiatric



placement or further evaluation.

The addition of a dedicated behavioral health emergency pod will also allow for better use of existing emergency department rooms, which are primarily configured for medical use, as well as more efficient patient management and care.

"The need for behavioral health care was already growing before the pandemic, and beginning to stretch our resources. But since the pandemic began, that need has exploded," said Ed Moore, President of UMass Memorial Health

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Thank you, Big Bunny shoppers!

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday Sept 17, 2022, the Quinebaug Masonic

Lodge in Southbridge started its community outreach program and set up a food drive table to help collect food for the Southbridge food share. Southbridge food

share is located at 79 Elm St., and has been around for many years. Its services Southbridge, Sturbridge, Holland, Wales, Brimfield, and Charlton. What a beauti-

ful fall day.

Big Bunny Market was buzzing with shoppers that morning and people were very generous and supportive of the food drive. One of the community outreaches programs this year was to collect and raise food for in need. Quinebaug Lodge was able to collect and donate 40 bags of groceries and \$72 in donations. Bill Bouvier a volunteer at the Southbridge food share, food drive was excited to see the truck load of bags of donated food. He mentioned to us that the food share program provides food to about 80 families a month.

A special thank you goes out to Big Bunny Market for giving us the opportunity to set up our table for this worthy cause, and the donation of cases of food for the food share. At the beginning of the 2023 Masonic

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Courtesy

Left to right: Brother Clay Tully, Bro. Terrance Mount, Bro. Will Proper, and Bro. Chip Hubert members of Quinebaug Lodge proudly standing behind all the bags of food collected for the food drive in front of Big Bunny Market. All these food donation and cash collected will go to the Southbridge food share located on 79 Elm St.

Sturbridge to celebrate National Public Lands Day with Riverlands Trails open house

STURBRIDGE — The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), in collaboration with federal, state, community and nonprofit partners, will present the 29th annual National Public Lands Day celebration—the largest single-day volunteer event for America’s public lands. The theme for this year’s NPLD celebration is “Giving Back Together,” in honor of the role America’s public lands play in bringing people together for recreation, socialization, and stewardship will be celebrated in Sturbridge with a “Trails Open House” celebrating the completion of the Riverlands Parking lot & trails, two sections of the regional Grand Trunk Trail totaling just over a mile, and the opening of the Long Pond Open Space parcel and trail.

All events will be held at the Riverlands parking lot, 52 Stallion Hill Rd., from 10 a.m. to noon.

A formal ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 10 a.m., followed by several bike rides and walks including at 10:20 a.m. guided, a two-mile flow trail bike ride, 10:30 a.m., a two-mile trail run, and also a guided 1 mile trail walk and at 10:45 a.m., a guided 1.5 mile family bike ride. A staffed Bike maintenance station courtesy of Putnam Cyclery will be available along with bike safety information. The trail committee will be staffing



Courtesy

The recently completed Riverlands Parking lot/trail head at 52 Stallion Hill Rd.

a table of local trail information and our trail guides. This open house event is hosted by The Friends of Sturbridge Trails (FrOST).

This Riverlands parking lot and trail work was several years in completion, using \$ 94,000 in Mass Trails Grants,

\$65,000 in Community Preservation funds, and supported by the Sturbridge DPW, Northern Tree Service, Morse Engineering & Construction, Green Hill Engineering, and countless volunteer hours by the Trail Committee and our “3rd Saturday” volunteer trail day

volunteers.

NEEF’s National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation’s largest single-day volunteer event for public lands. Established in 1994 and held annually on the fourth Saturday in September, this celebration brings out thousands of volunteers to help restore and improve public lands around the country. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, America’s public lands acted as a safe haven for recreation, conversation, and the simple enjoyment of being outside the confines of our homes. In a time of disconnectedness and uncertainty, the outdoors brought people together and deepened our appreciation for the important role these spaces play in our lives.

Join us on Saturday, Sept. 24 as we celebrate the 29th annual National Public Lands Day and renew our commitment to securing a safer and healthier world for ourselves, our children, and generations to come. On this page, <https://www.neefusa.org/npld> find a map for locating the Sturbridge or other NPLD events near you, and so much more.

For more information on Sturbridge Trails visit: www.sturbridge-trails.org and the FrOST Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Sturbridge-Trails>

Nichols College surges into US News Best Colleges rankings

DUDLEY — Nichols College has earned recognition in the 2022-23 US News & World Report Best Colleges rankings. In the competitive Regional Universities North category, the college was ranked #34 as a Top Performer in Social Mobility and #121 overall out of a pool of 181 ranked institutions. The Regional Universities-North category covers a geographic area from

Maryland to Maine, a region densely populated by institutions of higher education.

The US News rankings consider a variety of factors to provide students and parents with an objective basis to compare institutions and help guide college selection. Factors include Academic Reputation, Admissions Selectivity, Graduation

and Retention Rates, Pell Grant Graduation Rates, Faculty Composition Metrics and Alumni Giving.

The Social Mobility ranking is an indicator of an institution’s ability to educate, graduate and ultimately employ economically disadvantaged students as measured by Pell Grant eligibility.

Nichols President Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M, lauded the news: “This segment of the college student population has been cited as a national priority by political leaders of both parties, and this recognition in US News reflects the hard work of the entire Nichols community who work closely with each and every student to deliver a high quality, broad-based business

education that prepares them for lifelong success worldwide.”

Nichols is now embarking on a new phase in its 200+ year history with development of the Embracing Greatness strategic plan. The plan, currently in development in consultation with members of the Nichols community, will outline a growth strategy to establish new

institutional priorities for academic and student life programming, athletics, campus facilities and fundraising.

About Nichols College
The mission of Nichols College is to educate and enlighten students to capitalize on their ambitions and to become impactful, forward looking global leaders.

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Bay Path Practical Nursing students complete dementia care training course

CHARLTON —The entire Practical Nursing Class of 2023 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy completed the eight-hour Dementia Care Training Course recently and all became Dementia Care Certified.

In the photo above is Professor Cheryl Cahill, MSN Ed, RN (far left) of Oxford, who facilitated the course along with members of the 2023 cohort. Professor Cahill welcomed the PN 2023 cohort and lead the crucial education and training for Dementia Care. The Dementia Care training modules meet the requirement for the one-time course on the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with cognitive impairments, including, but not limited to, Alzheimer's and dementia. Professor Cahill's experience and successful stint as a staff nurse, pediatric emergency room (2006-2015) and staff nurse, adult emergency room at UMass Memorial Medical Center is recognized.

"We are pleased to recognize Professor Cahill's expertise and effectiveness in teaching," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. "Professor Cahill is among the most respected faculty and is a trusted advisor and mentor to students and alumni alike. Leading the Dementia Care training for the



PN Class of 2023 solidifies Professor Cahill's commitment to practical nursing education, we are grateful and value her time, practice, and experi-

ence." Professor Cahill expressed how everyone at Bay Path is "lucky to have the opportunity to influence future

nurses as we strive to provide the highest level of practical nursing education."

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow saving lives during Best Friends Animal Society's Strut Your Mutt Celebration Walk

BRIMFIELD — Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, HTAT, along with hundreds of animal rescue groups across the country, is participating in Best Friends Animal Society's annual fundraising dog walk and festival, Strut Your Mutt Celebration Walk, on Saturday, Sept. 24. The event brings together communities to raise money to save the lives of homeless pets.

Best Friends Strut Your Mutt Celebrations feature local animal organizations raising crucial funds needed to save the lives of more pets in their communities. The event is not limited to dog lovers; many cat organizations have also benefitted from being a part of Strut Your Mutt. To sign-up go to bit.ly/HTATwalk22 and press "Join My Team."

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow's 10th Annual Strut Your Mutt® Celebration Walk will be held on Saturday, Sept. 24, at Brimfield Auction Acres, as part of the Brimfield Community Partnership's (BCP) Brimfield Craft and Harvest Festival. The Festival is an all-day, family-friendly event that runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with HTAT's walk starting at 1 p.m. Those who would like to participate in HTAT's walk can either pre-register online at bit.ly/HTATwalk22 by pressing "Join My Team," or register on-site on Sept. 24 from noon to 1 p.m. Walkers are welcome to come with or without a dog.

"We at Here Today Adopted Tomorrow are proud to be part of the Best Friends Strut Your Mutt celebration happening across the country, and we're so excited to combine our annual walk with the BCP's Brimfield Harvest Festival," said Rachael Max, HTAT's Executive Director and Board

"HTAT is working with Best Friends toward the goal of taking this nation no-kill by 2025. Working together we can accomplish great things all around the country and right here at home for our dogs and cats. We love our community and we know you do too, so help us take action for pets and the people who love them. Join us in saving lives by participating in Here Today Adopted Tomorrow's 10th Annual Strut Your Mutt® Celebration, and stick around for some fun fall activities at the Harvest Festival!"

Best Friends has been helping local animal rescue groups and shelters for more than 26 years to raise funds for their lifesaving work through Strut Your Mutt walks around the country. Nationally the fundraising goal for Strut Your Mutt 2022 is \$1.3 million.

Thank you to Best Friends' sponsors ACANA, the official Best Friends Credit Card (in partnership with Credit One Bank), Free People, Lagunitas, Limavady, SpeedQueen, Wahl, and Aetna and to HTAT's Lion Sponsors Savers Bank and Petco Love who help make Strut Your Mutt a huge lifesaving success

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on creating and supporting the bond between animals and people in our community. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield, MA. It is deeply important to us that every resident's stay at

ing for well-adjusted, happy animals. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone. Our ultimate goal is to keep pets and people together. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, as well as community assistance programs to help pet owners keep their pets, such as our Pet Food Pantry, low-cost spay-neuter program, and Safety Net Foster Program for owned cats. HTAT helps over 1,000 animals and their families every year. For more information, visit heretoday-sanctuary.org.

About Best Friends Animal Society
Best Friends Animal Society is a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters by 2025. Founded in 1984, Best Friends is a pioneer in the no-kill movement and has helped reduce the number of animals killed in shelters from an estimated 17 million per year to around 355,000. Best Friends runs lifesaving programs all across the country, as well as the nation's largest no-kill animal sanctuary. Working collaboratively with a network of more than 3,800 animal welfare and shelter partners, and community members nationwide,

working to Save Them All®. For more information, visit bestfriends.org.

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Charlton prioritizing capital spending plan in 2023

President.

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — With a slew of capital projects on the table and the Dudley Charlton Regional School District recently approving investment in new school roofs, selectmen have made it clear that laying out a town-specific Capital Spending Plan is one of their priorities for Town Administrator Andrew Golas going into 2023.

Selectman Bill Borowski stressed the request during a brief discussion about the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator goals and objectives on Sept. 13, noting the larger number of capital projects that have been brought forward in recent years as well as the potential for more investments in the school district as their multi-phase capital plan takes shape.

"The only goal that's kind of a priority to me is that with the amount of funding we will be asked for over the next fiscal year or twelve months, one of the things I'd really like to emphasize to Andrew is to develop a true Capital Spending Plan with his proposals for us to consider, obviously trying to minimize tax increases as best we can, but also knowing there's only a finite amount of dollars," said Borowski. "To me, that's something we really need to focus on this year between Shepherd Hill and the Senior Center, the Fire Station, there's so many things coming up I really think we need not just a manifest, but also some proposals of how we could fund them."

Town Administrator Golas agreed saying the growing number of capital projects has been on his mind as well. He said he will fully embrace the board's request.

"That's something that went through my head,

HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making what's the target timeline that we need to look at as we're considering the fire station, Shepherd Hill and the school roofs and really just what pots do we need to pull from because really it all comes down to tax dollars," said Golas.

Over the last five years the potential need for a refurbishment or replacement for Shepherd Hill Regional High School, the need for a new fire department, updates or replacement of the police department, a new senior center and other smaller investments have all been proposed or discussed heavily on the town level. While the school district recently received voter approval for roof replacements and other projects, the towns of Charlton and Dudley need to determine how they will fund those investments and taxpayers have already voted down a public safety complex and purchasing the Charlton Furniture property for a new senior center. It appears the goal of both the selectmen and Golas involve determining how these projects could be funded with minimal impact to the taxpayers. It's a happy medium that has been a challenge for most towns, especially in the wake of the pandemic.

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Cornerstone Bank promotes Chelsea Prizio to VP, Credit Manager



Chelsea Prizio

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with

10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is announcing the promotion of longtime employee, Chelsea Prizio, to Vice President, Credit Manager. Prizio, a resident of Warren, began her career in 2006 as a part-time teller while still attending college, and worked her way up through the deposit operations and commercial credit departments.

“Long-term employees like Chelsea are so valued at our organization,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “We are very proud of her

growth over the years and her commitment to making Cornerstone Bank a great place for the community to do their banking and our employees to work.”

Prizio is a graduate of Western New England University with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. She has held a variety of positions within the institution including analyst, senior analyst, credit manager, and assistant vice president.

“I’ve learned a lot with each position I’ve held throughout my career

at Cornerstone,” said Prizio. “I look forward to using this experience to further develop our robust credit team, seamlessly integrating it into the lending department and leveraging technology to provide the best possible customer service. I also feel strongly about fostering internal growth and helping others advance in their career paths, because that’s how I got to where I am today.”

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a

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

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

QCC receives \$160,000 in funding for culinary re-entry programs

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) has received \$160,000 in funding to continue its food service worker training program for previously incarcerated individuals. The Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program is an initiative of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development Secretary, Rosalin Acosta, and provides industry-supported curriculum in culinary training for post-release students, as well as assistance with career readiness and job placement.

“QCC is committed to providing training opportunities to all individuals seeking to enter into employment in Central Massachusetts. The work we do with returning citizens is especially important as it provides the skills needed for employment and provides our returning citizens a pathway to self-sufficiency and economic independence. Our strong partnership with the Massachusetts Restaurant Association not only provides employment opportunities, but

also offers the prospect of career advancement and college credits through our culinary apprenticeship program,” said Dean of Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Kathie Manning.

One graduate of the program’s summer cohort was inspired to participate by the passion of the staff at Worcester County House of Correct and QCC, as well as the support of his family.

“I will need to work and provide for myself, so this gives me more options, more tools. The whole program was good, pushing myself to do it, sticking to it, showing up. We learned different styles of cooking, but also about being in a work environment and working with people,” he said.

The culinary certificates awarded to graduates are part of QCC’s non-credit offerings, however, they can also be used to receive college credit. One student received her certificate in June of 2022 and will be starting at QCC this fall with nine credits

towards her associate degree in hospitality and recreation management.

“There is a stigma as a formerly incarcerated individual, but coming in with this certificate helps a lot,” she said, adding that she is already working in food service and eventually wants to open her own restaurant.

According to the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, there is a severe need for people to fill vacancies in the hospitality industry, especially entry-level positions. Participants in this program earn industry recognized credentials including ServSafe Food Handlers, FEAST, and Mass Allergen certifications which are necessary for the culinary industry.

The program is made possible by a strong partnership between many organizations. QCC, Worcester County Sheriff’s Office, Worcester House of Corrections, Snapchef, Mass. Restaurant Association, Latin American Health Alliance, LIFT Worcester, MassHire Central Region Workforce Board and MassHire Career Center all collaborated to make this program a success.

Quinsigamond Community College, UniCare partner to improve community health

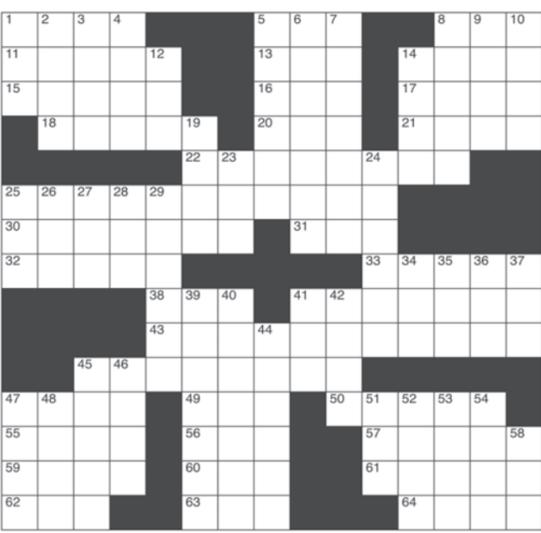
WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) and UniCare are partnering to improve community health, beginning with offering free yoga classes to the Worcester community on Friday, Sept. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 1. The classes will be held at 9 a.m. both days at the QCC soccer field at 670 West Boylston Street in Worcester and are open to all. UniCare is a Massachusetts-based health company providing access to healthcare for nearly 200,000 state and municipal workers across the Commonwealth.

“The partnership between Quinsigamond Community College and UniCare will benefit our campus and the Worcester community, as well as our students,” said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja. “Health and mental well-being go hand-in-hand with student success. Yoga is a way to help people reduce stress and mental tension, while also getting in good physical shape.”

“As part of our mission to improve the whole health of our members and the community, we’re thrilled to team up with Quinsigamond Community College to offer these free yoga classes in Worcester,” said David Morales, general manager of UniCare. “Yoga is a great way to improve fitness and overall health, and we look forward to partnering with QCC again on opportunities to help strengthen the health of the Worcester community.”

“College-corporate partnerships like this one enable the College to expand services among our campus community as well as our surrounding neighborhoods. It helps us to connect directly with the population we serve, while we support UniCare in expanding wellness programs throughout our community, promoting healthy living,” Pedraja said.

The classes will be taught by Kate Dalrymple, the owner and operator of Kula Yoga & Barre in Worcester. The first 20 attendees to register and attend each day will receive a free UniCare-branded yoga mat (one per person) and a QCC water bottle. For more information and to register, visit yogainourcommunity.com.

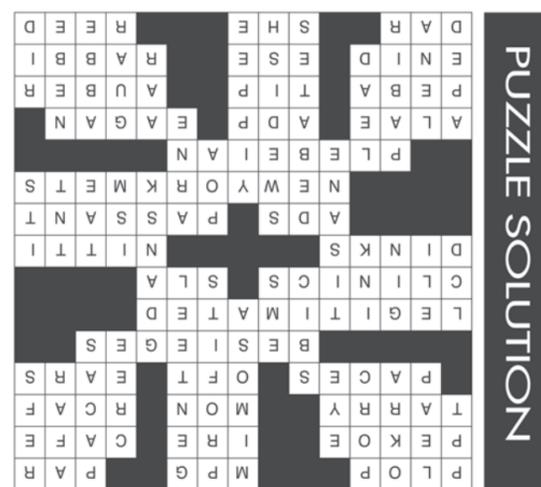


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Fall down
- 5. Gas usage measurement
- 8. Golf score
- 11. A superior grade of black tea
- 13. Wrath
- 14. Eating house
- 15. Delay leaving a place
- 16. People now inhabiting Myanmar
- 17. Canadian flyers
- 18. Walks back and forth
- 20. Frequently
- 21. Humans have two
- 22. Surrounds with armed forces
- 25. Made proper
- 30. Medical buildings
- 31. Patty Hearst’s captors
- 32. Hits with a drop shot
- 33. Italy’s PM 1919-20
- 38. Promotions
- 41. En _ : incidentally
- 43. Queens baseball team
- 45. Commoner
- 47. Expenses in insurance world (abbr.)
- 49. Payroll firm
- 50. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. Skipper butterflies
- 56. Hint
- 57. Daniel __, French composer
- 59. English children’s author Blyton
- 60. Midway between east and southeast
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Patriotic women’s group
- 63. The woman
- 64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 2. Jump
- 3. Eaten as a vegetable
- 4. Residual paresis after anesthesia
- 5. Brunchtime staple
- 6. Makes money off of
- 7. Refined
- 8. Nocturnal S. American rodents
- 9. From a distance
- 10. Officials
- 12. It helps you see
- 14. Central Canadian indigenous person
- 19. Invests in little enterprises
- 23. They help in tough situations
- 24. Industrial port in Poland
- 25. Type of screen
- 26. Peyton’s little brother
- 27. Alcoholic beverage
- 28. Newspapers need it
- 29. Herbal tea
- 34. Distinctive practice
- 35. Exercise system __-bo
- 36. Explosive
- 37. Belonging to a thing
- 39. Presidential candidates engage in them
- 40. Of the Swedes
- 41. Meadow-grass
- 42. “Rule, Britannia” composer
- 44. Hooray!
- 45. Greek city
- 46. One way to do it by example
- 47. Imitated
- 48. “Game of Thrones” actress
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Drought-resistant plant
- 53. A French abbot
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Get free of



PUZZLE SOLUTION

REAL ESTATE SOUTHBRIDGE

- \$401,000, 152 Brentwood Dr, Froio, Christine A, and Gervasi, Richard A, to Gervasi-Haberbosch, Dena, and Gervasi, Richard A.
- \$394,900, 17 Blanchard Dr, Amartey, Abigail A, to Augustin, Guerline M.
- \$370,000, 30 North St, Julien Sr, Rodney, and Julien, Lucie M, to Green, Kwami J.
- \$360,000, 355 High St, Price, Tracy L, to Debenedictis, Danielle J.
- \$360,000, 82 Prince Rd, Frese, Richard E, to Parenteau, Seth, and Parenteau, Jennifer C.
- \$330,000, 59 Forest Ave, Jowett, Linda L, and Zonia, David, to Delgado, Lisa.
- \$329,900, 80 Highfield Dr, Geldbaum LLC, to Gouin, David, and Gouin, Karen.
- \$325,000, 756 Dennison Dr, Everson, Adam C, and Everson, Diana K, to Snow, Thomas, and Snow, Caitlyn M.
- \$320,000, 374 High St, Thibeault, Jason J, and Thibeault, Nicole J, to Martinez-Burgos, Omar, and Cruz-Vega, Jenny L.
- \$309,000, 754 Worcester St, Real Est Invs Northeast, to Rosario, Giselle A.
- \$305,000, 35 Charlton St, Hudon Properties LLC, to Dasilveira, Patricia F, and Oliveira, Matheus L.
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Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale pumpkin patch returns

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale's popular Pumpkin Patch returns on Saturday, Sept. 24, filling the entire front lawn of the church at 8 Maple St., Sturbridge, with a wide array of pumpkins and gourds for sale, along with mums, hay bales, and corn stalks for your holiday decorating.

The Pumpkin Patch will be open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weather permitting. As a special nod to the Federated Church's 100th anniversary that is celebrated throughout the year, any customer whose order totals \$100 or more will be able to choose one additional pumpkin for free.

The patch continues through October 30, with a variety of special events and activities scheduled, including a pumpkin carving demonstration by Roger Williams Park Jack-o-Lantern Spectacular carver Heidi Curboy on October 9 and a performance by Auburn a capella chorus, Rock Voices on October 16, followed by piano selections from Federated Church music director Andrew Kosiba.

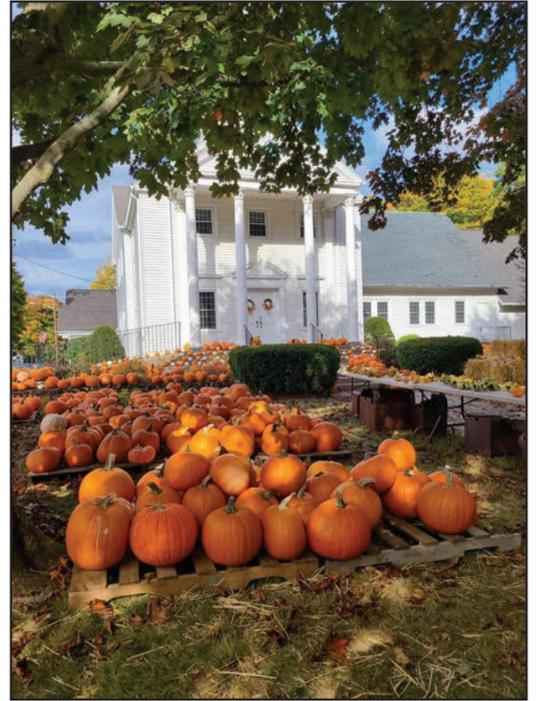
According to committee chair Tom Mapplebeck, "The annual Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale Pumpkin Patch made its first appearance in 2018 as a fundraiser that benefits church operations and numerous regional ministries. A significant benefit goes to the Navajo Nation in

Farmington, New Mexico where Pumpkins USA employs more than 700 Native Americans during the harvest months of September and October, and a full-time off-season staff that is comprised of entirely Native Americans. This has a lasting impact on a region with 42 percent unemployment."

The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale is celebrating its 100th anniversary throughout 2022. The Church was formed in 1922 when three Sturbridge congregations – the Congregational Church (1736), the Baptist Church (1747), and the Unitarian Society (1864) -- joined together to become one entity. Later, a fourth, non-denominational society, known as the Federated Society, was formed. Two thousand twenty-two marks the 100th anniversary of that union.

For additional information about the Pumpkin Patch or other upcoming events, please visit the Church website at sturfed.org or contact the Church office at (774) 304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org. Regular updates will also be available on the Church's Facebook page @ [FederatedChurchSturbridgeFiskdale](https://www.facebook.com/FederatedChurchSturbridgeFiskdale).

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives. Members of the community are welcome and invited to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.



Phantoms by Firelight tickets on sale now

STURBRIDGE — Tickets for Phantoms by Firelight at Old Sturbridge Village are on sale now to the general public, with early bird rates available through Sept. 30. The event, formerly known as Phantoms & Fire, returns to Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) for 13 nights of spooky fun, Oct. 7-31. Tickets are currently available for all dates and times,

but selling quickly.

Phantoms by Firelight invites guests to explore the myths and folklore of Halloween while navigating the museum by night. The event will offer crafts and games, storytelling by firelight, a spooky selfie contest, bonfires, water fires, torches, candlelight, and more. Kids will delight in the return of Clues & Candy, a scavenger

hunt-style experience around the Village that offers safe and fun trick-or-treating for families. Visitors of all ages are encouraged to show up in costume and show off their Halloween best.

In 2022, a mysterious troupe of performers will add to the fun as they take over the Village, bringing in gravity-defying acrobats, creepy conjurers, fate-tempting

fire jugglers and more. A special book signing with Author Thomas D'Agostino will take place on select event nights.

Spooky snacks and treats will be available for purchase during the event, including cider donuts, pumpkin pie trifle, chocolate chip cookie trifle, soups, sandwiches, and more. Beverages including hot apple cider

(with or without rum or Fireball) and hot chocolate with Peppermint Schnapps or Bailey's will also be sold during the event.

Early bird tickets are available now through Sept. 30 to the general public. Tickets are \$25.20 for adults and \$12.60 for youth, \$22.40 for member adults and \$11.20 for member youth. Tickets will be \$28 for adults and

\$14 for youth beginning Oct. 1.

Phantoms by Firelight will take place on 13 nights in October, from 4:30-9 p.m., after the Village closes to daytime guests. Tickets and additional details can be found at: <https://www.osv.org/event/phantoms-by-firelight-2022/>.

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August 18, 2022 thru October 17, 2022 at the following Locations:

- Residences at Wells School: 80 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550, weekdays by appointment
- Southbridge Housing Authority, 60 Charlton #2 Street Southbridge, MA, 01550, Tues & Thurs 9am to 4pm
- Jacob Edwards Public Library, 236 Main Street Southbridge, MA 01550

Library Hours: Mon and Thurs 9am to 8pm

Tues, Wed, Fri 9am to 5pm

You may also request an application by emailing southbridgemills@winnco.com or calling (508)-635-0111.

Informational and Lottery Public Meetings

Southbridge Autumn Fest, Southbridge Town Common, Southbridge, MA 01550

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main Street Southbridge, MA 01550

Lottery – Public welcomed, applicants are not required to be present – **Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 10:00 am.**
Held at the Jacob Edwards Public Library.

Applications must be received onsite at Residences at Wells School by 5pm October 17, 2022.
Applications must be mailed to Residences at Wells School, 80 Marcy St., Southbridge, MA and arrive by October 17, 5pm to be included in the initial lottery.



Henry the Juggler gives a young lady a "driving lesson" of sorts.



Lisa and Selena Wilson of She's Busy perform.

SOUTHBRIDGE WELCOMES FALL AT AUTUMNFEST

SOUTHBRIDGE — Autumn is officially here, and last weekend, Southbridge presaged it with the annual merchants, music and miscellaneous marketplace that is AutumnFest. Whether you went for local food, libations, crafts, agricultural products, performances, meeting people or the Lucky Duck Day, Mother Nature made it easy with sun and warmth.



Peg Dean talks to Jasmin Rivas at the Economic Development tent.



couple kids hang out on one of the Common benches.



An apprentice ghoul visits the Opacum tent.



The festival is a riot of colors as seen through the famous glasses on the Common.



A plethora of squashes represented just part of the agricultural produce displayed by Mary's Garden.



Kids make the bounce house live up to its name.

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EDITORIAL

Winter may be coming, but don't despair

So often, people strive to become happier by doing this, or obtaining that; however, sometimes it's what we give up that makes us more content. With the fast drop in temperatures, down into the 30's we know winter is coming. (For those of you out there who are fans of the "Game of Thrones" books or television franchise, you're welcome for the reference.)

For longtime New England residents, winter is a dreaded season. It's not so much the snow, as it is the frigid temperatures and high cost of fuel. We happen to enjoy the fall and winter seasons but for those who are having glum feelings about the colder weather, or even for those who love all weather, we have some tips on some things you can toss, to create more happiness in your world.

One thing you can say 'be gone' to is the idea that you have to always have a positive outlook on any given situation. If you try to avoid negative feelings all of the time, you're not creating a healthy space for when you are truly happy. If you need to vent, do it. If you're upset and need to cry into a bowl of ice cream, have at it. It is your overall life satisfaction that matters.

Minimize your time on social media. Remember the days when you didn't know what your friends, family or even celebrities were doing every second of the day? Those were blissful times. The only way we knew what someone was up to was to pick up the phone, wait for the dial tone, and make that call. We're not sure we ever inquired about what our friends were eating. All of that unnecessary knowledge is overwhelming at times, and simply put, unnecessary. One study showed that the more time people spend on social media, the more depressed they are. When we spend too much time online we know that we are wasting time. The idea of wasting time can inflict a feeling of depression on anyone who is typically highly motivated and energetic. Documenting every aspect of your life can be exhausting and takes away from the actual experience. If you order a rack of lamb, just enjoy every bit of it without feeling the need to share it with the world. Your experiences will be more fulfilling overall.

Don't compare yourself to others. We are fans of the phrase 'No one is you, and that is your power.' People have been comparing themselves to others since the dawn of time. The idea of keeping up with the Joneses is outdated. Don't do that. Love the idea that the person sitting next to you or walking down the street is nothing like you.

Keep likeminded company. If you have friends who are Eeyore like or always seem to be complaining, less is more. We don't have time in our precious lives to listen to chronic complaining. At the end of your life, do you want to think to yourself, 'Wow I spent so much time listening to people complain?' We're guessing you don't.

Have realistic goals. If you start with lower expectations and grow from there your success rate in reaching your higher goals will be greater and less stressful to obtain.

Forgive others. This one is extremely hard. However, forgiving those who have hurt you is key to feeling relaxed and happy.

Eating too much sugar can lead to depression. Balance in your meals has been scientifically proven to make people happier. More vegetables, more fiber and less processed food.

Opt to spend your money on experiences rather than things. Experts say the satisfaction of an experience will last much longer.

Lastly, choose good posture. While sitting up you automatically feel more energetic and positive. Slouching can lead to feel nervous, sleepy, sluggish and fearful.

A quote by Jim Rohn sums it up: "Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present."

OPINION

Viewpoints and commentary from the Tri-Community and beyond

TO THE EDITOR

An investment in United Way is an investment in our community

To the Editor:

I am writing to offer thanks to the United Way, South Central Mass. The United Way serves the Towns of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge and Webster. Their support is integral to the well-being of these communities.

New Hope, a non-profit that provides services to survivors of sexual and domestic violence, also works within these five towns. The sup-

port we receive from the United Way is critical to those individuals and families struggling with the impact of sexual and domestic violence. Additionally, funds from the United Way provides resources for violence prevention work with local youth.

In the fall, many companies will be holding campaigns to support the work of the United Way. If your employer has such a campaign, please consider giving.

If your company does not have a campaign, ask them to consider holding one. You can reach the UW office at 508-765-5491. When you give to the United Way, you are investing in our community. I ask you to consider such an investment.

Sincerely,

MARCIA SZYMANSKI
PRESIDENT/CEO
NEW HOPE

What does it mean to be open-minded?

Are you open-minded? I like to say I am, but am I?

What does it mean to be open-minded? Is it even possible to be genuinely open-minded? Does that mean you aren't open-minded if you have strong convictions?

This column is about positivity; although I'm not perfect, I try to close my mind to negativity. Does that mean I'm close-minded?

Is being open-minded a virtue or a vice? I guess it depends.

Someone told me that having an open mind means listening to different thoughts, opinions, and beliefs, examining how they conflict with your convictions and ideas, and then allowing your view to change should the idea be worthy of your acceptance.

I've also learned that being open-minded can mean being open-minded to the possibilities for the future.

I've met many people who are close-minded to the idea that good things can happen. They are stuck in a mindset that success isn't attainable, giants are undefeatable, and the bad guys will always win.

Being closed-minded is when we close our minds to new possibilities, opinions, or ways of thinking. We build

a box

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

around what we know or want to be true, but then we never think outside the box.

When we become close-minded in the wrong way, if we're not careful, it's possible that we also lose the ability to imagine what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes or to see the world from a different perspective.

Once we get into a thinking pattern, we develop a routine and stay in that pattern. I'm not against routines, but sometimes getting stuck in a routine can lead you to a particular way of thinking. Sometimes changing the routine can help open your mind to new thinking patterns.

If we're stuck in a particular pattern of thinking, and a problem arises that is caused by the way we think, is it possible to truly solve the problem by continuing to think in the same way?

In some ways, we can become prisoners of our beliefs and assumptions.

I am guilty of learning to do things in a certain way and then believing everyone

should do it that same way, only to learn that most people don't want to do it the same way, and if I tried to get them to do it that way, they don't listen!

Confirmation bias is when we accept evidence that supports our beliefs and mindsets and reject evidence that doesn't.

If you challenge someone to think differently, it can quickly become a fight, some people don't want their beliefs and ideas to be challenged, and maybe we should respect that and learn to live with them in peace.

In today's world, it seems that when we encounter someone of a radically different belief system, even amongst people born and raised in our own country, rather than trying to understand why they think the way they think, we hate them and call them names. It's easy not to listen to their ideas and write them off because we believe they are immoral people.

Am I saying we shouldn't defend and debate what we believe to be true? No.

Having a closed mind may cause us to oversimplify the other person's point of view because we don't want to think too deeply about the issue.

A closed mind results in our rational thinking and imagination becoming stunted. We lose the ability to relate.

Some of the best leaders, innovators, and businesspeople were open to the possibilities of a new way of doing things. They helped people to see their vision, dramatically changing our way of life.

What would happen if we had a more open mind in our approach to family? Could it change the whole dynamic and lead to better relationships?

Is it possible that having an open mind to how we deal with people we disagree with could radically change the country's direction? I hope so.

I'm open to the possibilities.

Should you stick with index-based investments?



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You may have heard that you can simplify your investment strategy just by owning index-based or passive investments. But is this a good idea? You'll want to consider the different aspects of this type of investment style.

To begin with, an index-based investment is a vehicle such as a mutual fund or an exchange-traded fund (ETF) that mimics the performance of a market benchmark, or index — the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500, and so on. (An ETF is similar to a mutual fund in that it holds a variety of investments but differs in that it is traded like a common stock.) You can also invest in index funds that track the bond market.

Index investing does offer some benefits. Most notably, it's a buy-and-hold strategy, which is typically more effective than a market-timing approach, in which individuals try to buy investments when their prices are down and sell them when the prices rise. Attempts to time the market this way are usually futile because nobody can really predict when high and low points will be reached. Plus, the very act of constantly buying and selling investments can generate commissions and fees, which can lower your overall rate of return. Thus, index investing generally involves lower fees and is considered more tax efficient than a more active investing style.

Also, when the financial markets are soaring, which happened for several years until this year's downturn, index-based investments can certainly look pretty good — after all, when the major indexes go up, index funds will do the same.

Conversely, during a correction, when the market drops at least 10% from recent highs, or during a bear market, when prices fall 20% or more, index-based investments will likely follow the same downward path.

And there are also other issues to consider with index-based investments. For one thing, if you're investing with the objective of matching an index, you may be overlooking the key factors that should be driving your investment decisions — your goals and your risk tolerance. An index is a completely impersonal benchmark measuring the performance of a specific set of investments — but it can't be a measuring stick of your own progress.

Furthermore, a single index, by definition, can't be as diversified as the type of portfolio you might need to achieve your objectives. For example, the S&P 500 may track a lot of companies, but they're predominantly large ones. And to achieve your objectives, you may need a portfolio consisting of large- and small-company stocks, bonds, government securities and other investments. (Keep in mind, though, that while diversification can give you more opportunities for success and can reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio, it can't guarantee profits or prevent all losses.)

Ultimately, diversifying across different types of investments that align with your risk tolerance and goals — regardless of whether they track an index — is the most important consideration for your investment portfolio. Use this idea as your guiding principle as you journey through the investment world.

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

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.

Good news from the Salmon River

This week's report from the famous Salmon River was what everyone was waiting to hear. The river was loading up with King and Coho salmon last week, and the fishing is considered epic! If you are planning a trip to the river, this would



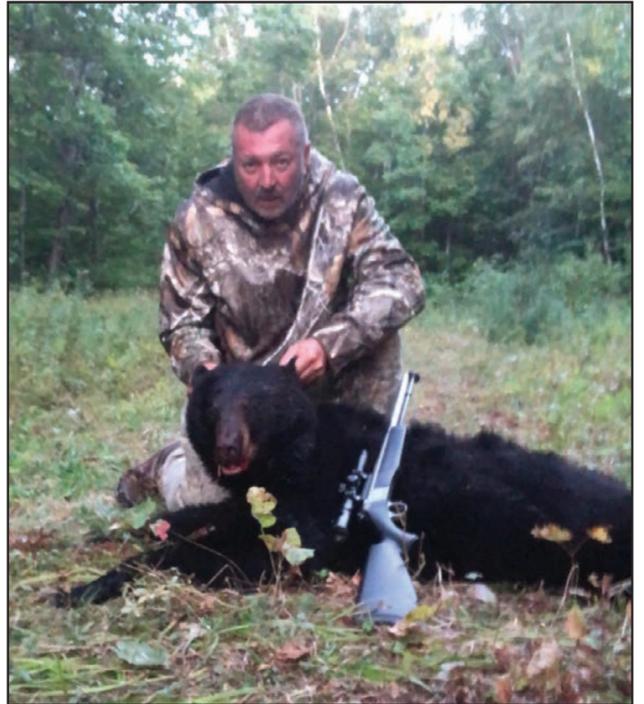
THE GREAT OUTDOORS
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RALPH TRUE

but not surprising, with all of the food that is available to them at this time of

This past week, this writer and my fishing partner Matt fished Rhode Island waters for a change up from the Massachusetts waters. We were surprised to see the ocean water temperatures at 74 degrees. We had hoped to catch a few tautog, but only a couple of shorts were caught and released in five hours of fishing! We were kept busy catching seabass all morning, with our limit of fish caught early. It is unlikely a tautog had a chance to hit our crabs, with all of the seabass taking the crabs, as soon as the bait hit bottom.

The parking lot was full of cars and boat trailers by 7 a.m. at the Galilee boat ramp. Anglers were chasing false albacore all day, as schools of fish were constantly moving. One frustrated angler we spoke with at the parking lot failed to catch a single false albacore. They are not great eating, but they are sure fun to catch.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Courtesy

This week's picture shows Ralph True, Jr. with his 220-pound black bear he harvested in Newry, Maine this past week.

be a good time to go, even though salmon fishing will pretty much remain excellent for the next six weeks or so, as more and more salmon head upriver on their final destination to spawn. The lake is also providing some great fishing for salmon, brown trout and steelhead. Go online and click on "Fat Nancy's" Tackle shop in Pulaski, for all of the latest information on salmon fishing and proper tackle to use.

Bear hunters are doing pretty well in harvesting some bear meat for the freezer, and keeping the pelts for rugs or other worthwhile parts of their bear. A report of a hunter harvesting a 900-pound bear in the Western part of Mass. was an incredible size animal,

year. This week's picture shows Ralph True, Jr. with his 220-pound black bear he harvested in Newry, Maine this past week. He was using his 50 caliber Thompson black powder gun, to harvest his first ever black bear.

A two-and-a-half-pound white perch was weighed in at Jerry's Bait & Tackle shop this past week from Wachusett Reservoir! Numerous large-mouth bass were also reported last week from other bodies of water in the state. Stocking of trout by Mass. Fish & Wildlife is expected to start around Columbus Day, Oct. 10. The extremely warm water temperatures this year could delay stocking dates at some of the local lakes & ponds.

Readers' Tips and Tricks

It's time once again to share some helpful hints and strategies from readers. As we gear up for the cooler season the following readers took time from their busy schedule to pass along a tip or trick they've picked up along the way.

Remember readers, you can win a three course dinner for two at Publick House! Just send in your favorite hint! Good luck!

** This creative reader hit the target with this unconventional repurposing tip:

Here's a recycling tip for these Nerf darts that parents tell me they are so tired of picking up all over the house. Put your kids to work and help them cut off the hard rubber-dart tip. Then just slide in your favorite pencils or pens for the 2022 school year! All your friends will want a designer Dart pencil grip.

Viola Bramel
Northbridge, MA
**

Prepping fresh corn for freezing has long been a messy job! But wait - this reader discovered a mess-free way to strip the cobs!

A handy way of putting up kernel corn for the winter is to first blanch the corn in a pot, and I suggest putting a teaspoon of sugar in the pot because it makes it a little bit sweeter. Boil it for about three minutes. To avoid the mess when cutting kernels, I use a bundt pan. I put the pointed end of the cob in the hole in the middle of the pan and cut the kernels off with a knife. They fall right around that circle inside of the pan and no mess!

Howard Whitcomb
Brookfield, MA
**

Keeping many shoes together as pairs in the closet can be a hassle - but not with this tip to match up mates:

I am back from Florida and trying to do some closet cleaning. I have several pairs of strap shoes and also found a



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

set of shower curtain hooks.

I decided to try the hooks on the pairs with straps. It worked great and is so easy to locate mates in my shoebox.

Claire Horvath
Sturbridge, MA
**

Waste not, want not, is this reader's mantra!

Recently when no more toothpaste could be squeezed out of the tube I cut the bottom and discovered there was still quite a bit of toothpaste left and I could access it from the cut opening. Then, much to my surprise when I cut off the bottom of a tube of sunscreen that appeared to be empty when no amount of squeezing was releasing it, I found there was still one quarter of the tube filled with

sunscreen. I hate waste!
Joan Zumpfe
Dudley, MA
**

Repurposing a common utensil puts safety first for this reader:

Here is a safety tip: I have a small food processor with very sharp blades. When I am ready to clean it, I hold the blades in my left hand with using spaghetti tongs and scrub the blade with a brush held in my right hand. I also use the tongs when I re-assemble the processor. That way my hands never touch the blades!

Another tip: To make your fresh small vegetables like carrots or peppers last longer is to put small pieces of paper towels in between the vegetables in the plastic bags as soon as you get them home. The paper towels absorb water from the veggies and they will keep longer.

Sharon Conlon,
Whittinsville, MA
**

Divide and Conquer!
I have a suggestion

to easily accomplish a chore that has been put off because I don't know where to start - such as a stack of papers or a room that has many items out of place.

I gather all of these things into one place, maybe a box or a pile. Having everything in one spot and taking one item at a time and putting items in their proper places and before you know it the pile is gone. It seems so much easier and less overwhelming tackling one item at a time.

June Choiniere
Oxford, MA
**

Prize Winner
Congratulations to Howard Whitcomb of Brookfield, MA, who submitted the kitchen tip above. Her name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House
Your tips can win you a great three course 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.

Auction, antiques, and collectibles news



sports team owner and philanthropist died in 2018. Over 150 of his pieces spanning 500 years will be sold. Highlights include "Jasper Johns' encaustic, acrylic and paper collage 'Small False Start' from 1960, estimated to bring more than \$50 million, and Paul Cézanne's 'La Montagne Sainte-Victoire' (1888-90), estimated at over \$100 million." Allen bought many of the paintings as an investment. He anonymously purchased an 1891 Monet painting of a haystack for \$81.4 million in 2016. He also loaned pieces from his collections to several museums. He told Bloomberg in 2015, "I feel that you should share some of the works to give the public a chance to see them." The sale, which also includes masterpieces by Renoir and

Roy Lichtenstein, is expected to top \$1 billion.

An antique advertising sign also recently fetched eye-popping auction record prices, according to Greenville, South Carolina TV station WYFF. The double sided Musgo Gasoline sign was discovered in a Michigan attic and is the best-known example of the 1920s version of the Musgo Gasoline sign. WYFF writes that "Musgo, originally located in Muskegon, Michigan, was believed to be open for less than six months during the mid-1920s." The previous auction record for a gasoline-related advertising sign was \$400,000 until the Musgo sign shattered it, selling for \$1.5 million in August, especially remarkable considering gasoline sold for slightly over 20 cents

a gallon when Musgo was in business.

We are accepting consignments of gold, coins and sterling through Sept. 26 for our fall auction. We are also accepting consignments for our sports card and memorabilia auction as well as our art, historical memorabilia, antiques and collectibles fall auctions through September 30th. I'll be appraising items for the public at the Townsend Historical Society on Oct. 15, the Worcester Senior Center on Oct. 18 and the Leicester Senior Center on Nov. 5. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Please contact us at www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com for antiques and collectibles auction services.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

In my last column, I shared that a 1952 Mickey Mantle card set a sports card record when it sold for \$12.6 million at auction last month. I noted that the Mantle card also set a record for any type of sports memorabilia by topping the \$9.3 million paid for a Diego Maradona 1986 World Cup jersey. Well, CBS Sports reports that a new record was set this month for another non-card sports memorabilia item.

A jersey that Michael Jordan wore in Game 1 of the 1998 NBA Finals recently went on the auction block. The Bulls lost that game to the Utah Jazz, but went on to win the series, giving Jordan his sixth championship in his "Last Dance" season. Jordan also received his sixth career Finals MVP award. His jersey price soared well above the \$3 to \$5 million estimate, selling for \$10.1 million.

In non-sports news, the New York Times reports that the art collection of Paul Allen (who formed Microsoft with Bill Gates in 1975) is expected to be the biggest auction of a private art collection in history. The inventor,

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SPORTS

Shepherd Hill battles on First Responder Night, but Marlborough prevails

Nick Ethier photos

Ladder trucks from the Dudley and Charlton Fire Departments hold up the American flag for all in attendance to see during the Shepherd Hill football team's First Responder Night.

the field for the playing of the national anthem," Scanlon continued.

All in attendance also walked under a massive American flag that was being held up by ladder trucks from the Dudley and Charlton Fire Departments upon entering Carmignani Field.

On the football field, the Rams unfortunately dropped to 0-2 after losing to Marlborough High, 27-14. The Panthers jumped out to a 13-0 lead, only for Shepherd Hill to score with 46 seconds remaining until halftime when Lucas Welton found paydirt from 8 yards out. On the play, Welton tried running to his left, but when there was no daylight he shifted toward the center of the field before barreling into the end zone. Luke Miller tacked on the extra point, and it was a 13-7 game at the half.

But Marlborough outscored Shepherd Hill in the second half, 14-7, improving to 2-0 in the process.



With two linemen blocking a Marlborough defender, Shepherd Hill quarterback Luke Hill airs out a deep pass down the field.

DUDLEY — The Shepherd Hill varsity football team held its home opener on Friday, Sept. 16, but it wasn't just any ordinary Opening Night. Instead, the Rams held First Responder Night where Shepherd Hill Athletic Director Jim Scanlon explained to Stonebridge Press that "the Dudley and Charlton Police,

Fire, and EMS chiefs and available staff will receive free admission, and will be recognized on field during pregame for their contributions to the communities they serve.

"Our football student-athletes will take the field and shake the hands of the first responders, and we will invite them to stay on



Lucas Welton of Shepherd Hill runs out of bounds after catching a pass.

Improved Rams fall just short against Leominster



Shepherd Hill's Shaylan Cashman goes left to kick the ball out of her team's defensive zone.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

DUDLEY — Last season the Shepherd Hill girls' varsity soccer team endured plenty of

growing pains while trudging through a winless season (0-15-1). But head coach Amanda Brotherton still noticed the Rams improving

week-by-week, game-by-game.

"Even with the record we had and the losses we progressed throughout the season and [the play-

ers] see the potential," said Brotherton.

Early in the 2021 season Shepherd Hill had tough outcomes against Groton-Dunstable Regional (6-0), Marlborough High (7-2) and Leominster High (4-0) for a minus-15 goal differential. Later in the fall the Rams produced more respectable outcomes against those teams, with the differential trimmed down to -14 in four games, as they played Marlborough twice.

Fast forward to this season and The Hill is still improving. They lost to Groton-Dunstable 2-0 and tied Marlborough 2-2 before hosting Leominster at Carmignani Field on Thursday, Sept. 15.

"From the start of the season, even pre-season, I could tell that we have more potential this year. I only lost one senior last year and gained four freshmen this year," Brotherton said before her squad battled the Blue Devils.

"Playing against Groton-Dunstable, it could have



Arianna Watson of Shepherd Hill makes a move to her right to get the ball past her Leominster opponent.

gone either way and against Marlborough tying 2-2, it could have gone either way, so we're matching up with the league, which is good.

"We are growing still, but the potential is definitely there. They definitely have that [sick of losing] mentality, they're not down," continued Brotherton.

And the Rams battled tough against Leominster. The game remained scoreless

at halftime before the Blue Devils pocketed a pair of second-half goals to take home a 2-0 decision. Keeper Meri Wilde kept Shepherd Hill in the game in the first half, making 13 saves. Defenders Colleen Cumming, Arianna Watson, Fiona Duke and Shaylan Cashman also played strong soccer, limiting Leominster's shots to predominantly outside the 18-yard box.



Nicolina Holland of Shepherd Hill raises her left leg in order to receive and settle the ball.



Shepherd Hill keeper Meri Wilde secures the ball for one of her 13 first half saves versus Leominster.

SPORTS

Southbridge edges Indians in three tightly contested sets



Nick Ethier photos

Southbridge's Jey Oquendo hits the ball with hopes of securing a point for her team.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

WEBSTER — With Southbridge High's varsity volleyball team ahead in sets 2-0 over Bartlett High back on Monday, Sept. 12, the Pioneers relied on their serving in Set No. 3 to put the match away. Southbridge's Adrian Rodriguez, Jey Oquendo, Yirmeli Polanco and Gabriela Hernandez combined for 19 service points as they held off any potential rally from the Indians.

Set scores in the Pioneers' 3-0 victory were 25-20, 25-23, 25-22.

"What we emphasize a lot is serving," said Southbridge head coach James Proulx. "You can't score if you can't get the ball over the net is what I say."

Rodriguez opened the third set with six straight service points as the Pioneers jumped ahead, 6-0. Southbridge then led by a 12-2 count after three aces from Oquendo. Following five more service points from Polanco, the Pioneers held an 18-4 lead.

Bartlett was finally able to break the serve, cutting the deficit down

to 18-5, and from there the Indians — and particularly Catherine McIntyre — went to work.

McIntyre employed an underhanded serving technique, and it worked wonders. Combining perfectly placed aces with tricky serves at the Pioneers' back line, McIntyre produced 13 straight points to tie the score at 18-18.

"Last year Catherine was just under-hand and she got pretty good at it. This year she's developed both, so she still likes to pull out the underhand once in a while," explained Bartlett head coach Peter Twiraga. "She has the ability to put it wherever she wants and let it die when it gets over the net. It's hard to read where it's going to go — it's kind of a knuckleball."

During Bartlett's intense comeback, Proulx didn't call a single timeout. Instead, he let his experienced players work through the difficulty.

"That was a lesson, especially with the three girls who were back there at the time," Proulx said of Polanco, Oquendo and Jazelyn Ortiz. "That's something that they

should know better — we told them to stop creeping up — it's easier to play back and come forward."

Proulx never intended on calling timeout, even if the Indians were to win the set and make a match of it at 2-1.

"I would have let it fly all the way through," he said.

Southbridge was able to finally break McIntyre's serve to grab a 19-18 lead, and from there Hernandez rattled off five consecutive aces to make the score 24-18.

A Pioneers' mishit gave Bartlett life at 24-19 and the Indians scored the next three points to make it 24-22, and at that point Proulx called timeout.

"I thought they were out of rotation," Proulx said of the opposition. "[The officials] figured it out and they had an illegal sub earlier in the set."

That awarded Southbridge a point and it was game, set, match from there.

The Pioneers are now 2-0 after opening the season with a 3-1 victory over perennially tough Tantasqua Regional.

"We beat Tantasqua, first time we've beaten



Nyia Gonzalez of Bartlett uses her forearms to dig the ball on a service return.



Bartlett's Janessa Marcario focuses on the ball while returning a Southbridge serve.

them," said Proulx of the Pioneers, a program that was incorporated for the 2014 season and has thus far had a best record of 12-8 (14-9 including two playoff wins). "I think we have a really good shot at having a very good record this year. I'm very excited about this team."

Bartlett, meanwhile, dropped to 0-3.

"In all three sets I think we made too big of a hole in the beginning for us to make a comeback. We came back a little bit, but not enough to finish it off," said Twiraga in the deciding factor against the Pioneers.

Twiraga is excited about what this season has to offer for Bartlett, though.

"We have solid players — we have a lot of seniors and some new kids. We have a lot of athletic ability," he concluded.



Southbridge's Iliana Rodriguez smashes the ball up and over the net.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK — WARRIORS GO LOW IN VICTORY

Monday, Sept. 12

Tantasqua 167, Oxford 283 — The Warriors' golf team picked up a victory at Hemlock Ridge, improving to 4-2 in the process. Tantasqua's Sam Pieczynski shot a 38 on the par-36 layout to earn medalist honors, while teammate Patrick Dunn carded a 41.



Fall Dining & Gift Guide

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OBITUARIES

Katherine T. Nicoletti, 69



Dudley – Katherine T. (Marini) Nicoletti, 69, of Sawmill Rd., passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Sept 16th, in UMass Memorial Hospital, Webster Campus.

She leaves her beloved husband of 50 years, Leonard S. Nicoletti; her son, Patrick D. Nicoletti and his wife Kimberly of Wethersfield, CT; her daughter, Maggi M. Nicoletti of Swansea; her brother, Charles Marini of Florida and her two nephews, Greg and Scott Marini. Katherine was born in Boston the daughter of Vigilantino “Frank” and Mary (Drummey) Marini. She graduated Saint Columbkille High School and went on to become an RN. Her career of saving lives and comforting her patients spanned over five decades. She was an Emergency Room Nurse at both Saint Vincent’s and Hubbard Memorial Hospital. She was the first nurse in Central Mass to fly in the Life Flight helicop-

ter with her patient. She ended her incredible career as the Director of Health Services at Nichols College in Dudley. In addition to nursing, she was very active and enjoyed beach trips, wineries, bowling, and playing golf. Katherine was an active member of the Dudley Woman’s Club. Her family was her true joy. She cherished her many BBQ’s, outings, and Summer days by the pool with family and friends. She will be deeply missed and we will treasure all of our memories of her.

Her funeral will be held on Friday, Sept. 23rd, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 11:00am in St. Mary’s Church of St. John Paul II Parish, Southbridge. Burial will follow in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home will be held on Thursday, Sept. 22st, from 4:00 to 7:00pm.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Harriett Chamberland



Harriett Chamberland, a longtime resident of Southbridge, MA, passed away peacefully last Tuesday evening amongst family members following complications from Alzheimer’s disease. She was the daughter of the late Harry and Florence Elliott of Southbridge, MA. Harriett was preceded in death by her beloved husband Robert “Bobby” Chamberland and her brother Richard Elliott, who was also dear to her heart. Harriett represented the unique diversity and history of the Southbridge community and was proudly of both African-American and Native American descent. She was a graduate of Southbridge High School and worked for many years at the American Optical Company (the “AO”) as well as Hyde Manufacturing. While Harriett was heartbroken after the loss of her husband Bobby, she admirably maintained a jovial approach to life throughout her retirement years, enjoying her vast network of friends and “power walking” around the town she loved most. After being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s-related dementia in late 2019, Harriett remained committed to not letting this news get the best of her. Under the care of family, she spent her last three years enjoying nature, reading (voraciously), walking with her loyal dog friend “Leo,” and holding court with her niece, nephew, and friends in her ‘outdoor living room’. She was also up-to-date with the most recent movies and books, frequently listened to Golden Oldies, and went on many drives all throughout Plymouth County. Given her unique

heritage, Harriett proudly enrolled in the Butler Hospital Memory & Aging Program (MAP), a worldwide leader in Alzheimer’s disease research. Her journey through this program, and her inspiring history, are well documented in this recent feature ‘Caring for Aunt Harriett’ by Butler Hospital. Harriett can be best remembered for her quick-witted sense of humor and her love and commitment to others. In a final selfless act, Harriett committed her brain as a donation to furthering Alzheimer’s research. Her husband Bobby was the ‘love of her life’. They adored each other dearly, and she will rest in peace with him at Oakridge Cemetery after September 15th, alongside her beloved parents, grandparents, and other family members.

Directions to Harriett’s grave site located at Oak Ridge Cemetery Off of Main St. Southbridge, MA Take Everett St. next to the post office, go past YMCA entrance and the next left is Oakridge Ave Enter the cemetery, you will pass the white barn on your right side, take the 3rd road on your right. Stop at the tree. Her memorial is located in the 3rd row from the street on the left-hand side three graves in from the left. It is a new black and grey stone.

The family asks that in remembrance of Harriett, a gift to Butler Hospital’s Memory and Aging Program at <https://foundation.butler.org> in her name. There’s a “Donate” link to follow and space to write a note of fondness. Belanger Bullard Funeral Home is directing arrangements. An online guestbook is available at BelangerFuneralHome.com.

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@stonebridgepress.news

Colorful mums for fall gardens and containers

Add a burst of fresh color to the fall landscape with mums. This traditional fall flower is still a favorite of many. These fall beauties come in a wide range of colors and provide weeks of floral beauty. Mums are great in containers, the garden, and cut flower bouquets. Fall just wouldn’t be the same without them.

When shopping for mums you may see them labeled as garden, perennial, gift, or florist mums. All these different names for plants that basically look alike can be confusing. The answer lies in their response to day length, hardiness, and use.

Mums set flowers based on day length. Growers can force them into bloom by covering them to create the

shorter days that initiate flowering. Those grown as gift and holiday plants are often called florist mums. These usually require the longest periods of uninterrupted darkness or shorter days. When these mums are grown under natural daylight they usually don’t flower until late fall or early winter. These late bloomers are usually killed by cold temperature before or soon after the flowers appear in colder parts of the country.

Nurseries selling mums in full bloom



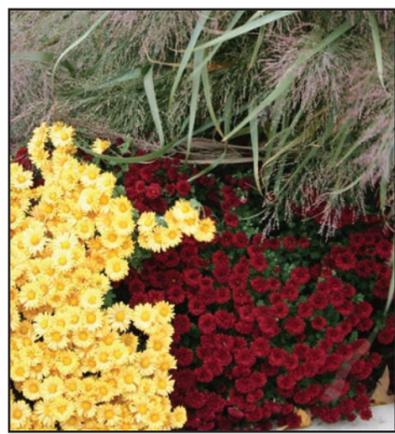
GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

in the fall often refer to them as garden mums. These may be perennial or “florist” mums forced to flower for fall displays. The intent is to use them as annuals. Set a pot on the steps, pop a plant in a vacant spot in the garden or combine them with other fall favorites.

Even if these garden mums are hardy and suited to your growing conditions, they may not survive the winter. Since all the energy of flowering fall-planted mums is directed to the flowers, little is left to establish a hardy robust root system. If you have success overwintering your garden mum, feel free to brag. If your plants don’t survive or you don’t try, don’t worry. You are using them as a fall annual as they were intended. This provides space for new plants in the spring and an opportunity to try a different color mum next fall.

Those mums sold as perennials are hardy enough to survive the winter and flower in late summer or early fall, providing weeks of color in the garden. They are often sold alongside other perennials, labeled as perennials, or promoted as hardy for the area. Increase your success by planting them in spring. This allows the plant time to develop a robust root system before it begins flowering in the fall. This increases the plant’s ability to survive cold winter weather.

Increase overwintering success of fall planted perennial mums with proper care. Make sure the plants receive sufficient moisture throughout the remainder of the growing season and leave the plants intact in the garden for winter. Those in cold-



Melinda Myers

Mums mixed with ornamental grass in a fall garden.

er climates may want to add winter mulch. Wait for the ground to freeze. Then cover with weed-free straw or evergreen boughs. Remove the mulch in spring as temperatures hover near freezing or the plants begin to grow. Cut back the dead stems and wait for new growth to appear.

Whatever you call them, add a few mums to your fall display. You are sure to enjoy that last blast of color before winter arrives.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *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 TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms magazine* and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Dementia Friendly Charlton hosts special, free screening of “Cycle of Memory”

CHARLTON — Dementia Friendly Charlton will host a screening of “Cycle of Memory” at the Charlton Public Library, 40 Main St., on Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. Admission is free, Q & A with the director Alex Leff immediately following the screening.

Mel Schwartz escaped the Great Depression on a bicycle adventure he’d remember for the rest of his life. But when Alzheimer’s disease takes Mel’s memories away, it’s left to his grandkids to recreate the life-changing bike trip and find those memories again. Guided by old photographs of the 1945 trip, they search for places aged by time, and with the help of a grandmother learning to live alone for the first time, Cycle of Memory explores the importance of inter-generational connection, healing painful pasts, and leaving a meaningful time capsule for the future. Free!

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Charlton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency: massculturalcouncil.org.

Dementia Friendly Charlton strives to improve the town’s dementia friendly capabilities, thereby optimizing the health, well-being and community engagement of people living with dementia and their care partners. Every part of the community plays a role and together we can create a dementia friendly culture.

Friday’s Child



Jehnya Thomas
Age: 9

Hi! My name is Jehnya and I love to sing and dance!

Jehnya is a sweet and energetic girl of African American descent. Some of her favorite hobbies include singing, dancing, and playing dress-up. She also likes to watch videos and play games on her iPad. Jehnya is a motivated learner and enjoys going to school. She also attends an after-school program. She is inquisitive and enjoys spending one on one time with others.

Jehnya is legally free for adoption and will need to maintain regular contact with her older brother. Jehnya would thrive in a home with patient caregivers who understand trauma. She also needs

a family who will use positive reinforcement and provide Jehnya will love and nurturance. The ideal family for Jehnya would be a two-parent home with at least one female caretaker. It would also be best for Jehnya to be an only child, but her social worker is open to considering older siblings on an individualized basis. Jehnya has expressed that she would like to be placed with an African American family.

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7274>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at (617) 964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. Start the process today and give a waiting child a permanent place to call home.



Sturbridge Cultural Council accepting grant proposals

S T U R B R I D G E — Sturbridge Cultural Council is seeking proposals to fund cultural programming for a variety of ages and interests throughout the year, including music and dance performances, visual arts exhibits

and workshops, and school-based events. Organizations, schools, and individuals may apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

Proposals are due by Monday, Oct. 17. To find out more and/

or apply, visit: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/Sturbridge/>. For more information on the application process visit: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/>

application-process/. If you have any questions about the application process or are interested in learning more about the Sturbridge Cultural Council, please contact sturbridgeculturalcouncil@gmail.com. The Council was

pleased to offer many in-person events last year and looks forward to offering innovative programming in 2023.

The Sturbridge Cultural Council is a local branch of the Mass Cultural Council (MCC). MCC's Local

Cultural Council program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences annually.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Rolland M. LaFond to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Schaefer Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated December 23, 2011 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 48319, Page 10, subsequently assigned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Schaefer Mortgage Corporation, its Successors and Assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 57954, Page 257, subsequently assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust F by JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 61740, Page 356 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on September 29, 2022 at 354 High Street, Southbridge, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land with the buildings thereon located in Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts situated on the westerly line of High Street, bounded and described as follows:

Being Lot No. 66 on Plan of High Acres, drawn by Warren D. McGrath, August 9, 1963, not of record.

BEGINNING at the northeasterly corner thereof at an iron pin on the westerly line of said High Street, said iron pin being at the southeasterly corner of the land of Rogart Builders, Inc.,; **THENCE S. 27° 46' W.** by the westerly line of said High Street, 100.0 feet to an iron pin at the land of Warren D. McGrath et ux;

THENCE N. 70° 53' W. by land of said Warren D. McGrath et ux., 207.33 feet to an iron pin at land of said McGrath et ux;

THENCE N. 31° 39' E. by land of said McGrath et ux., 100.0 feet to an iron pin at land of said Rogart Builders, Inc.;

THENCE S. 71° 23' E. by land of Rogart Builders, Inc., 197.52 feet to the point of beginning.

Said premises are conveyed subject to and together with easements, restrictions and agreements of record, if any, insofar as the same are in force and effect.

Being the same premises conveyed by a deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 48319, Page 8.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.** Other terms, if any, to be announced

at the sale. Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust F Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, 19-007190/222/NOTOP_DR ORLANS PC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 19-007190 September 8, 2022 September 15, 2022 September 22, 2022

Town of Sturbridge Public Hearing Notice

Notification is hereby given that an application has been filed by Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. d/b/a Cracker Barrel for a Change of License Category to all Alcohol Beverages at the premises currently located at 215 Charlton Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566 with the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen. In accordance with MGL Ch. 138, a public hearing will be held on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:35 p.m. This hearing will be held at Veterans Memorial Hall, Sturbridge Town Hall 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 September 22, 2022

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. WO22P1375EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Estate of:

Bruce N Morin

Date of Death: 01/23/2022

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by:

Jarrod N Morin of Barre MA requesting that court authorize the Personal Representative to buy the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/11/2022.**

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.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 13, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate September 22, 2022

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws of a public hearing to be held in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. during the regular scheduled Liquor Board Meeting in regard to a violation of Massachusetts General Law and the Southbridge Massachusetts Liquor Licensing Board License Regulations. This hearing pertains to Sevengaits LLC d/b/a Starlite Bar & Gallery, 39 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA, 01550. Anyone wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard. This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org Town of Southbridge Liquor Licensing Board September 22, 2022

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. WO22P3068EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:

Grace R Konkell

also known as:

Grace Konkell

Date of Death: 05/29/2022

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Katherine G Meagher of Webster MA and Jane E. Gale of Charlton MA**

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

Katherine G Meagher of Webster MA and Jane E. Gale of Charlton MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/04/2022.** 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: September 13, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate September 22, 2022

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on September 28, 2022, on the application of Edward Nowak The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the mitigation of stormwater & associated work including the expansion of an existing fire pit area, construction of a retaining wall and landscaping. The project site is located at 22 Park Road, Charlton, MA

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjJmZGhU-GRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lWZz09> Copies of the RDA may be examined electronically by visiting this Website: <https://www.townofcharlton.net/262/Conservation-Commission> Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission September 22, 2022

SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL BYLAW READING NOTICE

In accordance with the Southbridge Town Charter, the Town Council will commence three readings of a new Wetlands Bylaw, to be identified as Section 9-203 of the Code of Bylaws, during its regular meeting of Sept 26, 2022.

If approved, Section 9-203 would do the following: Enable the Conservation

Commission and/or its agent to enforce the Wetlands Act (MGL Chap 131, Sec 40) directly with local fines for violations; define development setbacks and other requirements regarding various types of water bodies; require 24 hour notice and proper ID for inspections, except in emergencies; define notification, filing and hearing procedures; set wetland replication requirements; and codify other aspects of wetland protection. The full text of this bylaw has been posted on the Southbridge town website, <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us>, and paper copies are available for public review in the Town Clerk's office, Jacob Edwards Library, and the police station. Citizens can also obtain electronic copies by contacting the Town Manager's office at (508) 764-5405 or from any Town Councillor.

The readings may be witnessed and are open for public comment in person during the Town Council meetings of Sept 26, Oct 3 and Oct 17, with a vote on adoption on Nov 7. These meetings will also run on Southbridge Cable Channel 192, the Town's YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/user/southbridgecable>) and at the Southbridge Cable on-demand page (<http://71.11.2.11/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=1>).

Gus Steeves
Southbridge Town Councillor
September 22, 2022
September 29, 2022

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on September 28, 2022, on the application of Glen Echo Improvement Association

The applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for construction of a 12 FT wide Frost Wall and the installation of Permeable Cement Tiles over Crushed Stone associated with the Boat Ramp Improvement. The project site is located at 22 Glen Echo Shore Road, Charlton, MA

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjJmZGhU-GRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lWZz09> Copies of the Notice of Intent may be examined electronically by visiting this Website: <https://www.townofcharlton.net/262/Conservation-Commission> Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission September 22, 2022

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on September 28, 2022, on the application of Michael Derkos-rofian

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the installation of a new 1,500 gallon septic tank. The project site is located at 11 Hammerock Road, Charlton, MA Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjJmZGhU-GRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lWZz09> Copies of the RDA may be examined electronically by visiting this Website: <https://www.townofcharlton.net/262/Conservation-Commission> Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission September 22, 2022

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OXFORD – 3 Hemlock St! 7 Rm Ranch Waiting For You! Appliance Kitchen w/Dining Area! Living Rm w/Just Finished Hardwood Floor! 3 Bdrms w/Wood Laminate Flooring & Ceiling Fans! Year Round Sun Rm w/LP Gas Stove! Full Bath! Finished Lower Level Featuring Family Rm w/Dry Bar, Possible Office & Second Bathroom! Fenced Back Yard w/15X30 Inground LP Gas Heated Pool w/Pictured Patio Furniture & 2 Sheds! Second Party Full Solar Array to Help Offset Electric Bills! **\$359,900.00**



WEBSTER – 127 Douglas Road! 8 Room Split! 3 Bdrms! 2 Baths! Set on 1.31 Acres! 2 Car Garage Under plus 2 Car Detached Garage w/Lot! Perfect for the Hobbyist or Car Collector! This Home Features Open Concept Living! Frp'd Living Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Recent Skylights! Remodeled Eat-in Kitchen w/Granite Counters, Breakfast Bar & Slider to the Deck! Oversized Full Bath w/Jacuzzi & Large Walk-in Shower! Hrdwd Flrs throughout the Kit, Liv Rm & Hallway! 3 Bdrms w/Wall to Wall! Finished Lower Level w/Tiled Mudroom! New Luxury Vinyl Flooring throughout Lower Level Fam Rm, Exercise Rm & Bath! Above-ground Pool! Custom Fire Pit! Perfect for Entertaining! Recent Well Pump! 2013 Electrical Service! 2011 Septic! The Updates are Done! Great Commuting Location! Only Minutes to 395 or 146! **\$434,900.00**



DUDLEY – 5 Elizabeth St! 4+ Rm Ranch! Featuring Frp'd Liv Rm w/Recessed Lighting & Guest Closet! Eat-in Kit w/Tile Flr! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwd Flrs, 2 w/Ceiling Fans & Dble Closets! Hall Bath w/Tile Floor! Finished Lower Level! 20x25' Frp'd Fam Rm w/Recessed Lighting & 2nd Bthrm w/Shower! Possible Kitchenette or Office! Laundry & Utility Rm! Wired for a Generator! Economical Gas Heat & Hot Water! 3 Season Porch! Garage! **\$364,900.00**



WOODSTOCK – 12 Grey Fox Landing! Spacious 7 Rm, 3 Bdrms, 3.5 Bath Ranch! 2,100 sqft on 1st Floor & 1,400' Finished Lower Level! Open Concept! Beautiful Island Kit w/White Cabs, SS Appliances! Vaulted Ceiling Liv Rm w/LP Frp'd w/3 Sliders to Deck! Master Suite w/Walk-in Closet, Vaulted Ceiling & Spacious Bath! Lower Level w/ Wet Bar, Full Kit, Office & Bath! 1st Flr Laundry & CA! Attached 2 Car Garage! Home's Perfect for Entertaining! Shed! Front Porch w/Composite Decking! Desired Location! **\$535,000.00**



SUTTON – 90 Armory Rd! 8 Rm Meticulously Maintained 4 Bdrms! 2.5 Bath Colonial, Pleasant Valley Country Club Near, is Ready for You! Formal Living Rm w/French Doors, Spacious Family Rm w/Gas Fireplace, Recessed Lighting & Slider Out to Private Deck! Formal Dining Rm! Fantastic Kitchen Featuring Stylish Ivory Cabinets, Stainless Appliances, Tile Backsplash, Wine Bar & Adjoining Dining Area! All w/Gleaming Hrdwd Floors! Spindle Staircase to the 2nd Flr Featuring a Huge Master w/Cathedral Ceiling w/Dble Walk-in Closet, Master Bath w/Dble Vanity, Tiled Shower & Soaking Tub! 3 Additional Comfortable Bdrms w/Ample Closets & Additional Full Bath! Expandable Walk-Out Lower Level w/Roughed-in Bathrm Ready to Complete! 2 Car Attached Garage & Recent Generator! Listed by Another, SOLD by Lake Realty! **\$829,900.00**



CHARLTON – 42 Harrington Rd! Beautiful 6 Rm Colonial w/3 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths Colonial set on .35 Acre Lot! 1st Floor w/9' Ceilings! Living Rm w/Bump-out, WW Carpeting & Crown Molding! Tile Foyer! Dining Rm w/Frplace (never used), WW Carpet, Crown Molding & Wainscoting! Open Kitchen & Dining Area out to Wood Deck! Kit w/SS Appliances, Granite Island! 1/2 Bath off Kit w/Laundry! 2nd Floor w/3 Comfortable Bdrms! Master w/Vaulted Ceilings, Ceiling Fan, Walk in Closet, Master Bath w/Jetted Tub & Separate Shower, Skylight, & Double Vanity! 2nd Floor Hall Bath w/Skylight! Full Basement has Walk-out to Second Deck, Third Full Bath, Utility Rm! 2 Car Garage! Horseshoe Driveway w/Plenty of Parking! Deep Wooded Lot! **\$419,000.00**



SUTTON – 11 Apple Ridge Rd! Super 9 Rm 3,046' Contemporary! Nicely Landscaped 30,596' Lot w/Circular Drive! White Marble Entry Foyer w/Swirling Skylight Ceiling! French Doors to the Custom Center Isl, Black Granite, Fully Appliance Kit w/Recessed Lighting! Open Flr Plan! Gorgeous Formal Din Rm w/Tons of Natural Light! Huge Liv Rm w/Sliders Front & Rear, Skylight & Ceiling Fan! Frp'd Sitting Area w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight & Ceiling Fan! French Door Office leads to the Future 1st Flr Master presently the Gym w/Cathedral, Skylights, Ceiling Fan, Sliders & Bathrm Access! 2nd Flr Features 2 Bdrms & 2 Baths! Master Suite w/Cathedral, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, 2 Dble Closets, Dble Vanity, Separate Shower, Whirlpool Tub & Marble Flr! CAir! Deck Overlooking Private Yard! 3 Car Garage Under & 46' Detached! Town Services! **\$774,900.00**



WEBSTER – 3 Birchwood Dr! Great Commuter Location! Convenient to All Major Routes! 7 Rm, 3 Bdrms, Ranch Ready for Your Taste & Upgrades! 2 Front Entries, Enter through the Huge Attached Fam Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling, Ceiling Fan, Wall AC & Dble Closet or through the Fireplaced Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Floor! Galley Kit w/ Raised Panel Wood Cabinets! Dining Area w/Hrdwd Floor & Slider out to the Deck! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwd Floors & Ample Closet Space! Full Bathrm w/Linein Closet! The Lower Level once Finished, Ready to Finish Again! Many Possibilities! 1 Car Garage w/Opener! The Home is Accessed by 2 Driveways, 1 to the Left of the House & 1 to the Right, Plenty of Parking! Built w/Electric Heat but has been converted to Oil, Hot Water Baseboard! Town Water! Passed Title V! Don't Delay...**\$299,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 139 South Shore Rd - Middle Pond – Killdeer Island! Panoramic Views Across a Wide Expanse of The Lake! Level 11,534' Lot with a 91' Waterfront! Southern Exposure – Tons of Sun! 9 Room Ranch w/4 Bedrooms – 2 Lake Facing! 2 Complete Living Levels! Upper and Lower Kitchens! 3 Bathrooms! Hardwoods! 2 Car Garage! Additional 3,840' Lot Across the Street! Listed by Another – “SOLD” by Lake Realty! **\$1,110,000.00**



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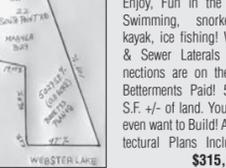
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DUDLEY: 18 acres, MAKE OFFER!
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OXFORD: CONDO Totally remodelled kitchen, bath flooring, Appliances, Electric fireplace built (Duplex), Open and spacious
15-8 Thayer Pond ~ \$195,000

SOLDIERS

continued from page A1

the cemetery. Dupuis noted Dandridge, for example, is not buried with the rest of his Civil War men because he was African American. His grave was “extremely hard to find,” being in

“this little nook” that was the “teeny, tiny colored section of the cemetery,” she recalled.

She had a similar experience with Sayles’s grave. Because of the way that stone’s set “you can barely see Spanish-American War on it.”

On the flip side was

World War II’s Dillabar, who has a big monument, but wasn’t actually a Southbridge resident. He died at Pearl Harbor and his body was never recovered. Her search also led to people like Frank Leo, a Vietnam-era Vet she knew who was later called up again

to serve in Washington DC after 9/11. As far as Dupuis knows, Southbridge hasn’t lost anyone who served in the more recent Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

“There really was no rhyme or reason why,” Dupuis said of the soldiers she selected. “I just

liked the names and they called to me.”

After researching their lives with the help of librarians Margaret Morrissey and Jessica McCarthy, Dupuis passed the notes to Bill Guy to draft the text the volunteers will read. Unlike previous Gateway cem-

etry walks, they aren’t expected to memorize the stories and won’t be in costume, with the exception of Ray Petrelli, who’s doing Ammidown.

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

CHANGES

continued from page A1

(Only two still exist – in Uxbridge and Millville – with the rest having been scavenged for other projects, often mills.)

The canal opened to fanfare in July 1928 with the northbound partial transit of the Lady Carrington, which carried 50 passengers including Rhode Island’s governor and a brass band. The boat later carried the first paying cargo (mostly food) all the way to Worcester, and the Washington was

the first Worcester-based boat to ply the route the other way. In its heyday, proponents even considered extending it as far north as Nashua.

In both directions, boats were pulled by horses who walked along the neighboring towpath, with a person steering to avoid drifting into the canal walls and other boats. Whenever they had to pass a boat going the other way, the horsemen simply handed the ropes off to their peers.

While it was running, the canal “saved ship-

pers \$3.80 a ton” over land transport costs and made its environs “scenes of activity and bustle” over what had been there just four years earlier. It carried 2-3 times more freight north than south, but saw a wide range of goods at a toll that averaged about 3 cents per ton per mile. In most cases, the items traveled in barrels that workers could easily tip over and roll away at their destination.

Some people also took the route, but it “did not really revolutionize pas-

senger travel” because the 45-mile journey typically took two days and was restricted to daylight hours. With the canal’s 4 mph speed limit (to avoid wakes that eroded the dirt walls), the stagecoach was faster, and toward its end the railroad made the trip in just two hours.

One core problem was that “water power could lift a boat or turn a mill wheel, but not both at the same time,” Kelleher said. To address that, canal operators made promises to neighboring mill owners, but broke many of them, sparking a court battle over water rights. The mill owners won, and the

court charged the canal operators “a hefty fine that was more than their revenues that year.” The canal’s finances continued to spiral downward thereafter, with owners actually hiking their tonnage rates in the face of competition with the cheaper and faster railroads.

By the time the canal collected its last toll on Nov 9, 1848, it was already “absolutely obsolete.” In its lifetime, Kelleher said, it had been “a greater benefit to the public than it ever was to overseers of the company” in several unexpected ways. Among them, its construction of holding ponds provided

some flood storage, its locks increased available water power, and, ironically, its tow path proved ideal for the Providence-and-Worcester’s railroad bed. By opening our area to more efficient agricultural trade, it encouraged area farmers to head West, which had the effect of promoting the region’s reforestation.

“It was both a parent and a child of the American Industrial Revolution,” he noted. “...The effects of the Blackstone Canal remain with us today.”

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

POD

continued from page A1

– Harrington. “Patients presenting with depression and anxiety have tripled since the beginning of the pandemic. According to the Department of Mental Health, emergency room boardings have increased by 200 to 400 percent in the state of Massachusetts since June of 2020. And those statistics reflect a greater need for behavioral health care among all ages, including children, teens and young adults. As just one example, national data from

the CDC shows emergency room visits by teenage girls following suicide attempts rose by 50% in the past two years.”

“It became clear that greater resources were required to meet the full needs of caring for our community. This expansion will help us to do that, and to continue our commitment to providing innovative, high quality and compassionate behavioral healthcare to Southbridge and surrounding communities,” Moore said.

MASONS

continued from page A1

year which starts in September, members decide on what community outreach programs they would like to support. The food drive was the brainchild of Worshipful Bill Bellanger and was unanimously voted on. In October we will hold our annual Trunk or

Treat for the kids in the community. Members of the Quinebaug Lodge are very proud of our members that volunteered for these community outreach projects. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, come on down on Saturday, Oct. 15 to our Open House at 339 Ashland Ave. from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in Southbridge or go to massfreemasonry.org and find a lodge nearest you.

Baker announces major investment in school safety

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Gov. Charlie Baker recently announced plans to file legislation proposing major investments in school safety initiatives.

Joined at the announcement by Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeff Riley, the Governor unveiled his proposal to support safety programming, training, and resources for school districts across the Commonwealth.

“As children return full-time to the classroom this fall, we want parents and educators to know that our administration is always working to improve and build on all the resources available to districts to make their schools as secure as possible,” said Baker. “Our administration will continue to provide resources for stu-

dents, staff, families, and first responders while making investments in training for first responders and school staff so they can protect Massachusetts schools.”

For local law enforcement leaders, it’s critical to secure ongoing funds for training exercises and safety programs. The goal each year is to partner with local schools to maximize preparedness and safety measures.

“School buildings house one of the most vulnerable segments of the population. The Governor’s proposal helps provide some of the funding necessary to protect these valuable assets,” said Spencer Police Chief David Darrin.

Added Sturbridge Police Chief Earl Dessert, “It is imperative that school safety is a priority. The Sturbridge Police Department and school administration

work closely together and will be monitoring the funding for school safety and take every opportunity to enhance school security and increase training.”

Recognizing the increased number of parents across the Commonwealth—and the nation—who have opted to homeschool their children in recent years due to school safety and health concerns, state officials hope the latest proposal will help families feel safer about sending kids back to class.

“Children, teachers, and staff deserve to feel safe in the classroom, and our administration’s funding proposal will invest in the resources and programming required to equip school communities and emergency personnel with the tools they need to keep schools safe,” said Polito. “We look forward to working

with our colleagues in the Legislature to provide critical funding for districts across the Commonwealth.”

In the coming weeks, the Baker-Polito Administration will file a supplemental budget request totaling nearly \$40 million to support school safety initiatives. These include matching grants for security upgrades in K-12 schools and public higher education institutes; grant funding to support school districts piloting an anonymous “tip line” to report potential threats; funding for a statewide public awareness campaign and corresponding training; support for ongoing emergency response training for school officials; and the creation of a comprehensive school safety website.

“These proposed supports would be a welcome addition to school districts’ safety plan-

ning and infrastructure,” said Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley. “The matching funds for equipment upgrades, plus funding for additional school staff to meet and collaborate with first responders, are critical pieces that will help ensure our schools are places where students are safe, healthy, and ready to learn.”

To date, as part of the Safe and Supportive Schools Initiative, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded \$15 million in grant funding, including \$7.5 million awarded to more than 150 districts statewide to invest in security-related infrastructure upgrades. Another \$7.5 million in grant funding was allocated to increase mental health supports and behavioral health specialists available at

schools.

Additionally, the state’s Executive Office of Public Safety and Security teamed up with education leaders to train school departments on best practices for emergencies and active shooter responses in school settings.

During their recent announcement, state leaders also promoted the Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program, an internationally recognized standard adopted by the Commonwealth as part of its ongoing commitment to emergency preparedness. The ASHER framework has already been implemented in state-run police and fire training academies.

To learn more about school safety initiatives in Massachusetts, visit www.mass.gov.



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Charlton planning fall event for Old Home Day vendors

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — While many braved the torrential rainfall to attend Charlton's annual Old Home Day on Labor Day Monday, the impact of the weather on the many vendors and non-profits that turned out for the event has selectmen considering another community event this year to help make up for the loses.

Selectwomen Patsy Rydlak and Barbara Zurawski discussed the idea with their fellow selectmen on Sept. 13 where Rydlak pointed out that because of the weather the organizations represented at the event weren't able to benefit from raffles and food sales as they would have in the past. So, she and others brainstormed ways to help make up for the loses on Labor Day.

"Because Old Home Day was such a rain out a lot of our vendors who make the majority of their fundraising during Old Home Day weren't able to," said Rydlak. "We kind of threw around the idea of having a town yard sale on the town common to invite the vendors and I guess there's other organizations that do that."

However, Rydlak and Zurawski, with input from some members of the Town Hall staff, landed on a different idea: a fall festival or music event that could be help indoors. The current concept would bring a new fall event to the town's community center, better known as the Charlton Arts & Activities Center, where the non-profit and town vendors would be able to showcase their programs and hold their raffles and food sales once again using the permits

already approved for Old Home Day.

"These are our scouts and our local organizations that do a lot for this town," said Rydlak stressing that these organizations deserve a day where the community can come out and support them without having to push through Mother Nature. Exact details and dates for the event will be worked out between Rydlak, Zurawski and others who have offered to volunteer their time to plan the day. More details are expected to be released soon.

Meanwhile, the Board of Selectmen also took the time to host award presentations that were postponed due to the rain during Old Home Day. Each year standout citizens, businesses, and organizations are honored at the event with special awards recognizing their commitment to

Charlton. The Honorary Parade Marshal of 2022 was longtime Boy Scout leader Brian Wolcott. Business of the Year was awarded to The Overlook for its 110 years in Charlton. Community Service Awards were presented to Marguerite (Silvestri) Jalbert, Eric and Kerry Breilinger,

Debra Ciesluk, and Mike Zereski. Youth Community Service Awards were presented to Nina Zurawski and Maggie Mullaly and the Posthumous Award was presented to the family of Cathy Kuehl, a longtime volunteer in Charlton who was heavily involved with the

Helping Hand Society, Housing Authority, Earth Day, and the Lion's Club. Finally, Citizen of the Year was presented to Joe Gaucher who has donated many years of service to the Charlton Grange and is a Commander for the local American Legion.

Women's Fellowship hosting take-out dinner

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Women's Fellowship of Elm Street Congregational Church will be holding a Take-Out Fundraising Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The menu will include Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Squash, Rolls, and Dessert. The cost is a donation of \$12 for adults, and \$6 for children ages 6-12. The meals can be picked up between 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge. The church hall is handicapped accessible, and free parking is available behind the Town Hall.

For tickets, call the church office at 508-764-8058, or Harriet Lacasse at 508-347-3464. Come out and enjoy a delicious home-made meal! The dinner will benefit our Pastor's Discretionary fund, and missions such as Abby's House, St. Luke's Guest House, Christmas baskets for the needy, and scholarships for college bound students.

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CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

The Southbridge Lions Club is sponsoring a
Cornhole Tournament
Saturday, September 24.
The event is being held at the Southbridge Community Center, 153 Chestnut Street in Southbridge.
Registration will start at 10 AM and the bags will fly promptly at 12 noon.
This is a bring your own partner Non-Pro Tournament.
The cost is \$60 for a team of two.
The prizes awarded are: 1st place - \$1,000, 2nd place - \$500 • 3rd place - \$250.
There will also be ten sets of sponsored cornhole boards raffled, plus a 50/50 raffle. An assortment of food, beer and wine will also be available. If you have any questions or would like to pre-register, please contact Bill Butler at 774-334-2392 or Bob Parker at 774-200-5406.
Or, you can message them at Let's Rip It on Facebook. The Southbridge Lions Club pledges that all the proceeds go to helping members of the community in need, so please join us for a day of friendly competition and fun!

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Get ready, get set, go - to Tour Opacum!

BRIMFIELD — The Sixth Annual Bike Ride for Land Conservation: The Southbridge Credit Union Tour Opacum Ride is happening again on Sunday, Sept. 25!

Bikes, Beers and a good cause! Tour Opacum is Opacum Land Trust's largest fundraiser of the year, and a fun day of biking, comradery, and enjoying a drink with good friends. Proceeds from the ride will help Opacum Land Trust protect critical land, water, and wildlife, and provide outdoor spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Bike routes are planned for all ages and abilities that will take you on beautiful country roads (all paved & marked) and past properties that Opacum Land Trust has conserved. Serious riders can choose a challenging 50 or 100-mile ride through the hills of Brimfield and Monson, or you can enjoy a beautiful 26-mile loop, a leisurely 10-mile loop, or a family-friendly

2-mile ride. Snacks, rest stops and rider support are provided throughout the ride. All rides start and end at the Brimfield Winery.

Rapsallion Brewery after party at the Brimfield Winery

After your ride, return to the winery for the Rapsallion Brewery after party with live music, food, craft beer, wine, games and more at the Brimfield Winery. All riders get a free drink, food voucher, and a swag bag full of goodies from our amazing sponsors.

Prizes for the biggest team

Get your friends, family, co-workers, and riding crew to join you to win a prize for the biggest team! Just pick a team name and make sure everyone includes it when they register. If your team is the biggest when pre-registration closes on September 22nd your whole team wins.

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Southbridge Credit Union is the lead sponsor for Tour Opacum, demonstrating their continued commitment to the community. Thank you for the continued support of this event by our other sponsors: Rapsallion Brewery, Brimfield Winery, Southbridge Bicycles, The Centered Place Yoga Studio, and Maddie's Dogs

Want to attend the event, but not interested in riding? Volunteer with us!

We need volunteers help throughout the day to help with registration, rest stops, setup, clean-up, and more. Volunteers receive a free volunteer t-shirt, and free food and drink ticket for the event.

We ask that volunteers are fully vaccinated, and choose from one of the following shift times:

- 6 - 10 a.m.
- 8 a.m. - noon
- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- or noon - 4 p.m.



Please email info@opacumlt.org or call 508-347-9144 with the volunteer shift you would like to help out in. Thank you!

About Opacum Land Trust
Opacum Land Trust is a regional, non-prof-

it land conservation organization protecting land for wildlife, forestry, farming, water, and outdoor recreation. We work in a 13-town region stretching from eastern Hampden County and southwestern Worcester County in the towns between Monson and Charlton. Founded in

2000, Opacum currently protects over 2,200 acres of land and is actively working to protect more land across the service area. Reach out to us at Opacum Land Trust, PO Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566; 508-347-9144, and visit the website for news and events at www.OpacumLT.org

Nichols College names vice president for planning

DUDLEY — Following a national search, James Patti, an experienced leader in higher education administration, has been named Nichols College's vice president for planning.

Patti joins the leadership team of Nichols College President Glenn

M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M., and will serve a key role advancing Sulmasy's vision for the college.

Patti brings extensive experience to this role, having served previously at Georgetown University, Brown University, Bryant

University and the University of Rhode

Island managing a variety of institutional functions. At Nichols, he will

oversee strategic planning, marketing and communications and institutional research. One of Patti's first priorities will be development of President Sulmasy's emerging Embracing Greatness strategic plan. The plan, still in development in consultation with the Nichols community, will identify priorities and outline a growth strategy to move Nichols toward enhanced regional and national prominence.

"James Patti will be a dynamic addition to

our already exceptional cabinet," said President Sulmasy. "As vice president for planning, he will help develop our institutional priorities and work broadly across the college for their successful implementation."

Patti is enthusiastic about the opportunity: "I look forward to working closely with President Sulmasy, members of the cabinet and the broader Nichols community to develop and implement the Embracing Greatness agenda and enhance the value of a

Nichols education."

Patti received his MBA from Georgetown University and bachelor's degree in finance from Seton Hall University. He is a native of Massachusetts and resides with his four daughters in East Greenwich, Rhode Island.



James Patti

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