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Thursday-Friday, May 25-26, 2023

Charlton Town Meeting approves budget, school study

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Around a hundred taxpayers in Charlton turned out for the town's annual town meeting on May 15 acting on numerous articles, the most notable of which were the Fiscal Year 2024 budget and the proposal to fund the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Feasibility study.

The feasibility study was the first major item on the warrant, seeking approval to utilize \$537,000 to pay Charlton's portion of a Massachusetts School Building Authority feasibility study of Shepherd Hill Regional High School. The study will seek to determine the building needs of the school, which serves both Charlton and Dudley, and whether upgrades or a new school building entirely are the most effective options for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. The funding was overwhelmingly approved with town officials designating ARPA funds and free cash as the funding source. The study will be contingent upon Dudley approving its portion of the cost in June.

The next item on the warrant was the Fiscal Year 2024 budget which saw a motion to add stipends for various boards and committees back into the spending plan utilizing free cash. The motion failed, leading voters to act on the budget as presented. The budget passed easily solidifying a \$37.9 million spending plan

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Brimfield to hold Memorial Day services Sunday, May 28



BRIMFIELD — The Town of Brimfield will hold its annual Memorial Day Services on Sunday, May 28 at 2 p.m. on the Town Common. The committee extends an invitation to everyone to join us and a special invitation to all area veterans, enlisted service members and reservists.

"Brimfield has held services for Memorial Day as a town tradition that goes back beyond the memories of its oldest residents. As a committee we believe it is important to take time to honor those who sacrificed everything," said committee chair Cindy Skowrya.

Brimfield has a proud history of sending its citizens to fight for our country and is home to many brave military members who have served our country since the Civil War. This year marks the 50th anniversary of our withdrawal from Vietnam. In recognition of that, local author Dennis McCurdy will talk about Brimfield residents Marine Lance Cpl. Norman "Bumpy" Howlett, killed in action at the age of 21 and US Marine Walter "Wally

Waite, whom both served in the Vietnam War. McCurdy will also speak about some facts of that war.

State Sen. Ryan Fattman and State Representative Todd Smola will be present and share remarks.

Ceremonies will begin with the drum roll and the Veterans call to order. The ceremony will feature music and readings reflecting on the day as well as the remembrance of current and former town residents who have passed away in the last year and the ringing of the historic Town Hall bell.

A parade immediately follows the ceremony, and all are invited to participate. A wagon is available for veterans and others who want to join the parade but are unable to march courtesy of Village Green Campgrounds. Children are encouraged to decorate their bikes and doll carriages in patriotic themes.

The parade stops at the cemetery and war monuments in town to pay respects with an invocation, ceremoni-

Music festival aims to raise awareness of Alzheimer's

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — Guests are invited to help shine a light next month in support of Alzheimer's disease awareness.

On Sunday, June 4, guests from throughout the area will take part in the "Let the Sun Shine Music Fest: Shining a Light for Alzheimer's."

The event will take place from noon to 6 p.m. at Hyland Orchard.

Organized by sisters Cathy Czyzewski and Donna Viens in memory of their late mother, Louise "Weezie" Peterson, the festival will raise critical funds and awareness. Peterson battled Alzheimer's disease for more than 15 years before her death in 2018.

For local residents who have also lost a family member or a friend to Alzheimer's disease, the June 4 event will honor their memories while

raising funds.

The lineup of events at Hyland Orchard will feature live music, food, and raffles. Bands will

include Booty and the Jett, Colt and the Coyotes, and Specific Gravity.

Food will be provided by a Bay State Chews food truck.

The event is being organized in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association, which sup-

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Courtesy

Two local sisters have organized an event in memory of their mother, Louise "Weezie" Peterson, who lost her battle with Alzheimer's disease in 2018.

Paul Giamatti to receive Ken Burns Lifetime Achievement Award at Old Sturbridge Village



STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village will honor award-winning actor and producer Paul Giamatti with The Ken Burns Lifetime Achievement Award on Saturday, June 3, at 6 p.m. Old Sturbridge Village presents The Ken Burns Lifetime Achievement Award to an individual who has made a significant impact on the arts through a project that is relevant to the history Old Sturbridge Village works to preserve.

The event will begin with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by remarks and the award presentation in the

Stephen M. Brewer Theater. Attendees will enjoy dessert and coffee following the presentation.

Paul Giamatti is one of the most versatile actors of his generation, and his body of work comes to life with a diverse roster of award-winning performances across film and television. Giamatti is currently starring in the seventh season of the Showtime hit "Billions," for which he was nominated for a Broadcast Film Critics Association Award and a Critics Choice Award for Best Actor in a Drama Series. Other television credits include "Lodge 49," "Inside Amy Schumer," "Downton Abbey," "The Ides of March," and Curtis Hanson's HBO movie "Too Big to Fail," where his performance earned him his third SAG Award as well as an Emmy and a Golden Globe nomination. In 2008 Giamatti won Emmy, SAG, and Golden Globe awards for his performance in HBO's seven-part miniseries

"John Adams". Other film credits include Ron Howard's "Cinderella Man" (SAG Award, Oscar Nomination), "Barney's Version" (Golden Globe Award), and "Sideways" (SAG Award, Golden Globe Nominee). Giamatti can next be seen in Alexander Payne's feature film "The Holdovers" as well as in Season 2 of the HBO Max series "30 Coins." He joins the ranks of past Ken Burns Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees, including Jon Meacham, Norm Abram, Cokie Roberts, John Williams and Tom Brokaw.

Tickets to the event are \$125 each. Reservations are required and seating is limited. The deadline to purchase tickets is May 24. For questions and tickets, please call Sandra Polanik (508) 347-0294 or email spolanik@osv.org. Event details can be found at: <https://www.osv.org/event/ken-burns/>. This event is made possible thanks to the generous support of The Haverford Trust Company.

Bay Path adds newborn assessments to Nursing Program

CHARLTON — Effectively training nursing students for real life-or-death situations is a difficult task. Nursing students rely on proper training for the necessary, life-saving techniques. Preparations for responding to emergencies include the basics of assessment skills. Nursing students at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy now have a new tool that will give them a better idea of what it is like to assess a newborn and eventually, what it is like to respond to a visible, tangible medical crisis.

Due to Dr. Ana Olivar's innovative teaching style and methods, and funding from Perkin's Fund Code 453 Grant, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy was able to acquire Anatomy Lab Neonatal babies: Manikin boys and Manikin girls, which are life-like manikins that will provide students with experience in newborn assessments in a safe, controlled environment. Student feedback includes: "The newborn assessment was a great addition to our curriculum, I think that type of education is much more valuable than lecture by itself." "The newborn assessment

was very thorough and Professor Olivar made it fun!"

"Usually, nursing students read about the newborn assessments or listen to faculty presentations," but with these neonatal babies, the nursing students will be able to learn through visual and tactile cues," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director. "These new babies are a valuable addition to our Nursing Program," said Bolandrina. "It provides our students with a realistic assessment experience and prepares them for their future careers as healthcare professionals."

A name reveal ceremony is being planned. Alumni are welcome and encouraged to participate. Gender-neutral names are being considered. However, the idea of alumni adopting babies to honor someone, be it faculty, peers, or family members is also being considered. In addition to honoring alumni, the PN staff and faculty wanted the students in the program not only to have access to something important to their overall training but to be engaged and involved in decisions, even simple

ones such as naming the manikin. "We love that our alumni are supporting current cohorts even after they have left, continuing to recognize that nursing is vital to improving healthcare for all," said Bolandrina. "We are extremely appreciative of the generosity of time, inspiration, and camaraderie from the alumni, and the opportunities it provides the current students in their practical nursing education," concluded Bolandrina.

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



org).

SENIORS NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — The following members of the senior class were named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-2023 school year at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School.

HIGH HONORS

Olivia Beaudette, Julia Canty, Daniel Chaffee, Noah Cowher, Elizabeth Dreitlein, Elaina Dunbar, Aiden Gelardi, Emily Gelineau, Evan Gelineau, Adrian Gonzalez, Emma Hesselton, Samantha Inangelo, Marissa Keefe, Aiden LaFrance, Gianaleze Lopez, Matthew Marsall, Connor McCarthy, Mackenzie Morrissey, Merissa Murray, Damon Provencal, Emma Rannikko, Arminda Simoes, Sawyer Smith, Naomi Soriano

HONORS

Alyssa Adams, Jake Aho, Samuel Audunsson, Lukus Bachand, Sincere Bailey, Cauy Beaver, John Begg, Coulton Benvenuti, Alexander Besaw, Benjamin Besaw, Skyla Blowers, Samuel Boria, Jon Boyle, Dennis Brunelle, Miranda Burden, Kendra Carter, Matthew Casati, Michael Chansignavong, Amanda Christianson, Isabella Coleman, Makayla Collins, Anthony Comforti, Crystal Curving, Samantha DeCell, Cam'Ron Desrosiers, Ronald Desrosiers, Brenna Donohue, Ty Dupuis, Amanda Englund, Collin

Farrell, Zachary Finizza, Tori Fontaine, Zachary Ford, Evan Frost, Emma-Abigail Gachagua, Osiris Gonzalez, Nathan Goozey, John Guerin, Grace Jones, Calista Kalil-Johnson, Matthew Kallgren, Eyan Karlowicz, Hunter Kelley, Delaney Kirkorian, Jason Lavallee, James LeProhon, Ayden Letourneau, Yamilisha Machado, Judy Maignan, Matthew Marchetti, Dylan McDonald, Rachel McMenemy, Yerilian Miranda-Colon, Kyle Moody, Stephen Ngaruiya, Jonathan Nussey, Gabrielle Oikle, Michaen Pacheco, Joelle Peluso, Kiyana Perez, Amelia Peterson, Trevor Phillips, Jacob Provencher, Timothy Putnam, Ariane Ramos, Jenisey Ramos, Tatiana Ridriguez, Wyatt Sadusky, Jazlynn Santana, Kieya Santerre, Nolan Sharry, Terry Simon, Evan St. Cyr, Emma St. Francis, Gavin Suprenant, Damion Szafarowicz, Alexander Tetreault, Jacob Thomas, Yahil Vega-Cortes, Emily Westwell, Kayden White-Owens, Jacob Wilga, Jonathan Young, Makenna Zella

Principal's List

Ayan Ahmad, Jonathan Barakilis, Quinn Beck, Andrew Bottcher, Grace Comeau, Valerie Diaz, Cheryl Dolson, Gabriel Espinosa, Jayden Flanders, Zachary Fritze, Makenzie Gonzalez, Julius Guillen, Isabella Heck, Lauren Hennessey, Michael Jalbert, NAKIA

L'Ecuyer, Madison Lamica, Sydney Lamontagne, Anthony Leite, Timothy Maenpaa, Jaime Marrero, Alyssa Masciarelli, Daltin McCarthy, Myeisha McDaddie, Erika Melendez, Dylan Morrison Ilvonen, Sebastian Pabon, Georgios Pirperis, Madison Poirier, Hilary Queirolo, Sabrina Rodrigues, Abraham Routhier, Ronin Simone, Matthew Steen, Sean Sweeney, Brayden Therrien, Taylor Tremblay

REAL ESTATE

BRIMFIELD

\$545,000, 55 Haynes Hill Rd, Jewel Real Estate Inc, to Buck Sr, Richard A, and Buck, Cindy L.

\$545,000, 68 Saint Clair Rd, Desjardins, Kirsten M, and Jones, Paul J, to Bigda, Tyler J, and Bigda, Laura J.

\$327,000, 39 Knollwood Rd, Lissitsine, Dmitriy, and Lissitsine, Irina, to Dougan, Daniel, and Dougan, Cheryl.

CHARLTON

\$677,000, 14 Hyde Rd, Barton, Justin C, and Barton, Erin L, to Potito, John, and Koch, Courtney.

\$610,000, 7 S Charlton Shore Rd, Maass Edward R Est, and Maass, Mark E, to Grenier, Carol, and Grenier, Wayne.

\$410,000, 155 Center Depot Rd, Sam, Kenneth W, to Harris, Stephen D, and Svedberg, Shayne A.

\$340,000, 44 Burlingame Rd, Burque, Gloria A, and Burque, Peter A, to Corby, David M, and Corby, Ashley.

\$205,000, 5 Old Worcester Rd Ext, Thibeault Ft, and Thibeault, Dean M, to Sinclair, Heather S, and Sinclair, Adam C.

\$180,000, 89 Cranberry Meadow Shore Rd, Collins, Anita D, and Wilson, Christine J, to Walker, Craig R.

\$10,000, Overlook Ave, Harvey, Alice, to Slipp-Punches, Victoria.

HOLLAND

\$400,000, 11 Fenton St, Peltier, Michael G, to Bellino, Jennifer.

\$315,102, 34 Leno Rd, Ellsworth, Nicholas C, and Ellsworth, Emily O, to Lefebvre, Eric R.

\$100,000, Butterworth Rd, Hintz, Dana, and Bugryn, Nicole, to Lussier, David.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$420,000, 151 Harwood Farm Rd, Mccall, Susan, to Norwood, Mark L, and Norwood, Cecil A.

\$310,000, 108 Lebanon St, Greenberg Joan Est, and Parcel, Toby L, to Ruiz, Daniel, and Ruiz, Melinda.

\$300,000, 424 Dennison Dr, Zayac, Melissa S, to Collazo, Nahara L.

\$250,000, 12 Crescent St, Holm, Rachael, and Bombard, Corey, to Montalvo, Estephany N.

\$225,000, 128 Westwood Pkwy, Mfra T2015-1, and Wilmington TNa Tr, to Knutelski, Mariusz.

STURBRIDGE

\$915,000, 33 Putnam Rd, Norwood, Mark L, and Norwood, Cecil A, to Barton, Justin C, and Barton, Erin L.

\$485,000, 21 River Rd, Sdb Homes LLC, to Stefansson, Magnus, and Browne, Catherine A.

\$475,000, 9 Blueberry Ln, Smith, Rachelle J, and Smith, Buck, to Morytko, John T, and Morytko, Brooke E.

\$455,000, 67 Fiske Hill Rd, Whittemore, William, and Wallace, Christopher, to Mobilio, Mark J, and Mobilio, Susan F.

\$399,000, 34 Bentwood Dr #34, Jacobsen, James G, and Jacobsen, Shirley M, to Krispien, Gilson, and Krispien, Helen.

\$392,500, 48 Cricket Dr, Flannagan, Jennifer, to Erhardt, Jason C, and Erhardt, Courtney B.

Tirana student named to Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — Joni Collaku from Tirana, majoring in Mech Engineering, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,082 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation, and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and high student engagement ranking. For more information about Cedarville University, visit www.cedarville.edu.

Erin P. Hastings graduates from Jacksonville State

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. — Erin P. Hastings of Brimfield graduated from Jacksonville State University on April 29 with a degree in Emergency Management. Nearly 900 students received undergraduate and graduate degrees as part of the university's spring commencement ceremony at JSU Stadium. Nancy Grace, famed victims' rights advocate and television legal analyst, was awarded an honorary doctorate and served as keynote speaker. The ceremony is archived on YouTube and the digital commencement program is available online. Learn how JSU makes every student feel special at commencement here.

About Jacksonville State University
Founded in 1883 as a state teachers college, Jacksonville State University is located in the Appalachian foothills midway between Birmingham and Atlanta. The accredited university offers more than 150 courses of study at the undergraduate and graduate level, including three doctoral programs. Learn more at www.jsu.edu.

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Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

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visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.

Individual offices may vary
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For library hours please check www.charltonlibrary.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)

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For emergencies, dial 911

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

HOLLAND: 413-245-7108

Mon - Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FISKDALE: 508-347-6486

Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463

Weekdays 8:30 - 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451

Weekdays: 9:00 - 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

WALES: 413-245-9808

Weekdays 8:30 - 12:30 and 2:00 - 4:30 and
Sat. 9:00 - 12:00

CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am. www.livingwordcharlton.com info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale**- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 www.sturfed.org Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 Phone 508-347-7297 Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org Services - Sunday 9:30 am Pastor Dan Purtell

Curry College welcomes Emerson Cherry into Psi Chi Honor Society

MILTON — Curry College welcomes Emerson Cherry of Sturbridge into Psi Chi, the International Psychology Honor Society.

Founded in 1929, Psi Chi is an international honor society whose purpose is to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of the individual members in all fields, particularly in psychology, and to advance the science of psychology.

Curry inductees are part of a network of more than 700,000 lifetime Psi Chi members.

About Curry College

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 24 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the Web at www.curry.edu.

Oscar Holton IV inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Oscar Holton IV of Sturbridge was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Holton was initiated at Kansas State University.

Holton is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

More About Phi Kappa Phi

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's notable members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards \$1.3 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit www.phikappaphi.org.

Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts annually approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni. The Society has chapters on more than 325 select colleges and universities in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is "To recognize and advance excellence in all fields of higher education and society."

For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students inducted into National Technical Honor Society



DOUGLAS — Six Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students and an LPN alumna were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) on Sunday, May 14 during an in-person ceremony held amidst the blueberry blossoms at Douglas Orchard and Farms. The outside event marked the eighth annual induction ceremony for the Academy.

According to Academy Director, Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, practical nursing students eagerly look forward to this prestigious event yearly. "Making it through nurs-

ing school and being inducted into the NTHS is a feather in their cap! The PN students juggle school, work, and family life, it is quite a feat to be inducted to the NTHS," said Bolandrina, who has been organizing the induction ceremony for the last 8 years. This year is the fourth year the NTHS induction was held at the beautiful grounds of Douglas Orchard and Farms. Owner, Architect & builder Aaron Socrat proudly stated he envisioned the grapes trellises as the backdrop for the NTHS induction, and it turned out to be amazing!

The practical nursing students are eli-

gible for induction based on their grade point average, faculty recommendation, character, and leadership involvement in extracurricular activities, and clubs. These characteristics reflect the member attributes of the National Technical Honor Society: skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership.

"We are grateful that Douglas Orchard and Farms welcomes us and helps us to celebrate our student nurses' achievements. What started during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic four years ago turned into a tradition. Our practical nursing students and their families enjoyed the beautiful setting of Douglas Orchard and Farms," added Bolandrina. "The practical nursing students remain resilient, kind, and caring. They navigated the rigorous program through these challenging times and continue to participate in many volunteer activities to help the community."

PN Class of 2023 NTHS Inductees were Paulina Asante of Worcester, Evan Cleveland of Westborough, Ana Hilner of Oxford, Patrick Kariuki of Millbury, Mary Mwangi of Worcester, and Lauren Young of Woodstock, Conn. PN Class of 2022 Honorary NTHS Inductee was Marites Sklarz, LPN of Southbridge.

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

School District completes grant funded emergency preparedness exercises

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — On May 9, the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District held the second of two training sessions to help enhance the health and safety of students and staff by preparing officials within the district to better respond to an emergency scenario in or around the district schools.

The effort was funded by a \$7,000 Fels Family Foundation Grant that allowed the district to partner with the Edward David Company to engage in tabletop exercises geared towards preparing responses to school shootings or other multi-hazard scenarios. In April, the district performed the first of the two sessions which included district administrators, principals, assistant principals, the nurse coordinator, maintenance representatives, and the school resource officer. The second training session on May 9 included a much larger group with representatives of the school committee, the chiefs of the police and fire departments from both Dudley and Charlton, as well as representatives from Nichols College and UMass Memorial Health. Once again, the group engaged in tabletop exercises that Superintendent Steven Lamarche said helped the district understand where they need to improve.

"We continued tabletop scenarios regarding the relocation and reunification. Additionally, we discussed communication protocols and processes in the event of a multi-hazard experience for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School

District and to that end we have identified a number of areas that require enhanced protocols and areas for further development which are relocation, reunification, and communication, all of the areas we covered. The time was invaluable to have all community partnerships face to face to reinforce open lines of communication," Lamarche said during a May 10 school committee meeting.

The Edward Davis Company led the exercise, bringing with them their nationally regarded expertise in security consulting and crisis management with an emphasis on risk mitigation, compliance and emergency response. The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District has made school security and emergency preparedness a top priority over the past few years due to the increased number of school shootings and other emergencies that have come to light over the last decade, specifically during the 2020s alone. Superintendent Lamarche said he believes the district will benefit greatly from the lessons learned during the exercises.

"What we learned is that everyone wants to ensure the best possible outcome. That we all have a role, but we must understand, appreciate, and respect each other's roles in any event," Lamarche said.

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PEPIN

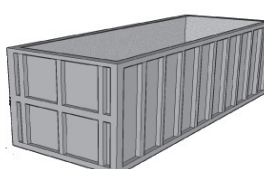
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BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — For Andrew Murch, town government's focus needs to turn toward working-class concerns, especially family.

"I've always believed local politics is about families — starting and building them, it can be infectious," he said. In most cases, those Southbridge families are renters and working parents, but "often, that voice doesn't get loud in determining [town] investments. It should be."

Murch is seeking one of three Town Council seats June 13. He faces incumbents Joe Daou and Jackie Ryan, former councilor George Chenier, attorney Steve Kelly, and engineer Maria Torres. The third incumbent, Gus Steeves, can't run again due to term limits, so this election will definitely put at least one new face on the Council. Also, Kevin Buxton will be on the ballot, but indicated after the May 11 candi-

date forum that he wishes voters would choose other candidates instead of him. (That happened too late to formally withdraw.)

The News is running two profiles a week until the election, with one remaining for next week. After they're done, the June 9 edition will feature an overview of the unopposed candidates and the ballot question.

Murch has been in town since 2012, and has worked as an auto mechanic nearly all of that time. He was born in Quincy, but largely grew up in Georgia before returning to the Bay State. He said his involvement in local affairs began by way of Head Start's policy council when his son was in the program; he later joined both the School Committee and Redevelopment Authority (where he now serves).

Those streams of thought fuel a focus on the future, in several ways. He noted he wants kids to "have a good neighborhood to walk through," with safe streets and sidewalks, and feels the Council needs to add to the recreational budget for youth activities.

Murch adds that he feels the town leadership needs to "fix the little things and provide a positive impact on so many people." While some of those are obvious — like roads — some are less so — like taxes. He said he'd like to see tax policy "that can allow more grace to those on a fixed income" with extra abatements and better payment plans for late payers. He also wants to see a local economy that focuses on the fact "this is a trade town," so it should bring

working-class trades back and encourage those who know them to stay here.

To him, the heyday of being an industrial leader isn't going to return, so Southbridge needs to "promote itself as a place to have fun" and build community engagement by emphasizing its arts, working class people, historic district, and recreational opportunities like the rail trail. In the next three years, Murch hopes to see more long-term investment, including a "more concrete infrastructure investment plan throughout town" that looks at least 20 years forward and reduces the tax burden, and good water conservation projects that include reorganizing the agreements with other towns we now sell to that reduce annual increases. As specific cases, he points to the Elm Street fire station, which he wants preserved and reused after the new station's built, and old water mains, which he'd like to replace because they're "ticking time bombs" that could affect thousands of residents if they fail.

Murch has been looking at such issues for a while now on the Redevelopment Authority, where he's now chair. He takes pride in the in-planning Hook/Larochelle TIP project and the completed Central Street Lot, which he noted was under budget and has "driven foot traffic and usage of that space."

Among town departments, he argues the focus needs to be on DPW; "It's their turn." He feels the town can restructure some jobs in a way that gives individual workers raises and more responsibility while reducing the overall budget.

Within town hall, he sees a similar opportunity by promoting greater cohesion among town boards and otherwise "working collectively, because we have a longstanding reputation of not [doing that]." One part of that could be joint meetings between boards so they can tell what they do.

Indeed, he sees that as being among the most critical things the next Town Manager needs to do, alongside budgeting and grantwriting — promoting "collaborative effort with community organizations and the community itself." Doing that, he said, will give people a reason "to give back to the town," but, while some managers have, many have not. He describes that as "the intangible that separates someone who manages from one who leads. ... [The people] aren't coming to us, so we have to go to them."

He argues many of the ongoing projects around us can be tapped to benefit Southbridge. For example, he said the Amazon construction in Charlton and Sturbridge's tourist sites can bring foot traffic to Southbridge's downtown. The key to making that help us is marketing our town.

"We can become an entertainment center, and we have the culture to do it," he said. "... We must maintain our historic feel and that personality we have, and modernize it. If you think what you did today is good enough, you're not ready for tomorrow."

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

Torres: "I see the ball already rolling."

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — In engineering parlance, a "punch list" contains items

that wrap up a major project. To Town Council candidate Maria Torres, it represents the steps toward revitalizing Southbridge.

"Being on the council, I can complete these punch-list projects that have been pushed under the rug," she said. "... I see the ball already rolling."

She's got her sights on a long list of things, including making school safer, upgrading underground utilities, providing youth and mental health services, marketing the community, and fixing that infamous sewer plant smell.

"We have a lot of value here in our town that accommodates being here, like a one-stop shop," she added. "You don't have that in other small towns."

Torres is seeking one of three Town Council seats June 13. She faces incumbents Joe Daou and Jackie Ryan, former councilor George Chenier, attorney Steve Kelly, and Redevelopment Authority chair Andrew Murch. The third incumbent, Gus Steeves, can't run again due to term limits, so this election will definitely put at least one new face on the Council.



Maria Torres

Also, Kevin Buxton will be on the ballot, but indicated after the May 11 candidate forum that he wishes voters would choose other candidates instead of him. (That happened too late to formally withdraw.)

The News is running two profiles a week until the election, with one (Ryan) remaining for next week. After they're done, the June 9 edition will feature an overview of the election, featuring the forum, unopposed candidates and the ballot question.

To Torres, getting down in the weeds is fun, in various ways. She makes a point of saying she's "super-happy" about doing such things as the recent town-wide cleanup because "it brings us together and you're proud about keeping our community clean." She also loves being in construction boots, and is as willing to climb around atop buildings as to examine the engineering plans for them. Currently working as a property manager in Framingham because it offered the chance to be home on weekends, she noted her education and experience has primarily been in construction supervision on utilities, solar projects, cell towers and the like.

That background fuels two of her ideas for what Southbridge could benefit from economically — creating a local non-profit for teaching "hands-on trades work" plus recruiting to town "some technology repair so people don't have to go to Worcester or Auburn." In general, she said she wants to promote local development "that will enable people not to have to go out of town," including

filling the vacant storefronts, working with property owners and "maybe even an Amazon person" for investment in mill reuse and new housing, adding another hotel, and providing more veterans' services.

Torres said she'd also like to see Southbridge better promote its recreational opportunities, including the rail trail, cultural center, museum, outdoors options, and events at the hotel. One thing she'd add would be "a nice Fourth of July soiree."

Like some of the other candidates, Torres is a homeowner (married with three kids), and sees the need for the town to "come up with a happy medium" when it comes to taxes and spending.

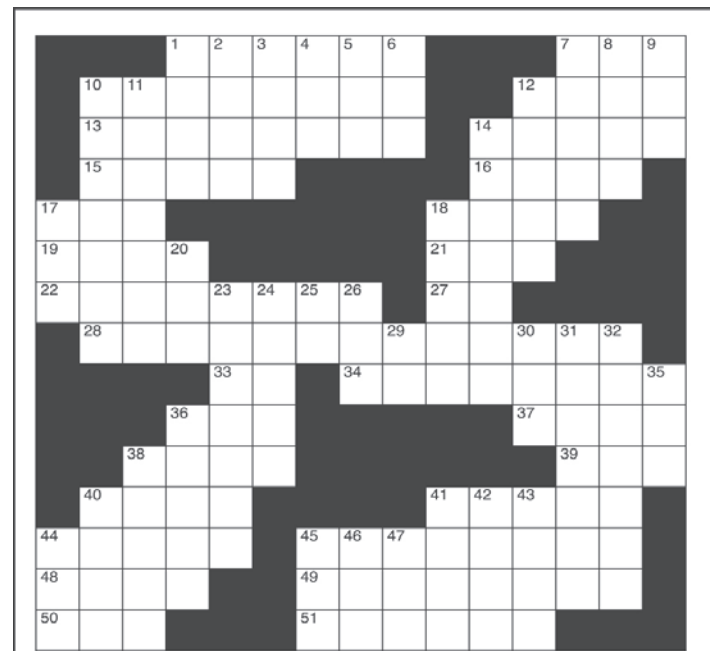
"We can't just want, want, want. ... It's about really connecting to our community and seeing what they vote for, the terms and conditions [of such projects]," she said. "In a perfect world, we can do all these great things, but can we pay for it?"

When asked about the next town manager, she focuses on the more personal things she'd like them to have: "fairness, compromising [skills] and empathy," with the ability to "listen to understand." She said she'd like them to be a "stern" but knowledgeable person who has "tough skin," can "communicate properly with the community," and lead by example.

Torres said her experience in government came from two places. As a teen in Ashland, her first job was in Town Hall as part of a summer program that also gave her experience as a camp counselor, farm worker, library page and park staff. Since then, she served 10 years on the board of Union Latino, a Framingham non-profit, and says she intends to join some town board if she's not elected this year.

"There's so much history here," Torres said. "We need to market our city, but we need to fix it first."

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

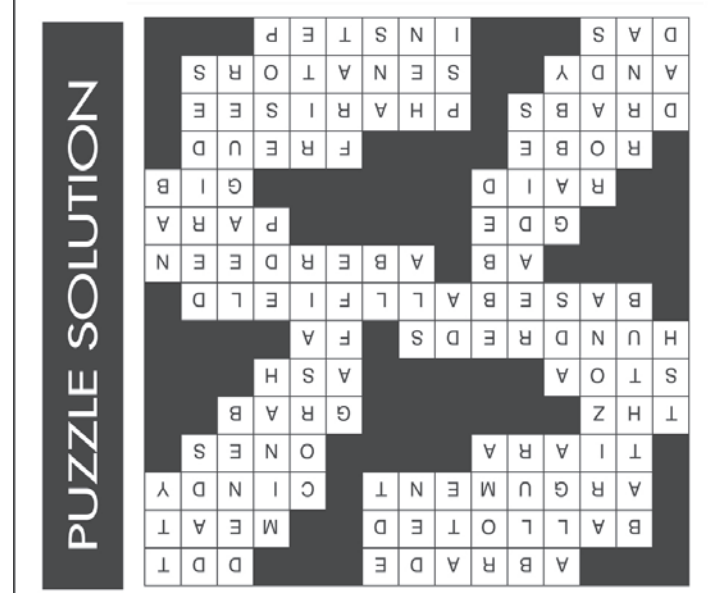


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Wear away by friction
- 7. Insecticide
- 10. Elicited a secret vote
- 12. Beef
- 13. Disagreement
- 14. Crawford, supermodel
- 15. Jeweled headdress
- 16. Digits
- 17. Trillion hertz
- 18. Snap up
- 19. Classical portico
- 21. Residue after burning
- 22. Large integers
- 27. Free agent
- 28. Where ballplayers work
- 33. Blood type
- 34. Scottish city
- 36. Google certification (abbr.)
- 37. Serbian monetary unit
- 38. Make a sudden surprise attack on
- 39. Wood or metal bolt
- 40. Relaxing attire
- 41. Famed neurologist
- 44. Dullish brown fabrics
- 45. Member of ancient Jewish sect
- 48. Griffith, Rooney
- 49. Lawmakers
- 50. Government lawyers
- 51. The arch of the foot

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 2. Britpop rockers
- 3. National capital
- 4. Consumed
- 5. The habitat of wild animals
- 6. Sun up in New York
- 7. Cygnus star
- 8. Male parents
- 9. Talk to you (abbr.)
- 10. A place to clean oneself
- 11. Southwestern US state
- 12. South Korean idol singer
- 14. Pirate
- 17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- 18. Mistake
- 20. Promotions
- 23. Prepares
- 24. Partner to flowed
- 25. State lawyer
- 26. Patti Hearst's captors
- 29. Pound
- 30. Electronic data processing
- 31. Sports player
- 32. Treats with contempt
- 35. Apprehend
- 36. Excessively talkative
- 38. Highways
- 40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 41. College organization for males
- 42. Any customary observance or practice
- 43. Employee stock ownership plan
- 44. Male parent
- 45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 46. Female bird
- 47. Autonomic nervous system



PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Absentee ballots available for town election

SOUTHBRIDGE — Absentee ballots are now available at the office of the Town Clerk/Board of Registrars at Town Hall for the local election which will take place on Tuesday, June 13. Persons wishing to vote by absentee ballot must obtain an application for completion and return to the Town Clerk/Board of Registrars no later than Monday, June 12 at noon.

Voters may vote by absentee ballot for the following reasons:

- Absence from town during the hours the polls are open
- Physical Disability
- Religious beliefs

Relatives may apply for absentee ballots for Southbridge residents absent from the state, residents in the armed forces or merchant marines, their spouses or dependents, and prisoners. Applicants must be registered voters of the town of Southbridge. The local election will take place on Tuesday, June 13, with voting at Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Voters are urged to exercise their right to vote at all elections.

LEGALS

Town of Brimfield Highway Department Request for Bids Various Road Materials, Equipment Rentals, and Bituminous Concrete Type-I for Fiscal Year 2024

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received no later than Tuesday June 13, 2023, by

1:30 PM. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Tuesday June 13, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in the Brimfield Town Hall Annex, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following items that will be purchased for Fiscal Year 2024 will be awarded by the Board of Selectmen at their duly posted meeting on June 20, 2023:

I. Various Road Materials
II. Equipment Rental with Operator
III. Bituminous Concrete – Type I
Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning Monday May 22, 2023 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. Questions with regard to various locations and other matters relative to this bid are to be posed to the Brimfield Highway Surveyor, Zachary Lemieux at the Brimfield Highway Department at 413-245-4103.

Envelopes must be clearly marked as stated on the Bid Sheet with Item and Number and include the date and time of the bid opening. Where required, bids must indicate a single square yard multiplier (dollar amount per square yard) on the appropriate bid form attached.

Bituminous Concrete-Type I bids must indicate all prices, both pick up at plant (*not more than 15 miles of the Brimfield Highway Garage, 34B Wales Rd*) and to be delivered to the Town of Brimfield, Town Yard, or to the job location in the Town of Brimfield. Bids shall include the current period price (April 2023) of \$660 per ton for liquid asphalt. The price adjustment of hot mix asphalt mixtures containing liquid asphalt shall apply as per scheduled posted on Massachusetts Highway Department website: www.mass.gov/mhd and "Special Provisions" as attached.

MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, PAVEMENT – SURFACING, for the project with an estimated value of \$150,000.00 will be required." Bids should be submitted using the April 2023 Period Price of liquid asphalt. NOTE: Award is subject to the Fiscal Year 2024 Chapter 90 appropriation and release. A bid deposit of 5% of the total price bid must be submitted.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provision of Chapter 149, M.G.L., Section 26-27D. Bids submitted for Bituminous Concrete -Type I, are subject to the provisions of General Laws, Chap 53A, 30B, Section 30M inclusive as amended, (Public Works Construction).

All work/items must meet Massachusetts Department of Transportation, highway standards specifications. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions. Bids received without the executed certificates will not be considered.

Minority percentage rate must not be less than 5%.

Duration of the bid contract is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions.

Payment terms: Net term, 30 days. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or, accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.

Zachary Lemieux
Highway Surveyor
Town of Brimfield
Brimfield, MA 01010
(413) 245-4103
May 26, 2023

June 2, 2023 TOWN OF BRIMFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Request for Bids FY2024 Heating Oil, Diesel, Gasoline and Boiler Maintenance

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received by Monday June 13, 2023 at 1:00PM. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Monday, June 13, 2023 at 1:15 p.m. in the Brimfield Town Hall, 21 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following items for Fiscal Year 2024 will be awarded by the Select Board on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at their duly posted meeting.

1. Fuels: *Must hold an Ultimate Vendor's License

Heating Fuel 1,000-gallon capacity
Diesel – Ultra Low Sulphur
2,000-gallon capacity
Gasoline – Unleaded
2,000-gallon capacity

Boiler Maintenance **See Below***

***Boiler Maintenance:** The Town of Brimfield has a total of four (4) furnaces/boiler systems in its municipal buildings (Town Hall, Town Hall Annex

Building and Library) that require annual cleaning and periodic repairs. Bids are to include the per hourly labor rate for this work. Materials will be paid for as necessary.

The Town of Brimfield will consider bids based only upon "mark up over daily rack price"

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning May 22, 2023 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday or by emailing the Select Board's Office at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. Questions with regard to other matters relative to this bid should be directed to the Brimfield Highway Surveyor, Zach Lemieux at 413-245-4103 or by email at highway@brimfieldma.org.

Envelopes must be clearly marked FY2024 Heating Oil, Diesel, Gasoline, and Boiler Maintenance with bid opening date. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid form (included in bid packet).

No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority MUST be included in all bid submissions. Bids received without executed certificates will not be considered.

Duration of bid is for Fiscal Year 2024; otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions. Payment Terms: Net term, 30 days.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provisions of Chapter 149, M.G.L., section 26-27D. Bids submitted for heating oil, diesel and gasoline are subject to the provisions of the Prevailing Wage law where applicable.

The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids or accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.

Zachary Lemieux
Highway Surveyor
Brimfield, MA 01010
(413) 245-4103
May 26, 2023
June 2, 2023

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robert P. Tuohey and Kristen L. Tuohey to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for USAA Federal Savings Bank, dated September 27, 2007 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41872, Page 37 (the "Mortgage"), as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated August 5, 2013, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 51877, Page 55 of which mortgage U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for USAA Federal Savings Bank its successors and assigns to PHH Mortgage Corporation dated November 1, 2011 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 48186, Page 244, and Assignment from PHH Mortgage Corporation to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing dated November 13, 2020 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 63747, Page 41, and Assignment from NewRez LLC f/k/a New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust dated April 19, 2022 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 67520, Page 28, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 5 Highland Lane, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), MA 01518 will be sold at a Public Auction at 11:00 AM on June 8, 2023, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land containing 44,742 square feet or 1.0271 acres, more or less, being shown as Lot 8 on Plan of "The Highlands", Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land in Sturbridge, Massachusetts prepared for Robert E. Moss, dated August 16, 2002 recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Plan Book 808 Plan 29.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41872, Page 34.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the ben-

efit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Tuohey, Robert P. and Kristen L. Tuohey, 11-006430
May 11, 2023
May 18, 2023
May 25, 2023

Public Meeting Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm to review a request for Notice of Intent (NOI) permit application submitted by Daniel & Alicia Rice to determine if the proposed project for the Construction of an addition, porch, deck & attached garage to an existing dwelling is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act (as amended).

Project location: 11 Sixth Street, Brimfield, MA (Assessor's Map: 5-B-B-10)
Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Brimfield Town Hall, 21 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010.
Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia, Brimfield Conservation Commission Co-Chairs
05/10/2023
CC: Board of Health
Planning Board
May 25, 2023

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 23 SM 001940 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: The Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Jeannette S. Curboy; Daniel Curboy, Frederick Curboy, Brian Curboy, Alan Curboy, Catherine Curboy, Linda Koslowski and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq): Mortgage Assets Management, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, numbered 108 Mashapaug Road, given by Jeannette S. Curboy to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated January 4, 2007, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40484, Page 344, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 6/26/2023 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 5/10/2023. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder May 25, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO17P3372GD
NOTICE AND ORDER
PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF
GUARDIANSHIP OF A MINOR
PERSON PURSUANT TO

In the interest of:
Leeland Martin Beeber
Of: Woodstock, CT
MINOR

NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** a hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Jennifer L. Beeber** on **April 25, 2023** will be held on **06/01/2023 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: May 3, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

May 25, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO23P1016PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER
PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT
TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Rosemarie Ventura
Of:

RESPONDENT

(Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Sara Spooner of in the above captioned matter alleging that **Rosemarie Ventura** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that

Sara Spooner of Auburn, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **06/13/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

May 13, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

May 25, 2023

For Legal
Advertising
Information
Call
508-909-4127
email:
legals@
stonebridge
press.news

24th Masonic District tradition strong!

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Quinebaug Masonic Lodge

CHARLTON — On Saturday, May 20, the 24th Masonic District held its Annual Masonic Widows and Veterans Luncheon at the Overlook Masonic Home facilities in Charlton.

This event has been going on for over a decade. Chairmen Brother Dean Moss, and committee members bro. Steve Dragon were very happy to see all the attendees that came out for this very special tradition to honor our Masonic veterans and their widows. Fifty-one people attended, including many of the Overlook facility residents, to honor these Masonic veterans and their widow's luncheon. There was entertainment by Clyde Wheatley who played his saxophone and played mostly jazz from the '30s to '40s era. His music brought back many memories for those who attended this event.

Prior to entering the hall veterans and widows registered for the event. Widows were handed a Masonic pin and a pamphlet "Our Tribute to you honoring the loss of your loved one." Presented at this event was a 50-year Masonic Veterans Service Medal to bro. John Merz who is affiliated with the Rose of Sharon Lodge located at the Overlook in Charlton. At the main dining hall entrance the ladies were given a red rose from Leslie Cape of the Clara Barton Chapter No. 63 of The Eastern Star.

Prior to the meal the Color Guard entered the dining hall. The flag bearer, a Vietnam veteran Chief Petty Officer bro. Larry Olson walked proudly hold-

ing the flag high. Behind him was our 24th District Deputy Grand Master Brother Jonathan Neitz and Chairmen bro. Dean Moss. The color guard stopped, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. The Chairman of this event, bro. Dean Moss spoke and thanked everyone for attending this

event. He quoted and said to me he looked forward to this event because "The best thing we can give our widows and veterans is our time". These are veterans who served our country when we needed them the most and risked their lives so we could have a better life. They have served their country with

honor and distinction and the widows supported them and believed in what they were fighting for. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org to find a lodge nearest you.



Center, standing, left to right Brother John Merz received his 50 years Masonic Veterans Service Medal presented to him by 24th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master Brother Jonathan Neitz shaking his hand in a packed room of veterans and widows.



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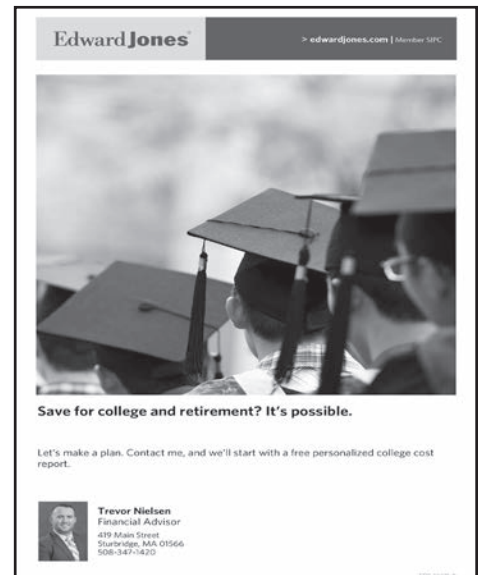
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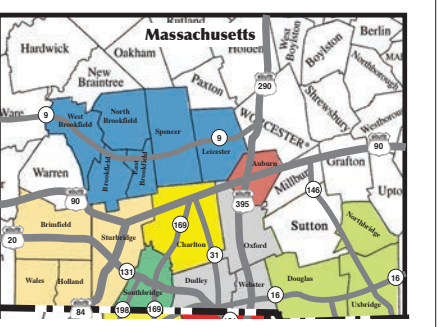
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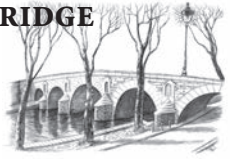
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EDITOR

The Power of open-mindedness

In a world marked by increasing divisions and intolerance, the importance of open-mindedness cannot be overstated. Open-mindedness is not just a desirable quality; it is an essential attribute for both individuals and societies to grow. The willingness to explore new ideas, perspectives, and possibilities is the driving force behind growth, understanding, and peaceful coexistence.

At its core, open-mindedness stands in stark contrast to narrow-mindedness. While the latter shuts out differing opinions and clings stubbornly to preconceived notions, the former opens the floodgates to intellectual advancement. Open-minded individuals recognize the limitations of their knowledge and actively seek to broaden their horizons by engaging with diverse ideas and perspectives. They understand that the world is intricate, and that truth can be found in unexpected places.

An open mind liberates us from the constraints of our own biases and prejudices. It allows us to go beyond the echo chambers of our social circles, where our beliefs are constantly reinforced and seldom challenged. Open-mindedness compels us to question our assumptions, critically evaluate information, and consider alternative viewpoints. This willingness to embrace differing perspectives brings forth empathy, compassion, and a deeper understanding of the human condition.

In today's interconnected world, open-mindedness is more crucial than ever. The rapid advancement of technology has brought individuals from diverse cultures and backgrounds, into closer proximity. Without open-mindedness, these encounters may result in misunderstanding, conflict, and the erosion of society. However, approaching these encounters with open minds allows us to discover commonalities, bridge gaps, and foster mutual understanding.

Open-mindedness also serves as a catalyst for progress. History has shown that many of humanity's greatest discoveries were made by individuals who dared to challenge prevailing wisdom and conventional thinking. By embracing new ideas, open-minded individuals pave the way for creativity, problem-solving, and the advancement of society. It is through open-mindedness that novel solutions emerge, technologies are grown, and uncharted possibilities come to fruition.

Open-mindedness does not imply blind acceptance or the abandonment of critical thinking. Striking a balance between open-mindedness and healthy skepticism is crucial. Open-mindedness does not suggest that all ideas are equally valid or that we should unquestioningly embrace every viewpoint. Instead, it means being willing to entertain diverse perspectives, objectively evaluate them, and draw well-informed conclusions.

In a time when polarization threatens to tear us apart, cultivating open-mindedness should be our collective goal. It requires us to engage in respectful dialogue, even with those whose views we vehemently disagree with. Open-mindedness is not a sign of weakness or indecisiveness; it is a strength that allows us to build bridges and find common ground.

As individuals, we should challenge ourselves to examine our beliefs, confront our biases, and remain receptive to new ideas. We should actively seek out perspectives that differ from our own and engage in meaningful conversations that expand our understanding. We should include ourselves in environments that encourage open-mindedness, where the free exchange of ideas is valued and respected.

Open-mindedness necessitates humility, intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to lifelong learning. By embracing open-mindedness, we expose ourselves to the vast landscape of human knowledge and experience, paving the way for progress, unity, and a brighter, well-connected future.

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lawns are a lose-lose proposition

To the Editor:

Thanks for your editorial on No Mow May (May 18 & 19) (NMM). May is almost over this year but one can (and should!) plan to do this in 2024. Thanks to Jacob Edwards Library for the display on NMM and for the several participants in town.

The catchy phrase 'No Mow May' can help you to remember and plan to give your lawnmower (and you!) a rest next spring. You may even discover that you want to give it a longer rest (beyond May) or retire it or give it away entirely. A neighbor of mine let the bulk of her front yard go 'au naturel' and a beautiful patch of purple asters emerged- to the delight of bees and butterflies and human passersby. I am amazed at the ecological diversity and drought tolerance my own unmown yard!

One benefit of not mowing is to see that it really isn't that 'unkept,' as many arguers say! If you want to replace your bluegrass lawn you can replace it with no or low maintenance alternatives such as wild strawberries, chickweed, oregano, clover, or alfalfa. All are great for attracting bees, dragonflies, butterflies, birds, and moths. In addition to providing a beautiful landscape and helping diversity, all these groundcovers and to build and nourish the soil underneath- something that cannot be said for grass!

The editorial referred to reducing our global carbon footprint which is great

as well as 'conserving valuable resources' (think water, fossil fuels, your time and energy!). It is also great to observe the other species we live with! And it is possibly even humbling to realize that we are just a piece of life's puzzle- and we need the other pieces to make it complete.

Do some research online or at the library: Doug Tallamy has several good books (like Nature's Best Hope). BeeCityUSA.org cites that 2 percent of the land in the USA is lawn "making them the biggest irrigated crop we grow." But, lawns are not a crop!! We don't get anything valuable from them and they help in times of drought or erosion only minimally (because of their short roots). Instead, we become slaves to our short green master that demands mowing, additives, time, and fossil fuels.

Global ecological problems can seem overwhelming and the thought, "What can I do? I'm just one person!" can surface. When you do NMM, you'll realize that this is a big action and that you are doing your part! Not only do we not get any food from lawns (and often people try to kill the foods it does provide, dandelions and mushrooms, we prevent the organisms we need for the human food supply- the pollinators- from getting anything to eat, too! Lawns are a lose-lose situation.

MAUREEN DOYLE
SOUTHBRIDGE

Saving environment

With heat and electricity bills what they are, many of us are thankful for the mostly mild winter we had. Yet it is certainly true that many are also worried about what a changing climate means for us and future generations.

Whether we agree that global warming and consequent climate change is man-made or man-driven or not, we are nonetheless tasked by God to care for our home. In Genesis 1, when God grants Adam and Eve authority and dominion, the word "dominion" means to care for as a tender and compassionate king. Various passages in Isaiah claim that the renewal of Creation forms the first and central part of salvation. One way or another, God cares about our home and certainly wants us to as well. Again, whatever our politics may be, we should care for Creation.

The good news is that Creation care can be fairly easy once we've established good habits. It can also help the wallet, too. I ride my bike to work as often as possible. In a couple of weeks I'm riding eighty miles to a conference I need to attend (supporting the Mass.

BEYOND
THE PEWS
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Audubon Society with a Go Fund Me, which you might be able to look up). Now, not everyone can drive less and ride a bike instead—though if you need motivation I'd be happy to ride with you! We needn't

feel guilty. There are plenty of other habits that are quick to learn and easy to sustain.

We can say "no" to bags and receipts at the store, or use our own bags when necessary; we can turn off lights when we leave a room or air dry our clothes; we can buy bamboo paper products when possible, especially for toilet paper, or use handkerchiefs, or buy locally grown food; or go places we can walk to for fun rather than driving far away. Again, all these strategies not only save and care for the environment, God's Creation, but they also save your wallet. Usually they take advantage of the first two Rs in Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Most of what we can do is simple. The best we can do is to care. If we care the way God hopes we will, then we'll surely make good and appropriate decisions and keep hope alive for the future of our home God gave us.

Late bloomers

Do good things come to those who wait? I don't know; I guess it all depends! Growing up, they said my age group belonged to the microwave generation— impatient, wanting everything 'popcorn quick.' That made it especially hard when I couldn't accomplish my dreams instantly.

My journey in competitive swimming began when I was only five-year-old. I remember those early practices where

the promise of a tootsie roll at the end of each lap was my only motivation to keep going. However, as I paddled through the years, my love for the sport took root, growing with me from Junior high to College.

I wasn't always the fastest, and to soften the blow of losing a race, my dad often told me, "You're a late bloomer, Toby." Giving me hope that one day, I would attain the victory.

A late bloomer is a phrase he used to describe a person who fulfills their potential later than expected; they often have talents that aren't visible to others initially.

My dedication was unwavering as I continued, but my speed in the pool could have been more impressive, particularly towards the end of high school and into College. I wasn't the slowest, but my gold medal was often out of reach. I often took solace in the fact that "I'm a late bloomer." Just like my dad said.

In the lull between high school and College, I stumbled upon triathlons. This thrilling combination of endurance sports had my heart racing even before I hit the starting line. I knew I was no longer a late bloomer and was delighted to win first place in my age group!

My victory could have been more impressive after discovering I was the only one racing in my age group, win-

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you may need to invest in the financial markets throughout your life. However, at times your investment expectations may differ from actual returns, triggering a variety of emotions. So, what are reasonable expectations to have about your investments?

Ideally, you hope that your investment portfolio will eventually help you meet your goals, both your short-term ones, such as a cross-country vacation, and the long-term ones, such as a comfortable retirement. But your expectations may be affected by several factors, including the following:

Misunderstanding – Various factors in the economy and the financial markets trigger different reactions in different types of investments — so you should expect different results. When you own stocks, you can generally expect greater price volatility in the short term. Over time, though, the "up" and "down" years tend to average out. When you own bonds, you can expect less volatility than individual stocks, but that's not to say that bond prices never change. Generally, when interest rates rise, you can anticipate that the value of your existing, lower-paying bonds may decrease, and when rates fall, the value of your bonds may increase.

Recency bias – Investors exhibit "recency bias" when they place too much emphasis on recent events in the financial markets, expecting that those same events will happen again. But these expectations can lead to negative behavior. For example, in 2018, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell almost 6% – so investors subject to recency bias might have concluded it was best to stay out of the markets for a while. But the Dow jumped more than 22 percent the very next year. Of course, the reverse can also be true: In 2021, the Dow rose almost 19 percent, so investors who might have been susceptible to recency bias may have thought they were in for more big gains right away — but in 2022, the Dow fell almost 9 percent. Here's the bottom line: Recency bias may cloud your expectations about your investments' performance — and it's essentially impossible to predict accurately what will happen to the financial markets in any given year.

Anchoring – Another type of investment behavior is known as "anchoring" — an excessive reliance on your original conviction in an investment. So, for instance, if you bought stock in a company you thought had great prospects, you might want to keep your shares year after year, even after evidence emerges that the company has real risks — for example, poor management, or its products could become outdated, or it could be part of an industry that's in decline. But if you stick with your initial belief that the company will inevitably do well, and you're not open to new sources of information about this investment, your expectations may never be met.

In many areas of life, reality may differ from our expectations — and that can certainly be true for our investments. Being familiar with the factors that can shape your expectations can help you maintain a realistic outlook about your investments.

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.

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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.

Sometimes, fishing is about more than catching fish

The much needed rain sure helped with farmers crops, and also filled reservoirs for water this summer. Brooks and streams that still hold numerous trout were also helped with the recent rain, and will help to ensure the final stocking of trout by MFW will sustain them for weeks to come. Memorial Day usually signals the end of the spring stocking of trout; however, if they have more trout to stock, it could go a bit longer. Very few complaints were heard from local anglers this year pertaining to local stocking of trout. They sure are larger in size, back to the early days of my trout fishing, when a 12 inch trout was a big fish! Catching native brook trout was kept secret from other anglers for many years, until the internet showed its ugly face.

Last week, a local angler and his buddy headed out to catch a few haddock. It's not that they did not try! They traveled to their local hot spots without



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a single fish to take home, after a long day. They were not alone. No one could find the haddock, or even a cod fish, although they cannot be retained! Party boats in the area had the same problem!

The Mass. seabass fishing for recreational anglers opened on May 20, with a daily limit of four fish. It is such a great eating fish, that many anglers will still spend the time and money to catch a few to take home for the dinner table. Of course, it is not just about catching fish. The time spent on the saltwater with friends and family is priceless, and if you get on the water just before sunrise, you will see some amazing picturesque views from Mother Nature. You do not see views like that at your local fish market!

This week's picture of an angler with a two-pound calico bass (crappie) reminds me of my earlier days, when the calico bass was extremely abundant. My older brother Mel and I would

go fishing off of the bridge at Meadow Pond on Main Street, which was less than a quarter mile from our home.

Using a fly rod with a mickey finn fly attached to a leader, we would catch a stringer of the tasty fish for our dad to clean and make a great fish chowder. I do not remember catching a calico that big, but they were a lot of fun to catch. When the state started to spray DDT to kill mosquitos, it also negatively impacted birds and fish, after they ate the poisoned insects. It was awful! Hopefully, a lesson learned!

Ticks are extremely abundant this year, and can cause some major health problems for man & pets. Be sure to keep your pets on preventive medication. The medication is extremely expensive, but the alternative of losing your pet will be devastating!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Courtesy

This week's picture shows George Spitz of Webster with a two-pound Calico bass taken at Webster lake! Nice fish!



Tips to Keep Garden Flowers Fresh

Many a dreary winter's afternoon has been brightened by the thought of the first flowers of the season. After months of planning and plotting a flower garden, few simple pleasures compare to a bed of brilliant blooms. Looking ahead to a garden of blossoms, this week's column offers some tips and tricks to keep those precious flowers fresher longer.

A flower plucked fresh from the garden is a day brighter, but keeping the flower fresh for as long as possible requires a bit of forethought. Experts agree the most essential factor affecting flower life is the quality of the water. Read on for some eye opening facts:

Most people simply pluck fresh flowers in a vase full of tap water. But cut flowers require clean, pure water, and ordinary tap water may not be suitable. Drinking water from a public water supply can contain high levels of minerals, which can block the flower stems, preventing water uptake. In addition, soft water is usually high in sodium, which is toxic to some flowers such as carnations and



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roses. Also, some municipalities add fluoride to water, which is harmful to gladioli and freesia. No matter what your water source, if you haven't had your water tested, but suspect it isn't good quality, the best bet would be to use distilled or bottled water for your fresh flowers.

Another factor of flower-friendly water is temperature. Experts recommend warm water for most freshly cut flowers. Warm water contains less air than cold water and the stems will take the liquid in quicker, resulting in faster hydration.

The cleanliness of the water is yet another factor, as bacteria and fungi grow rapidly in vase water, and can block the flower stems from soaking in needed water. Vases and containers should always be washed with a weak bleach and

water mixture between uses.

For optimum flower life, water should be replaced every third day with the addition of an appropriate preservative.

Florists usually recommend commercial powdered preservatives to prolong the life of cut flowers, and the packets are handy and easy to use. The active ingredients in these solutions usually contain three elements: a sugar to nourish the flowers, a biocide to inhibit bacteria growth and an acidifier to lower pH. However, if you prefer to go the homemade route, the following solution can be easily concocted:

To one gallon of water add a twelve ounce can of Sprite, or a similar lemon lime soft drink. The sugar in the soda provides food for the flowers and the citric acid works to lower the pH of the water. Also add a tablespoon of chlorine bleach to the gallon solution. The bleach will serve as an antibacterial to keep the water clean.

From Garden to Vase: Proper cutting, trimming and prepping is crucial to flower longevity, and experts tout several "gold-

en rules" to increase the lifetime of fresh flowers:

It's important to harvest garden flowers when the sun is down, typically late evening or very early morning. Flowers are best for cutting then, as they are well hydrated and contain the highest carbohydrate reserves. When harvesting garden flowers, bring a bucket of water into the garden and cut stems with sharp garden shears, immediately placing each flower into the bucket of water.

Once inside the house, recut the stems. Using a sharp knife, cut stems under water; then place them into a holding vase or bucket with water and floral preservative. To do this properly, you will need a sharp knife and a dishpan or pot filled with warm water. Hold the stem under water and cut off at least two inches of the stem at an angle. The cut is done under water to prevent air from entering the cut. After cutting, lift flower straight up and out of the tub, ensuring a droplet of water on the cut stem. Then place into the holding water with preservative. For best results, allow garden flowers to set in the solution for about eight hours

prior to arranging in a vase.

When ready to arrange, remove all foliage that will be below the water level of the vase or container when arranged. Cutting off the greenery is important because if left on, it will decompose in the vase and encourage bacteria and fungi growth.

Dirty vase water produces ethylene, which in turn causes fresh flowers to wilt and die prematurely. High levels of ethylene are also present in ripening fruits and vegetables, so keep flowers a safe distance away from these sources. And be sure to always remove wilting flowers from an arrangement.

When displaying your arranged flowers, avoid setting them on a warm surface, or near a heat source. Also note that flowers set in direct sunlight will wilt quickly. To extend their vase life, move flowers to a cool room overnight.

However, no matter what you do, the sad fact is: garden flowers with the greatest fragrance typically have the shortest vase life.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Managing the heat of hot peppers



Courtesy — All-America Solutions
Roulette peppers have the citrusy flavor of habaneros but not the heat.

and red upright fruit on 10 to 12 inch plants. As the name suggests, they have almost no heat. Mix with flowers for decorative displays in containers and garden beds.

Peppers grow and produce best when day temperatures are 70 to 80 degrees, and night temperatures are 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Cold, heat and drought are the most common cause of blossom drop, misshapen fruit, and a poor harvest.

Use a hand pruner or garden snips to harvest peppers without damaging the plants. Harvest most hot peppers when fully mature and red for the strongest flavor. Green chili and jalapeno peppers are harvested when green. And some like jalapeno, habanero and Anaheim, are hot whether harvested when green or red. When your summer is filled with long hot days hot peppers tend to be even hotter.

Avoid hot surprises when cooking by labeling hot peppers when growing, harvesting and storing them. Many sweet and hot pepper varieties look similar and confusing the two could be unpleasant. Just keep a glass of milk handy in case you need to neutralize the sting.

Turn down the heat, if needed or desired, when preparing your favorite recipes. Since most of the capsaicin, which gives hot peppers their heat, is in the white membrane that houses the seeds, just remove this and the seeds if you want the flavor with less heat.

Wear rubber gloves and avoid touching your face and eyes when working with hot peppers as they can burn. Wash your hands, utensils and cutting boards when finished.

Turn a portion of your pepper harvest into pickled peppers for the hot pickle fans in the family to enjoy throughout the winter. The key to success and safe-



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ty is using a tested recipe that contains the right amount of ingredients and processing it properly. Check University or other vetted sources for safe recipes and processing guidelines.

Try some of these strategies and mention the many health benefits to encourage reluctant eaters to try hot peppers. Although hot peppers and spicy food can add to the pain and irritation of ulcers, they do not cause them contrary to some of the hot pepper myths. They do, however, provide gastric relief, kill cancer cells, pre-

vent sinus infection, reduce inflammation, and even burn fat. Over time you may be able to turn up the heat on your favorite recipes for all to enjoy.

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.

POSITIVELY

continued from page A8

ning by default. It turned out I was still a late bloomer.

When I finally let go of the notion that I was going to be a professional swimmer, it initially felt like an admission of defeat, but it was really a recalibration of direction.

While I could feel my ego taking a hit, always in the back of my mind, I heard my dad's voice, "It's okay, Toby, you're just a late bloomer." A course change isn't about accepting failure but acknowledging the many avenues to the finish line.

Not hitting it big in the pool wasn't a failure. Instead, it was life nudging me to look beyond, to find where my natural strengths lay. Sometimes, instead of focusing on "what might have been," you must look at "what could still be."

A common belief is that shifting goals is akin to giving up. But that's not the whole truth.

Remember, only you know your own heart. Shifting your focus isn't necessarily waving the white flag—it might just be the turn you need toward your real win. Sticking with a lost cause doesn't make you a hero—sometimes, the real bravery is in stepping away from the familiar and venturing into the new.

Being a late bloomer doesn't always mean you'll grow where you originally planted. If life compels you to reroute and venture in a different direction, don't mistake it for failure. Instead, it's a sign that your success is about to blossom—you're just a late bloomer.

It's not about the speed you reach your goals but more about the resilience and determination you develop along the way. Developing the ability to

change course when the initial plan doesn't work out and seeking success on a path less traveled.

As a kid, I'd listen to my father's words and feel a comforting sense of validation. Now, those words resonate with even deeper significance. They remind me that it's okay to take my time and that blooming late doesn't mean blooming any less brilliantly.

Don't be quick to deem your ventures as failures if they don't work out as planned. Your goals may shift, and your dreams may evolve, but it's all part of our unique blooming process.

Sometimes, the journey you've embarked upon isn't the one that will ferry you to the shores of success.

Being a late bloomer doesn't necessarily mean you've missed the boat. Sometimes, it means you're getting ready to captain your own ship.

OBITUARIES

May Belle Favreau

Sturbridge- May Belle (Caplette) Favreau, died April 21, 2023. She leaves her daughter Brenda Favreau of Sturbridge. There are no calling hours. A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 10AM

at New Notre Dame Cemetery, 746 N. Woodstock Road, Southbridge, MA 01550. Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 is assisting the family with arrangements.

Pauline Y. "Pipine" Benoit, 96



Southbridge- Pauline Y. "Pipine" Benoit, 96, died Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Webster Manor after a brief illness.

She was a life-long resident of Southbridge, born February 13, 1927, daughter of Aime and Maria Clarinda (Lamothe) Benoit. Pauline was a member of Notre Dame Church (St. John Paul II Parish) and a longtime member of the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Church where she served as a Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan of Sacred Heart Church, working the flea market for many years, and was a member of the Children of Mary Society (now Ladies of St. Anne Sodality).

She retired from the American Optical Company in August 1984, where she worked for nearly 42 years. She worked in the polishing department

and later as an inspector.

Pauline is survived by her 2 sisters Therese Commito of Charlton, and Annette Proulx of Sturbridge. She was a much loved aunt to her many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother Raymond W. Benoit,

2 sisters Jeannine Jesky and Lorette DiTomasso, and her longtime companion Wilrose Tremblay of Spencer.

Pauline's funeral will be held on Thursday, May 25th, from Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 11AM at Notre Dame Church, 446 Main Street, Southbridge. Burial will follow at Old Notre Dame Cemetery, Charlton Street, Southbridge. A calling hour at the funeral home prior to the Mass will be from 9:30-10:30AM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. John Paul II Parish (Notre Dame Church) 279 Hamilton Street, Southbridge, MA 01550.

QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE RELEASES LIST OF GRADUATES

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has released its 2023 list of graduates. On Friday, May 19, at 1 p.m., QCC graduates took part in its 58th commencement ceremony at the DCU Center. To view the ceremony, visit www.QCC.edu/commencement. The ceremony will also be shown on public access station WCCA-TV 194.

Associate in Applied Science
Fiskdale: Tristan Shaw
Associate in Arts
Auburn: Zahraa Alshammari, Jacqueline Cetrone, Kiara Diaz, Priscilla Kot, Hailey Martell, Emma Martin

Brookfield: Alaina Chiminiello, Riley Hanrahan, Tay-Lynne Pope
Charlton: Kristen Karalus, Haley LaFortune, Connor Novack, Cady Stevens, Maxwell Taylor

Cherry Valley: Stephanie Grayum, Joslyn Rutter, Rosa Velez

Dudley: Grace Jocson, Mick Sullivan, Mehrael Towadros, Amanda Wisnowski, Gabriel daSilva

East Brookfield: Matthew Porra
East Douglas: Caroline Beaird, Benjamin Doyen, Rheianna Messier, Kylie Sullivan, Harley Westgate

Grafton: Haley Becotte, Christina Duggan, Brinna Smith

Leicester: Kaitlyn Hakenson, Kristina Jarowski, Lilly Kinney, Cassidy Saksa, Allison Virzi

Milford: Joseph Beaugard, Joseph Cafarella, Mildred Castanos, Danielle Cerqueira, Kayla DaSilva, Joslin Pinto, Amanda Silva

Millbury: Gabriella Bianchi, Jacob Brodeur, Kelsey Graves, Ivie Lapointe, Jala Tados, Michael Ward

North Brookfield: Kelsie Fantasia, Michelle Varrichione

North Oxford: Skyla Hodsdon

Northbridge: Jonathan Toloczko

Oxford: Kwabena Asiamah, Angelique Bettencourt, Allison Hamel, Julia Leary, Ethan Smith, Christina Winsky

Southbridge: Benjamin Ayres, Zachary Campbell, Rayann Carl, Norma Cignarella, Maria Hernandez-Santos

Spencer: Courtney Angell, Caitlyn Berthiaume, Sherline Clemente Irizarry, Andrew De Klerk, Caileigh DeGon, Joseph Hallihan, Carli Kerns, Nathaniel Rybicki

Sturbridge: Brynlee Beaucage, Agnieszka Laster, Ryan Manners, Erik Orellana, Jeannette Ortiz De Ramos, Katerina Pacheco Wolf, Christopher Tejada

Sutton: Disha Khanna, Rebecca Manzano Howard, Alexis Marsh

Uxbridge: Hailey Bergman, Julia Comeau, Trevor Gardner, Jeremy Lutton

Wales: Morgan Bacon

Webster: Hannah Brody, Elena Ralph

West Upton: Omer Rona

Whitinsville: Isabel Carroll, Joshua Pinoos

Associate in Science

Auburn: Yahya Alnassar, Danielle Beahn, Kylee Christie-Perez, Nancy Gatui, Dawson Gemme, Erika Goff, Kayla Gualdarrama, Muhammad Ibrahim, Kathleen Keefe, Kayla MacDermott, Kyle Nash, Bethany Paradis, Stephanie Sciaraffa

Blackstone: Christina Boyan

Brookfield: Shawn Greenwood, Vanessa VanGerven

Charlton: Jonea Albano, Brienna Dean, Johnson Ebe, Natasha Emco-Rollins, Zenyah Figueroa, Theodore Girard, Ralph Hebert, Erica Hyde, Jessica Lapiere, Amanda McDermott, Baker Meece, Nicole Mulvey, Rebecca Ricardi, Dylan Smaltz, Katelyn Smith

Cherry Valley: Maureen Mason

Douglas: Alorian Orcutt, Kattie Turgeon

Dudley: Nicholas Andreoli, Anthony Awad, Mia Bohanan, Nayalis Gonzalez, Reyna Gonzalez, Michael Grant, Sharon Guidaboni, Camden Haynes, Michelle Jones, Nicole Karp, Christopher Lincoln, Danielle Mello, Julie Milner, Thomas Reilly, Chris Surman, Hannah Volpe

East Douglas: Britni Conner, Heather Dodd, Edward Dubois, Adam Gaulin, Hayden Krasner, Earl Parfitt, Peyton Simoneau

Fiskdale: Lauren Augustine, Brianna Lawrence

Grafton: Alison Burough, Andrea Carenzo, Arthur Mahassel, Elisabeth Spencer

Groton: Derek Woodard

Holland: Hunter Boudreau, Stephanie Bray, Robert Smith

Leicester: Jon Auger, Owen Boisvert, Aimee Brigham, Ryan Butler, Camden Crocker, Madison Lloyd, Christina Penney

Milford: James Cruz, Mariana Ferraz

Millbury: Mari Alkhamisi, Brenna Berube, Jacqueline Birtz, Elizabeth Chagnon, Susan Flanagan, Natalie Lebo, Brianna Manzella, Christianna McPherson, Lily Nguyen, Kailey O'Neil, Peter Oliveira, Hannah Sarro

North Brookfield: Ashley Gerstel, Jillian Quigley, Michaela Santoro

North Grafton: Sarah Bianco, Jermel Lyons, Rabia Mateen, Julia Rooney,

Kelvin Virak

North Oxford: Cinthya Bucaro-Figueroa, Gracy Mauch

Northbridge: Julia Kelley, Kirtan Patel, Lauren Riess, Samantha Violet

Oxford: Kayla Brodeur, Susan Cicerchia, Tommy Estevez, Bryan Givner, Nathan Hagopian, Chloe Hatstat, Amanda Listewnik, Roseline Mediavilla, Rose Morin, Nicholas Rawson, Jaileen Saez, Jyllian Walsh

South Grafton: Nicholas Fobert, Nicholas Lima, Tiffany Maynard, Nawal Zeidan

Southbridge: Amanda Alicea, Ariel Balderelli, Wendy Berroa, Miguel Cepeda, Lillian Clemmey, Evan Duffey, Daniel Fuentes, Margaret Githui, Giovanni Hernandez, Hilary Lapan, Amy Lashway, Hilda Maldonado, Amanda Mauro, Eridon Mehmeti, Samantha Nordstrom, Miosotis Rosado, Justin Santiago, Georgina Wangeeci Macharia

Spencer: Stacey Arsenault, Melissa Consiglio, Dawson Durgin, Jason Fyrberg, Eric Lammi, Raven Martin, Lourdes Morales, Kyle Paquette, Danielle Provencher, Kyle Sadusky, Doretta Stoler, Bryanna Sullivan, Yujia Wei, Jodie Woodbury

Sturbridge: Taylor Fisher

Sutton: Sarah Beachman, Joanna Brown, Aliyssa Courville, Casey Hibbard, Jessica McGonagle, Courtney Mosczynski, Amanda Moulton, Noah Sullivan

Uxbridge: Cheryl Blodgett, Matthew Carlson, Antonio Demalia, Abigail Hanscom, Melissa Lozeau, Mayra Marquez, Jake Murray

Wales: Alexis Coville, Janelle VanHook, Bethany Wright

Webster: Williams Agyemang, Katelyn Allain, Danielle Baarda, Nicole Banas, Abigail Biernacki, Adrienne Chomes, Alexandra Cowher, Kulubo Darwulo, Melissa DeLuca-Midgette, Sean Flynn, Tess Haddad, Kaylie Hill, Trevor Jutras, Hakim Kasozi, Hannah Waldron, Scarlet Wanjiru, Leekha Williams

West Brookfield: Emily Barrett, Megan Greenough, Melissa Waddell

West Upton: Jacob Patzer

Whitinsville: Julianna Borruso, Jennifer Flanagan, Savannah Louischarles, Nicole Peters, Samira Raad, Allison Salamack, Candice Schadler, Shaylene Silva, Lia Stanley

Certificate

Auburn: Kelvin Akyeampong, Zahraa Alshammari, Jacqueline Cetrone, Patrick Fitzgerald, Dylan Francis, Daquan Gooch, Emma Martin, Matti Phaneuf, Cameron Szalay, Jessic de Souza Salazar Lib

Blackstone: Erin McDonald

Brookfield: Lorianne Palmer

Charlton: Lee Cozzens, Kayla Hinkley, Krista Renaud, Maged Samwaeil

Cherry Valley: Margaret Cyr, Sara Dorsey, Esther Njeri

Dudley: Yakeydy Calderon, Elizabeth Catino, Abigail Northrop, Paige Oliver, Crystal Stillman, Katelyn Wambugu

East Brookfield: Cailin Shea

East Douglas: Hayden Krasner, Jacob Masi, Trevor Oliver

Fiskdale: Miriam Henry, Tristan Shaw

Grafton: Arthur Mahassel, Dilafuz Sullivan

Holland: Deniella Harwood

Leicester: Patricia Moraes Recoba

Milford: Crystal Rivera Melendez, Ryan Shaw

Millbury: Doris Agyei, Casey Ampagoomian, Alician Berenson, Melissa Cheever, Elizabeth DeWolfe, Ivie Lapointe, Alyssa Newman, Victoria Rondeau

Millville: Hannah Mullaly

North Grafton: Ana Hernandez, Lexis Kearin, Holly Martin

Northbridge: Nathan Posterro

Oxford: Kayla Brodeur, Carolyn Brunelle, Alexander Delgado Casanova, Amanda Listewnik, Brady Parmentier, Hailey Swenson

South Grafton: Jonathan Toman

Southbridge: Kandy Alvarado, Angelica Batista, Trisha Bayrouy, Stephanie Boadu, Kelaia Espinoza, Daniel Fuentes, Catherine Hamblin, Rhiannon Hogan, Ayla Osei-Opoku, Mariana Powell, Mayra Ramsey, Eve Robida

Spencer: Myrnaliz Alvarez-Borges, Courtney Angell, Kyle Paquette, Rachel Perry, Danielle Provencher, Sarah Sefa-Boateng, Laura Wyne

Sturbridge: Thomas Celuzza, Dominique Howe, Adam Mazeika

Sutton: Casey Hibbard, Ricki Maynard, Amanda Moulton

Uxbridge: Laura Barry, George Kenny, Nicholas Maracle

Webster: Kristin Ali, Vanessa Baldyga, Natalie Duszlak, Ashley Emco, Shelby Fortin, Alexander Fuentes, Isaac Gilliard, Saskya Jean Charles, Irene John, Cynthia Johnson, Caitlin Kotarba, Falonne Modjom, Heather Quinn, Hiranya Robles, Reyes Rodriguez, Janice Serrano

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Sturbridge Scouts backpack Bigelow and Nipmuck State Parks

STURBRIDGE — In July of 2023, Scouts BSA Troop 161 from Sturbridge will be sending 12 scouts and four adult leaders to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Philmont Scout Ranch is Boy Scout of America's largest national High Adventure Base, covering 140,177 acres of rugged mountain wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo range of the Rocky Mountains in northeastern New Mexico. The scouts are gung-ho about the 7-day trek and the life changing, unforgettable adventure in backpacking across miles of rugged, rocky trails.

To prepare, the scouts have been very busy hiking local trails with weighted packs and planning training backpacking trips.

In hindsight, the weighted day hikes and backpacking weekends are always amazing...to be clear, there is also always that subtle balance of brutal and beautiful.

For the Bigelow/Nipmuck backpacking weekend, the uphill were cranky for some, the rocks, roots and long miles felt arduous at times, but also, the weather was perfection, the trails and camp sights had gorgeous views. All scouts survived and are stronger for it.

Stats:
 three days, two nights
 20 miles
 1,841 feet of elevation gain
 Eight hours and 30 minutes of hiking
 An average of 25 minutes per mile

The weekend started on Friday night at Breakneck Brook Wildlife Management Area off of Breakneck Road in Sturbridge. Crossing the Massachusetts to Connecticut state line, we entered Nipmuck State Forest and spilled onto the mythical Cat Rocks Road. We raced the setting sun to get to South Shelter, while there was still light to set up tents.

On Saturday morning, we hiked Mashapaug Pond View Trail. The 5-mile loop ended at the boat launch on the southern tip of Breakneck Pond. Nipmuck trail took us to our second lean-to.

On Sunday, we rounded the northern end of Breakneck pond, again entering the Ridge trail and Forest Park Road trail out of the Nipmuck State Forest.

We had easy access to water all weekend, could not have had more perfect air temps and weather for hiking and sleeping. We would do an overnight



Courtesy

Jeremy Mrotek, Quinn Rainville, Jennifer Scherer, Sinead Rainville, Alex Fairbrother, Joe Roderick, Andrew Aloisio and Arakel Kandoyan.

at Bigelow/Nipmuck again. Everyone is looking forward to the third and final shakeout backpacking trip to New Hampshire's White Mountains!

Troop 161 is sponsored by the

Champeau-Vilandre American Logion Post 109 and meet regularly on Sunday nights at the Sturbridge Federated church. For more information about Scout Troop 161, or if your scout age

14+ is interested in joining our crew for this adventure or if you are able to help the scouts with their trip contact Jen Scherer at jenchris27@aol.com.

REGIS COLLEGE CELEBRATES 93RD COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

WESTON — Empowered and inspired by their Regis education to serve as leaders and advocates for a more just and compassionate global society, members of the Class of 2023 celebrated their accomplishments with an inspirational commencement ceremony at the Leader Bank Pavilion in Boston featuring WHDH's Amaka Ubaka who delivered the commencement address and received an honorary degree, along with philanthropists Bill and Joyce Cummings. More than 1,300 students graduated with degrees ranging from associate to doctoral levels.

"It is now up to you to take what you have learned and leave this ceremony committed to bettering the world around us with your knowledge and compassion. As the journey continues for each of

you, I am confident in the future because you are in it," Regis College President Antoinette M. Hays, PhD, RN said to the graduates.

Ubaka delivered the commencement address urging graduates to embrace their "rebel hearts," a term used by the late singer Harry Belafonte to encourage individuals to stand up for what they believe in, even if it goes against the norm.

"Whether it's through volunteering, activism, or pursuing a career that aligns with your values and passions, each of you has the power to create positive change. Remember that life is a journey, not a destination. There will be ups and downs, twists and turns, and unexpected surprises along the way. Embrace the journey and don't be too hard on yourself if things don't always go as you planned in your head."

said Ubaka. "As you move forward, remember that your unique experiences and perspectives are what make you special. Embrace your rebel heart, pursue your passions, and don't be afraid to take risks."

Thousands of friends and family members attended the ceremony, bringing their support and enthusiasm in celebration of the graduates' achievements.

The following local students earned degrees:

Jessica Williams of Fiskdale graduated with a BS in Nursing

Sara Gallant of Holland graduated with a Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner

Yahaira Rodriguez of Southbridge graduated with a AS in Nursing

Donovan Ross of Southbridge graduated with a BS in Sport Management

Abigail Potvin of Charlton graduated with

a MS in Speech Language Pathology

Regis College is a coed university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, Mass. founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. With over 3,200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing,

arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. In line with Regis' mission of providing innovative, industry-focused learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor's completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence,

Mass. The university's 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Regis educates the whole person, preparing our students to pursue excellence, to become change agents in their own communities, and to serve and lead as advocates for a more just and compassionate global society. Visit regiscollege.edu to learn more.

Orlando Santos Morales named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Orlando Santos Morales of Southbridge has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2023 Dean's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the «Most Innovative» regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.



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bankHometown to host clothing drive for Veterans Inc. & CT food drive for Veterans Base Camp

OXFORD — bankHometown supports non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties through a bank-wide program called The Giving Tree. One of the pillars of this program is community – supporting programs that enhance the quality of life in the communities where its banks call home. bankHometown is planning an in-branch clothing and food drive to support two veterans’ organizations in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Veterans Inc. in Worcester is hosting a Veterans Stand Down event on Friday, June 23. The Veterans Inc. Stand Down initiative connects

veterans with the assistance programs they need to live healthy and fulfilling civilian lives. The 18th annual Stand Down event on Friday, June 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. will have over 60 service providers ready to accommodate veterans’ needs. In preparation for this event, bankHometown will be collecting clothing donations at all its Massachusetts branches starting Friday, June 2. Veterans Inc. has a specific need for women’s spring and summer clothing, including undergarments and socks. All clothing donations are welcome.

In support of a separate initiative in Connecticut, bankHometown will be

collecting food donations at all its Connecticut branches starting Friday, June 2. This drive will support Veteran’s Base Camp in Chaplin, CT, an organization that provides transitional housing for veterans in need, as well as a food pantry for area veterans. Non-perishable items needed include local store/grocery store gift cards; gas gift cards for food bank pickups; condiments such as mustard, mayo, ketchup, and relish; baking supplies such as sugar, flour, baking soda, baking powder and sugar substitutes; pasta; tuna; peanut butter; jelly; macaroni and cheese; toilet paper; paper towels; baby wipes and diapers; and pet food.

About Veterans Inc. Veterans Inc. is a national leader in ending homelessness among veterans. They have one of the highest rates in the nation – 85 percent – for transitioning veterans out of homelessness. A 501(c)3 nonprofit headquartered in Massachusetts, Veterans Inc. is the largest provider of support services to veterans and their families in New England. Since 1990, They have helped more than 90,000 veterans in need, and today operate offices and programs in all six New England states. For more information, visit veteransinc.org.

About Veterans Base Camp

Veterans Base Camp is a grassroots A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources needed by Veterans, First Responders, Caregivers and those members of our community who are most vulnerable. The Veterans Base Camp team is a collaborative of: Veterans, First Responders, Caregivers, Social Workers, Clinicians, for profit and non-profit alliances, private citizens and government agencies working together to achieve their mission. For more information, visit veteransbasecampinc.org.

About bankHometown Founded in 1889, bankHometown is head-

quartered in Oxford, Massachusetts and has \$1.3 billion in assets and 16 branches located throughout Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2022, The Giving Tree donated approximately \$320,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.5 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

Hitchcock Summer Days program features STEAM-based Challenge Island program



BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock is excited to welcome participants to this year’s Summer Days program, presented this year in partnership with Challenge Island – a well-reputed STEAM educational program who will guide enrollees ages seven to 10 through fun, hands-on experiences designed to enrich their understanding of science, technology, and mathematics principles with a focus on engineering each afternoon. Summer Days participants are otherwise treated to on-your-feet, active fun combined with creative enrichment by Hitchcock staff. For ages four to six, week-long programs include arts,

crafts, sports, and games offered as morning, afternoon, or full day registrations. For ages 7-10, mornings will include arts, crafts, sports, games facilitated by Hitchcock staff, before the afternoon shift into Challenge Island experiences.

Hitchcock’s summer program is a decades long-established offering which aims to combine good old-fashioned fun and games with creative exploration, fully engaging kids physically and mentally, guiding their hands, feet, and imagination with a variety of activities designed by seasoned educators and facilitated by energetic staff.

Challenge Island’s program and curriculum

are “designed to meet the needs of two entities: today’s playful, imaginative child and tomorrow’s empowered, globally-successful adult.”

Summer Days will run as four week-long programs from July 17 through Aug. 11. The morning program is offered 9 a.m. to noon, and the afternoon program will run from 1 to 4 p.m.

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. More information can be found at www.hitchcockacademy.org.

Local historian to present on Charlton’s history through documents and photographs

CHARLTON — Come learn about the rich history of Charlton on Thursday, June 1 at 6 p.m. in Dexter Hall at Charlton Public Library. The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is pleased to host local historian, author, and current President of the Charlton Historical Society, Frank Morrill, to present Charlton’s history through documents and photographs. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period.

A lifelong educator, Morrill received his graduate degree from the University of Buffalo in 1971 and taught science, history and law for 33 years at Millbury High School, retiring in 2005. Frank has always had a strong interest in historical documents and photographs and has collected them for more than 56 years. This interest led to the acquisition of the collection of William S. Bullard’s 6,000 glass negatives taken mostly in Worcester County, including dozens in Charlton. In retirement he has written several local history books containing original photographs from the Bullard collection. From October 2017 through February 2018, he had an internationally recognized Bullard exhibition at the Worcester Art Museum. He travels throughout Massachusetts bringing photographic history to various groups. Morrill is current President of the Charlton Historical Society and a member of the American Antiquarian Society.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

This program, sponsored by the Friends of Charlton Public Library, is free and open to the public. Registration is requested (www.charltonlibrary.org). Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton. Please note that additional parking is available across the street from the Library at Town Hall.

Email Us @ 

news@stonebridgepress.news 

Friday’s Child



Maxum “Max”

Hi! My name is Maxum and I like to build with LEGOS and try new things!

Maxum, who likes to go by Max, is an energetic and creative child. Upon meeting him, Max can present as a shy and quiet child, but once he gets comfortable, he opens up and engages easily. Max likes to build with LEGOS and play video games. He is very active and enjoys playing outside. He loves to play sports and has a great arm! Max likes to draw and watch superhero movies.

Max attends a collaborative school and has special education supports to assist him at school. He is doing well and making progress in school. Max has a lot of curiosity and likes to learn and try new things. Max enjoys playing with his peers and is able to make friends easily.

Max would do best in a home that is adventurous, playful, and compassionate. He has two sisters that he would like to maintain a relationship with. Max currently visits with his birth parents four times a year and per his open adoption agreement will visit with his parents two times a year once the adoption is finalized.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6670>

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

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

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



SPORTS

Tantasqua at the top of SWCL girls' track and field team championship

WARRIORS COMBINE FOR SIX WINS, WHILE UXBRIDGE'S CAHILL TOPS THREE EVENTS



Nick Ethier photos

Tantasqua's Tessa Kline is off at the sound of the gun en route to winning the one-mile run.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

OXFORD — Oxford High was again host to the Southern Worcester County League girls' track and field championships, which took place under nice — albeit at times windy — conditions on Tuesday, May 16.

Tantasqua Regional won the team title while accumulating 131 points. Uxbridge High was next best at 113 points. The Warriors (six) and Spartans (five) combined to win 11 of the 16 events.

The individuals who placed in the top six in each event earned points toward the team total, with places one-six being awarded 10, 8, 6, 4, 2 and 1 points.

The results are as follows:

Team Standings

1. Tantasqua, 131 points
2. Uxbridge, 113
3. Auburn, 55
4. David Prouty, 42
5. Millbury, 40
6. Grafton, 38
7. Oxford, 35
8. Leicester, 23
9. Quaboag, 10
10. Northbridge, 9

Individual Results

- Shot Put**
1. Lily Brayman, Uxbridge, 32-10.50
 2. Maeve Whittemore, Auburn, 32-00.50
 3. Payton Banfill, Oxford, 30-11.00
 4. Emilee Larson, David Prouty, 28-00.50
 5. Jewelisa Richardson, Oxford, 25-10.50
 6. Nina Dykas, Leicester, 25-05.75



From left, Southbridge's Eva Kusi-Marfo receives the baton from teammate Paulina Koo in the 4x100-meter relay race.

Discus Throw

1. Nina Dykas, Leicester, 86-09
2. Gianna Noyes, Uxbridge, 84-11
3. Emma Robertson, Oxford, 80-07
4. Maeve Whittemore, Auburn, 80-02
5. Milla Mace, Uxbridge, 74-06
6. Isabelle Alden, Tantasqua, 71-11

Long Jump

1. Kathryn Cahill, Uxbridge, 16-05.00
2. Katherine DeFosse, Auburn, 15-07.00
3. Eliana Barnett, David Prouty, 15-05.00
4. Keoni Savoie, Tantasqua, 15-01.00
5. Tess Chevalier, Tantasqua, 14-06.00
6. Lili Shiers, Tantasqua, 14-05.00

Triple Jump

1. Eliana Barnett, David Prouty, 34-02.50
2. Kendall Gilmore, Uxbridge, 34-00.50
3. Kathryn Cahill, Uxbridge, 33-00.25
4. Mila Nikiforow, Millbury, 32-00.50
5. Ava Chevalier, Tantasqua, 32-00.25
6. Haley McCormack, Tantasqua, 31-09.50

High Jump

1. Haley McCormack, Tantasqua, 5-02
2. Lili Shiers, 4-08
3. Bella Grover, Quaboag, 4-06
4. Mila Nikiforow, Millbury, 4-06
5. Katie Riley, Tantasqua, 4-06
6. Sydney Vyskocil, Grafton, 4-04

Javelin Throw

1. Milla Mace, Uxbridge, 90-01
2. Gianna Noyes, Uxbridge, 81-06
3. Kadienne Patterson, Leicester, 81-05

400-Meter Dash

1. Tantasqua, 53.63
2. Uxbridge, 55.81
3. Grafton, 56.00
4. David Prouty, 56.21
5. Auburn, 57.88
6. Oxford, 58.18

Two-Mile Run

1. Cameron Davis, Oxford, 12:04.62
2. Sabrina Tibeo, Uxbridge, 13:45.08
3. Haley Courtney, Tantasqua, 14:06.89
4. Rose Winston, Millbury, 14:10.49
5. Jezlyn Easo, Grafton, 14:15.94
6. Danielle Chrabaszcz, Northbridge, 14:51.13

100-Meter Hurdles

1. Kathryn Cahill, Uxbridge, 15.41
2. Katherine DeFosse, Auburn, 15.57
3. Haley McCormack, Tantasqua, 16.67
4. Katie Riley, Tantasqua, 17.35
5. Jordan Patterson, Leicester, 18.16
6. Annie Maynard, Oxford, 19.12

100-Meter Dash

1. Keoni Savoie, Tantasqua, 12.68
2. Eliana Barnett, David Prouty, 12.95
3. Tess Chevalier, Tantasqua, 13.58
4. Annie Maynard, Oxford, 13.75
5. Eunice Kinumba, Leicester, 14.02
6. Emily Moreau, Grafton, 14.14

One-Mile Run

1. Tessa Kline, Tantasqua, 5:34.02
2. Mila Nikiforow, Millbury, 5:41.41
3. Emily Flauto, Northbridge, 6:14.49
4. Parker Tunley, Quaboag, 6:15.73
5. Eabha Twohig-Mann, Uxbridge, 6:29.59
6. Wren Curewitz, Auburn, 6:37.48

4x100-Meter Relay



Tess Chevalier of Tantasqua leaps into the air during the long jump event.

1. Tantasqua, 53.63
2. Uxbridge, 55.81
3. Grafton, 56.00
4. David Prouty, 56.21
5. Auburn, 57.88
6. Oxford, 58.18

400-Meter Hurdles

1. Allie Shrayner, Grafton, 1:02.02
2. Kendall Gilmore, Uxbridge, 1:02.08
3. Lili Shiers, Tantasqua, 1:04.78
4. Ava Marcucci, Tantasqua, 1:04.86
5. Bridget Kennedy, Grafton, 1:05.01
6. Grace Bujak, Leicester, 1:06.17

400-Meter Hurdles

1. Kathryn Cahill, Uxbridge, 1:08.73
2. Katherine DeFosse, Auburn, 1:12.95
3. Claire Godek, Tantasqua, 1:16.10
4. Ava Marcucci, Tantasqua, 1:16.90
5. Maryah Moldrow, Millbury, 1:21.89
6. Riya Dalal, Grafton, 1:22.33

800-Meter Run

1. Molly Hilditch, Auburn, 2:26.88
2. Mila Nikiforow, Millbury, 2:32.79
3. Olivia Magierowski, Tantasqua, 2:38.24
4. Cameron Davis, Oxford, 2:39.33
5. Alexis Nordman, Auburn, 2:46.91
6. Emmalyn Romano, Uxbridge, 2:52.05

200-Meter Dash

1. Keoni Savoie, Tantasqua, 26.25
2. Eliana Barnett, David Prouty, 26.71
3. Ava Chevalier, Tantasqua, 27.95
4. Kendall Gilmore, Uxbridge, 28.54
5. Allie Shrayner, Grafton, 28.66
6. Bridget Kennedy, Grafton, 28.68

4x400-Meter Relay

1. Tantasqua, 4:33.33
2. Grafton, 4:55.54
3. Millbury, 5:02.25
4. Auburn, 5:10.62
5. Northbridge, 5:19.57
6. Leicester, 5:21.28

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SPORTS

SWCL boys' track and field team championship goes to Uxbridge

SPARTANS' ROSS AND CASO DOUBLE WINNERS,
ALONG WITH AUBURN'S PAPIERSKI AND QUABOAG'S STEVENS



Nick Ethier photos

Tafari Byfield of Tantasqua looks ahead while leaping over the hurdle in the 110-meter event.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

OXFORD — A colder and windier afternoon from a day before when Oxford High played host to the girls on the track, the Southern Worcester County League boys' track and field championships were held back in Oxford on Wednesday, May 17.

Uxbridge High won the team championship, accruing 87 points, just a half-point higher than second place Grafton High. The Spartans won six of the 16 events, while the Gators topped just one.

The top six finishers in each event scored points for their team (first place got 10 points, second place 8, third place 6, fourth place 4, fifth place two and sixth place 1).

The results are as follows:

Team Standings

1. Uxbridge, 87 points
2. Grafton, 86.5
3. Auburn, 77
4. Tantasqua, 66.5
5. Millbury, 46
6. Southbridge, 34
7. Leicester, 29
8. Quaboag, 24
9. Northbridge, 21
10. Oxford, 20
11. Bartlett, 5

Individual Results

Shot Put

1. Garrett Papierski, Auburn, 46-01.00
2. Ian Gahan, Northbridge, 40-02.00
3. Dominic Hammond, Auburn, 38-04.50
4. Chris Talbert, Millbury, 38-01.50

5. Aidan Diamond, Oxford, 37-11.25
6. Nate Noyes, Uxbridge, 37-08.50

Discus Throw

1. Garrett Papierski, Auburn, 133-11
2. Jorge Lopez, Southbridge, 119-08
3. Ian Gahan, Northbridge, 110-10
4. Jullian Rosenburg, Uxbridge, 106-07
5. Dominic Scichilone, Northbridge, 103-11
6. Johnatan Miranda, Southbridge, 102-08

Long Jump

1. Owen Stevens, Quaboag, 20-06.00
2. Luis Gonzalez, Southbridge, 19-05.50
3. Gavin Hallfelder, Uxbridge, 19-03.25
4. Nicholas St. George, Grafton, 19-01.75
5. Brett Morgan, Oxford, 18-07.50
6. Anthony Cintron, Auburn, 18-07.50

Triple Jump

1. Luis Gonzalez, Southbridge, 40-03.50
2. Kweku Akese, Auburn, 39-09.50
3. Calvary Jamoko, Grafton, 39-03.25
4. Erik Manilut, Bartlett, 36-03.50
5. Jemil Jalloh, Millbury, 36-03.50
6. Max Brayman, Uxbridge, 36-01.00

High Jump

1. Owen Stevens, Quaboag, 5-10
2. Anthony Phillippo, Millbury, 5-08
3. Hunter Senior, Leicester, 5-08
4. Gavin Hallfelder, Uxbridge, 5-06
5. Thatcher Sweeney, Uxbridge, 5-06
- T6. Bryce Tessier, Tantasqua, 5-04
- T6. Jackson Shea, Grafton, 5-04

Javelin Throw

1. Derek Plowman, Tantasqua, 146-02
2. Cameron Murphy, Tantasqua, 131-



Southbridge's Uzziah Graham gets off his first of three leaps in the triple jump.

04

3. Jason Bein, Millbury, 127-07
4. Aidan VanArsdelan, Oxford, 119-03
5. Jack Ledbetter, Leicester, 119-02
6. Ryan Gilbert, Grafton, 116-08

Two-Mile Run

1. Aidan Ross, Uxbridge, 9:33.24
2. Luke Herren, Grafton, 10:14.44
3. James Bernard, Uxbridge, 10:35.01
4. James Segatore, Tantasqua, 10:47.09
5. Jason Fournier, Leicester, 10:49.35
6. Max Deary, Uxbridge, 10:51.22

110-Meter Hurdles

1. Nolan Charbonneau, Millbury, 15.91
2. Cameron McNally, Auburn, 16.42
3. Avant Fitzpatrick Tantasqua, 16.47
4. Cooper White, Leicester, 16.67
5. Kweku Akese, Auburn, 17.53
6. Hayden Plumb, Auburn, 17.56

100-Meter Dash

1. Aditya Kaki, Grafton, 11.42
2. Liam Donagher, Grafton, 11.42
3. Shane Wellman, Auburn, 11.45
4. Cameron Murphy, Tantasqua, 11.56
5. Zack Oliveira, Uxbridge, 11.61
6. Jeremiah Kinsumba, Leicester, 11.77

One-Mile Run

1. Camden Foley, Tantasqua, 4:48.10
2. Nate Davis, Oxford, 4:58.58
3. Vincent Miles, Auburn, 5:00.88
4. Luke Perras, Grafton, 5:02.13
5. Jason Fournier, Leicester, 5:05.94
6. Abhinav Sood, Grafton, 5:07.24



Blake Krog of Tantasqua creates momentum before throwing the discus.

4x100-Meter Relay

1. Uxbridge, 45.62
2. Tantasqua, 46.44
3. Millbury, 46.57
4. Quaboag, 47.98
5. Grafton, 48.24
6. Southbridge, 49.96

400-Meter Dash

1. Cameron Caso, Uxbridge, 53.66
2. Logan Mayo, Grafton, 54.21
3. Luis Gonzalez, Southbridge, 55.22
4. Matt Szela, Oxford, 55.81
5. Declan Donagher, Grafton, 56.33
6. Nathan Leboeuf, Auburn, 56.45

400-Meter Hurdles

1. Cooper White, Leicester, 1:00.48
2. Bryce Tessier, Tantasqua, 1:00.52
3. Nolan Charbonneau, Millbury, 1:01.07
4. Cameron McNally, Auburn, 1:03.17
5. Larry Lamar-Perkins, Grafton, 1:07.19
6. Josh Kurutu, Grafton, 1:09.59

800-Meter Run

1. Aidan Ross, Uxbridge, 2:05.90
2. Luke Herren, Grafton, 2:06.56
3. Vincent Miles, Auburn, 2:11.60
4. Alex Mazzarelli, Northbridge, 2:12.03
5. Dylan Delage, Leicester, 2:13.25
6. Abhinav Sood, Grafton, 2:15.06

200-Meter Dash

1. Cameron Caso, Uxbridge, 23.02
2. Aditya Kaki, Grafton, 23.26
3. Shane Wellman, Auburn, 23.38
4. Liam Donagher, Grafton, 23.76
5. Avery Mitchem, Tantasqua, 24.21
6. Erik Manilut, Bartlett, 24.39

4x400-Meter Relay

1. Uxbridge, 3:52.68
2. Grafton, 3:55.43
3. Tantasqua, 3:55.85
4. Millbury, 3:58.59
5. Auburn, 4:01.27
6. Northbridge, 4:13.35

Strong team effort gives Rams confidence as State Tournament looms



Nick Ethier photos

Above: Shepherd Hill's Julianna Lancette, a perfect 4-for-4 at the plate, clubs a base hit.

At left: Shepherd Hill shortstop Grace Garon throws the ball over to first base to record an out.



Mackenzie Millette of Shepherd Hill keeps her eyes on the plate before delivering a pitch.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

DUDLEY — The Shepherd Hill Regional varsity softball team will conclude its regular season with a losing record. But do not let that record of 7-10 (with one game to go against Bristol-Plymouth Regional) fool you. The Rams are a good, young, competitive team that has a very difficult schedule, both in the Midland-Wachusett League and outside of it.

Shepherd Hill hosted Blackstone Valley Tech, a nonleague opponent, on Monday, May 22, and the Rams appear to be rounding into good form as they won a 15-3 decision after six mercy-rule shortened innings because of the 12-run differential.

"We needed it," Shepherd Hill head coach John Snyder said of defeating the now 10-8 Beavers.

Shepherd Hill was seeded 26th in the Division 2 Power Rankings on Friday, May 19. That same day the Rams lost,

4-0, to Division 1 Wachusett Regional, who were undefeated and ranked fourth in the state. The close loss to the Mountaineers coupled with the win over BVT should move The Hill the standings, which got released Tuesday, May 23 (after press time).

"That's going to help us," said Snyder. "We're trying to get to the point that we don't have to play a play-in game."

The top 32 teams in the Power Rankings at season's end, plus other teams with winning records, will advance to States. Last spring, Shepherd Hill sported a record of 8-10 and were seeded 29th. They hosted No. 36 Marlborough High in the Preliminary Round and won, 6-5. The Rams then lost to No. 4 Westfield High, 7-0, in the Round of 32. The Bombers went on to win the State Championship.

"We want to be competitive in the tournament," Snyder said. "It's a tall task to win, but we're going to give it our best."

Hitting can go a long way in softball, and Shepherd Hill's bats were hot against Blackstone Valley Tech. The Rams collected 16 hits as they turned a 4-1 advantage into a 12-1 lead following an eight-run fourth inning.

"Our top five are our leading hitters. We're as good as those top five batters," Snyder said of Emily Hultgren, Julianna Lancette, Heidi Jarosz, Grace Garon and Annie Hast, who combined for 12 hits and eight RBIs.

Hultgren was 3-for-4 with an RBI and three runs scored.

"Emily Hultgren is playing just crazy good," remarked Snyder.

Lancette was a perfect 4-for-4 with two RBI and four runs scored.

Turn To RAMS page A17

SPORTS

Slow start hampers Tantasqua in loss against Nipmuc



Nick Ethier photos

Tantasqua's Elyse Genaway rips a first inning single.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

UPTON — It may have taken the Tantasqua Regional varsity softball team over an hour and a half to get from Sturbridge to Nipmuc Regional for their contest against the Warriors on Friday, May 19. But make no mistake about it, Tantasqua head coach Nate Orzech did not blame the traffic on his team's performance, which ultimately turned into a 12-0 loss after five mercy-rule shortened innings where Nipmuc (11-6) opened the game with seven runs in the bottom of the first.

"It's got nothing to do with the bus ride. It's got to do with practice yesterday," said Orzech. "Practice was not good yesterday and it translates into the



After securing a grounder, Tantasqua pitcher Katelyn Schneider remains crouched before throwing the ball over to first base.

next day." Tantasqua opened the game with three well-hit balls in the top of the first — a flyout by Alexis Taudel, a sharp single by Elyse Genaway and a flyout by Emma Quinn — but Nipmuc countered with their seven runs on five hits, coupled with four Tantasqua errors. "I thought we did a good job in the top of the first with our bats," said Orzech. "In the bottom of the first it gave us no chance."

Three of Tantasqua's miscues were throwing errors, and many Nipmuc hits into the outfield were not tracked down properly.

"This is a team that hits the ball and you've got to be on your toes and make plays," said Orzech.

Nipmuc — which also scored once in the second inning, three times in the

third and once in the fourth — had nine hits. Kara Johnson and Ella Fernald were both 2-for-3 and scored two runs, while Keegan Kelley hit a solo homer to right-center field. Janelle Scirocco finished with three RBI.

Orzech did not place blame on pitcher Katelyn Schneider, as many of the runs allowed were unearned. She also struck out four and walked three.

"She pitched well today," Orzech said of Schneider. "It doesn't look like it, but this is one of her better performances this year."

In addition to Genaway, Tantasqua's other hits came off the bats of Taudel, Schneider and Alexi Hague, while Alex Lemovitz and Claire Beane each drew a walk against Nipmuc pitcher Kate Julian, who tossed all five innings and struck out two.



Shortstop Alexis Taudel of Tantasqua flips the ball over to third base to force out Nipmuc's Brynn DiAnni.

The loss dropped Tantasqua to 9-8 "Coach Moccio said it best. You've got to flush this and play again tomorrow at 10 o'clock in the morning," Orzech explained of what assistant coach Frank Moccio told the girls after the Nipmuc game.

Tantasqua then played at Blackstone-Millville Regional about 18 hours later on Saturday, May 20 and won a 15-6 decision. That boosted the Warriors' record to 10-8, which officially punched Tantasqua's ticket into the Division 3 State Tournament. But first, the Warriors will play in the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association's Class A Tournament. Eighth seeded Tantasqua was set to take on No. 1 Wachusett Regional on Tuesday, May 23, after press time.

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Was "THE HUBBARD ESTATE", Quality & Focus on Detail Throughout! 12 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 - 1/2 baths. Hardwood floors, elaborate radius staircase, library, slate floor porch, fireplaced living room, solarium. Kitchen w/breakfast nook, dining room, pantry, personal second stairway to upper level. Lower level function room with large windows, half bath, walk-out access to gardens, inviting custom inground pool, tennis court. 3 car brick garage **\$824,900.**

Featured New Listing!
OXFORD - 72 OLD SOUTHBRIDGE RD

Welcome to this Unique Property! Custom Ranch Architecturally Designed for Entertaining! The 4.3 Acres Set Back off the Road offering Peace, Privacy & Tranquility!! Wildlife! Stone Walls & Pond Frontage. Deck Offers both Screened in & Open Areas! It's Own Tiki Bar! Stunning Cathedral Wood Ceilings with Beams, 4 Skylights, Trapezoid Windows & Solid Wood Doors!! 1 Level Living!! Kitchen Specifically planned for Large Gatherings! 24x34 Garage **\$625,000**

DUDLEY - 25 BUDD DR. ON DEPOSIT!

Well Cared for 3 Bedroom Ranch! Garage. 9,000 Sq. Ft. Lot. **\$285,000**

WOODSTOCK - 4 BARBER RD

Circa 1800 Vintage 4 bedrooms. Renovations include kitchen & bath, refinished wood flooring, interior painting & more... Barn, large lot. **\$429,000**

WEBSTER- 42 EAST MAIN STREET

SORRY, SOLD!
Circa 1900 Cape style 3-4 BR. 1 Car Detached Garage. Zoned GB4 (Business) **\$249,900**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront Lot

New listing! "Build to Suit"
Approximately 11,000 Sq. Ft. of mostly flat land, with gentle decline to waters edge. Sandy Shore line! Western views. Call for a viewing!

Webster Lake 13 Loveland Rd

SORRY, SOLD!
Eastern Exposure & Amazing Sunrises! Beautiful shoreline, 3 bedroom Cape features eat in kitchen w/island, fireplace living & dining room. 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms with 1 1/2 bath! **\$785,000**

Webster Lake 27 South Point Road

SORRY, SOLD!
OOH! WHAT A VIEW!!! Middle & South Ponds! 80' +/- ft sandy beach! Expansion possibilities! 2 Bedrm, 2 1/2 Bath, Garage. **\$811,000.**

Webster Lake 13 Bates Point Road

SORRY, SOLD!
1st Time Offered! Impeccable Home! 6 Room, 3 bedroom 2-1/2 Baths. Master bedroom, Master Bath. Level Lot to the Shoreline. Nicely Landscaped! **\$705,000**

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Pasture Bedtime Players announce auditions for teen production

CHARLTON — The Pasture Bedtime Players, the youth division of Pasture Prime Players, is pleased to announce open auditions for its first teen production, "Puffs or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic" by Matt Cox. The production will be directed by Victoria Konopacki. Auditions will be held Thursday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 4 at 1 p.m. at the Charlton Arts & Activities Center, 4 Dresser Hill Rd., Charlton. Performances will be held Aug. 10-13.

For seven years, a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs... who just happened to be there too. A tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world. This play is produced by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, Inc.

Auditions are open to any student entering seventh through 12th grade. Auditions will consist of both voice and physical improv as well as reading from the script. No need to prepare, just dress comfortably and come ready for some fun! There are roles for 5 or more males and five or more females. We are also looking for people to fill non-performing roles, such as stage crew and lighting. No experience necessary. For more information, message us on Facebook or at pasturebedtimeplayers@gmail.com.

Joshua Hyde Public Library June programs

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
SPRING STORYTIMES: Drop-in for stories, songs, rhymes, and a take and make craft! Most Tuesday's and Friday's at 10:45am. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. No registration necessary.

LEGO CLUB: Love LEGO? Come build with us! Thursday, June 8th at 6pm. Suitable for children ages 5+ with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

ADULT AND TEEN PROGRAMS
PAMELA MEANS PRESENTS THE POWER OF THE PROTEST SONG: OUR SHARED HISTORY AND PRESENT DAY. Wednesday, June 7 from 6:30pm to 8pm. Equal parts performance and mini-presentation, this family-friendly concert explores the origin stories and lineages of protest songs. Registration is required.

BOOK DISCUSSION
BREAKFAST Wednesday, June 14 at 9am. Join us in planning the next series of books for the Armchair Travelers book group beginning in the fall. Please come with 2+ book title suggestions. A light breakfast will be served.

PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT Friday, June 16, at 6:30pm. Celebrate Pride month with pizza and a movie! We will be showing Booksmart (rated R) on the big screen in the library after hours. Registration is required.

OFFICE HOURS WITH SENATOR RYAN FATTMAN. Wednesday, June 21 from 2pm to 3pm. Senator Ryan Fattman will hold office hours at the JHPL on the third Wednesday of each month. Appointments are not required. Drop-ins are encouraged.

RAMS

continued from page A15

"She struggled in the beginning of the season and is coming on really strong now," Snyder said of Lancette.

Jarosz was 3-for-4 with three RBI and a run scored, and Garon was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. And, although held without a hit, Hast grabbed an RBI on a sacrifice fly.

"She was sick as a dog. She had the stomach virus...she couldn't even bat last Friday," Snyder noted of Hast, who was batting up to .400 before her illness.

Mackenzie Millette was the Rams' pitcher, and her six-inning effort included three runs allowed — two earned — on seven hits while striking out two, walking two and hitting one.

"She just really, really pitched a good game. Really," Snyder said of Millette's work. "I think she hit her spots today."

Batterymate Alyssa Forbes also had a strong showing, batting 2-for-4 with three runs scored but, perhaps more importantly, throwing out three would-be Valley Tech base stealers.

"She's been working really hard," Snyder said of Forbes. "One of those kids that asks a lot of questions and does her own stuff. Her mother was a catcher in college at Clark."

Despite the Rams' victory, the biggest winner was the Mumma Dawn Fund. Shepherd Hill and Valley Tech combined to raise \$2,000 toward the fund dedicated to Dawn Lindstrom, a Shepherd Hill mother of six who passed away late last year. All proceeds will go toward families with loved ones battling ovarian cancer.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER — At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

The following students completed these research projects:
 Kayla Carpenter of Charlton, class of 2024, majoring in Chemical Engineering, completed a project titled Maximizing Food Waste Recovery and Engagement at WPI

Ryan Tonry of Uxbridge, class of 2026, majoring in Civil Engineering, completed a project titled Improving Digital Twin Usage to Reduce Energy Inefficiencies

Anthony DiRuzza of Sturbridge, class of 2024, majoring in Interactive Media and Game Development, completed a project titled Documenting the Practice of Live Coding Performance

Isabella Pabon of Worcester, class of 2025, majoring in Computer Science, completed a project titled A Digital Gateway to the Museo de San Juan

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

Spring blooms in the garden

SOUTHBRIDGE — Darlene Kulesza, owner of Kaleidoscope Florals, will host a hands-on class in which participants will create a floral piece in a brightly colored garden container.

The class takes place on Saturday, June 10 at 10 a.m. in the St. John Paul II Parish Center in Southbridge, and is sponsored, in part, by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The class includes all materials, including fresh flowers. A \$15 donation defrays the cost of the supplies and light refreshments. Pre-registration is required by June 1. Space is limited so sign up soon.

This class provides an opportunity to spend some time with friends, test your creativity, and bring home a unique floral arrangement.

For more information, contact Darlene at 508-764-6537.



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TOWN MEETING
continued from page A1

for the new fiscal year, an increase of 8.89 percent over the current year with education spending being one of the main drivers behind the increase. Many of the remaining items on the warrant were housekeeping measures and bylaw amendments. Voters approved the new water and sewer department budgets, cemetery perpetual care funds, and town revolving funds. Several changes to the Municipal Charges Lien Bylaw were approved as well as deleting the fingerprinting section from the licenses and permits bylaw which town officials felt was redundant with state laws. A change was also approved to the Peddling & Soliciting bylaw also on the grounds that it was duplicative to state laws. Finally, several zoning bylaw amendments were also approved to close the meeting after around two hours.

FESTIVAL
continued from page A1

ports The Longest Day program to raise funds and awareness. "The Longest Day takes place around the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. The idea is that teams pick an activity of their choice, and participate in that activity to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's," read a statement promoting the event. "The day with the most light is the day we fight."

All funds raised will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association.

For Czyzewski and Viens, it is an honor to organize events in memory of their late mother, who valiantly battled the disease before succumbing to Alzheimer's. "She loved everything that life had to offer—time spent with family, close friends, nature's beauty. It was painful to watch this vibrant woman slowly disappear," read a statement released by Czyzewski. "When she was first diagnosed, our mother

er loved to walk. They thank all guests for their support in raising awareness toward ending Alzheimer's.

"Not only did our Mom love to walk, but she loved hosting parties. This event will blend both, with walking around Hyland Orchard and a party filled with music, food and raffles," the statement read.

Additional information is available at www.facebook.com/memorymile.weezie.

St. Nicholas to hold yard sale

SOUTHBRIDGE — St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church will hold its Multi-Family Yard Sale on Saturday, June 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (no early birds) on the church grounds, 126 Morris St., Southbridge. Come one, come all. Something for everyone!

Dylan Johnson of Sturbridge sworn in as officer in United States Armed Forces

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The United States Armed Forces now have more than 180 new officers. Dylan Johnson of Sturbridge is one of the members of the Class of 2023 who accepted a commission into the Navy. Held on Friday, May 5, during a joint commissioning ceremony, approximately 30% of the Class of 2023 accepted commissions into the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Space Force. This year's joint ceremony was held in McAlister Field House. The ceremony included the now-officers reciting their oath, as well as having gold bars pinned on their uniforms by their sponsors. Following the ceremony, the commissionees gathered on Summerall Field where they received their first salutes as officers. About The Citadel The Citadel, with its iconic campus located in Charleston, South Carolina, offers a classic military college education for young men and women focused on leadership excellence and academic distinction. The approximately 2,300 members of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets are not required to serve in the military, but about one-third of each class earn commissions to become officers in every branch of U.S. military service. Citadel alumni have served the nation, their states and their communities as principled leaders since 1842. The Citadel Graduate College, founded more than 50 years ago, offers dozens of graduate degree, graduate certificate and evening undergraduate programs in the evening or online. Consecutively named Best Public College in the South by U.S. News & World Report for 12 years and No. 1 Best Public College for Veterans in the South for five years.

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Kimberly Ngo inducted into Alpha Phi Sigma National Honor Society

SPRINGFIELD — Kimberly Ngo, of Southbridge was welcomed into Alpha Phi Sigma National Honor Society on May 2nd at the Western New England University chapter's annual induction ceremony. Alpha Phi Sigma is the national criminal justice honor society. The mission of the society is to promote critical thinking, rigorous scholarship, and lifelong learning to keep abreast of the advances in scientific research; to elevate the ethical standards of the criminal justice profession; and to sustain in the public mind the benefit and necessity of education and professional training. Ngo is working toward a BS in Neuroscience. Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut. WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

SNHU ANNOUNCES WINTER 2023 PRESIDENT'S LIST

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2023 Presidents List. The winter terms run from January to May. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer. Sandy Jones of Sturbridge Amanda Waugh of Brimfield Makenzie Woods of Charlton Daniel Soucy of Uxbridge Jocelyn Forgette of Uxbridge Sal Ante of Uxbridge

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the «Most Innovative» regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

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BOY SCOUT TROOP 273 SPRING YARD SALE Saturday, May 27th

Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Road, Dudley Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 per person fee 9am until 3pm FREE "We accept CREDIT CARDS!" 24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items ONE DAY ONLY Pick your items and Make an offer!

Grouped Items: Electronics - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TVs) **Tools** - hand tools, lights, flooring etc. **Furniture** - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc. **Housewares** - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances **Sporting goods** - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment **Clothes** - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags **Kids toys and baby items** - high chairs, bouncy, games, **Antiques**

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Four Sturbridge businesses win Business of the Year award



STURBRIDGE — Four Sturbridge businesses have been voted Business of the Year thanks to a recent survey sponsored by the Sturbridge Tourist Association (STA). These businesses were recognized at the May 15, 2023 Board of Selectman's Meeting. Over 500 nominations were offered by voters who expressed their preferences on the new "Experience Sturbridge.com" Web site.

- Voters selected their favorite businesses under the categories of :
- Shopping: Businesses that sell goods to customers in town.
 - Eating: Businesses that prepare meals and/or drinks for patrons in town.
 - Staying: Businesses offering overnight stays.
 - Playing: Businesses offering patrons something fun to enjoy.

The winning businesses are:

Category	Winning Business	Web Site
Eat	Teddy G's Pub and Grille	www.teddygspub.com
Shop	Tutti Quanti Italian Foods	www.tuttiquantifoods.com
Stay	Sturbridge RV Park 1000 Trails	www.thousandtrails.com
Play	Old Sturbridge Village	www.osv.org

The winning businesses were recognized at the May 15 meeting of the Sturbridge Board of Selectman. Each business will receive:
 • A \$1,000 grant to help each business with marketing costs

• A \$250 grant towards a 1 year membership with Discover Central Massachusetts Regional Tourism Org

Teddy Gidopoulos, the owner of Teddy G's stated, "Receiving the Sturbridge Business of the Year Award is quite an honor and a testament to our team's hard work and dedication over the past 10 years. We are grateful to the STA and all of those who voted for us. We are excited to continue serving our community and attracting new customers to Sturbridge and look forward to using our marketing grant."

Chris Tieri, Chief Marketing Officer at Old Sturbridge Village commented: "Old Sturbridge Village is honored once again to be recognized alongside so many great businesses in Sturbridge. While we have many visitors come from around the US and beyond, we are most grateful for the support of Sturbridge residents, the STA and the town government."

Kim Procon, Resort Manager for the Thousand Trails RV Park said: "It is an incredible honor to receive this award. Our team at Thousand Trails are committed to providing our customers with a place they feel welcome and at home."

Mike and Laurie Placella of Tutti Quanti commented: "We are very proud to be acknowledged by the community as a 'Best of Sturbridge' business. Our concept was to bring a unique experience to the community; one not found locally. With fine imported Italian products along with our complimentary wines and great customer service, we are confident we have exceeded our goal. Stop by and see us, or make a reservation for one of our wine tastings. As we say... 'Tutti Quanti'... To Everyone!"

ALL SCHOOLS - ALL CLASS REUNION
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