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Thursday-Friday, July 17-18, 2025

School Committee issues response to letter from Charlton selectmen

BY JASON BLEAU CONTRIBUTING WRITER

CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee has issued a unified decision refusing to issue a letter at the request of the Charlton Select Board to condemn antisemitism and hate, adding a new chapter to the ongoing debate between the elected bodies.

In June, the Select Board voted 4-1 to send a letter to the Committee School requesting that they issue a public statement condemning hate and antisemitism. The letter was the culmination of a months-long back and Turn To **LETTER**page 12



United Way holds 19th Day of Caring

REGION — The United Way of South Central MA (UWSCM) held its 19th Annual Day of Caring on Friday, June 20, aligning with United Way's National Day of Action on June 21.

This community-wide volunteer event brought together 75 volunteers

from local companies and residents. The day was dedicated to giving back and making a positive difference in the communities served by UWSCM. Volunteers tackled 12 different projects across Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Webster. Projects included

scaping, and organizing. bridge, Leadmine Trail Volunteers were found in Sturbridge, and the at the following project sites: Dodge Chapel and the Charlton Animal Shelter in Charlton, the Perle L. Crawford Library and Tri-Valley, Inc. in Dudley, Heritage Trail, Joe Capillo Park, Southbridge Food Share,

painting, cleaning, land- and the YMCA in South- Boys & Girls Club, Guild of St. Agnes, and the Turn To CARING page 12

Holland man facing murder charge

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

HOLLAND — A Holland man was indicted last month on a first-degree murder charge in connection with the February death of 29-year-old Sturbridge resident Austin Schepper.

On June 25, Jonathan Poirier, 30, was indicted by a Hampden County Grand Jury on the following charges: one count of first-degree murder; one count of armed robbery with a firearm; two counts of conspiracy to commit trafficking in firearms; one count of larceny (\$1,200 or less); one count of larceny over \$1,200; one count of unlawful possession of ammunition without an FID card; and one count of unlawful possession of a firearm.

Poirier, held without the right to bail, was due back in court on July 14 for a pre-trial hearing.

The co-defendant in this case, Anthony Panaccione, 36, of Brimfield, turned himself in on a Superior

Court arrest warrant. On June 26, Panaccione was arraigned in Hampden Superior Court. He faces the following charges: one count of conspiracy to commit trafficking in firearms and one count of willful interference with a criminal investigation.

Panaccione was granted bail set at \$2,000. He was due back in court on July 15 for a pre-trial hearing.

On the afternoon of Feb. 26, a heavy law enforcement presence responded to the 100-block area of Union Road in Holland. A body was later recovered in connection with a missing persons investigation conducted by local and state police.

The victim was identified as Austin Schepper, 29, of Sturbridge.

Upon further investigation by several agencies, Poirier was identified as a suspect in connection with the homicide and later charged.

The investigation included members of the State approved an Order of Conditions they hope will clean Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden Counup several years' worth of soil that has spilled down ty District Attorney's Office; the State Police Detecthe hillside into the neighboring wetland. That's tive Unit assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office; the Sturbridge Police Department; and the Holland Police Department.

"We stand with the family and community of Hol-Elsewhere, the Planning Board had a very prelimiland as we continue to mourn the loss of Austin nary discussion with the owner of 100 Central Street, Schepper," said Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni. "Now, our attention turns to this case and seeking justice for the victim and his loved ones. I appreciate the efforts of the investigators, with whom we will continue to collaborate through

> On March 10, Poirier was arraigned in Palmer District Court on the charge of murder. He was held

without the right to bail. The investigation remains ongoing by the Hampdo so diagonally through the center of the intersec- den County District Attorney's Office, in conjunction with the State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, the A few businesses are already popping up next to the Sturbridge Police Department, and the Holland Po-



"Let's Go," by Nancy Selvage highlights the pocket park where Morrill Monuments used to be on Central Street.

Nork moves forward on rail trail

SOUTHBRIDGE — If you've been downtown or along East Main Street, you've seen all the work being done along the Quinebaug Valley Rail Trail.

It's not yet open because of ongoing construction, but extensive parts have been cleared of undergrowth and railroad ties, and had the stonedust base laid down and flattened. Fences alongside it are going up, including in the circle overlooking the Rotary. Access ramps from East Main and Walnut streets are largely done, and various drainage issues seem to have been

Key issues do remain to be completed, especially two bridges – over Morris Street and over Lebanon Brook. The former was just going to be laid over the old railway, but engineers determined it wasn't stable enough. The latter, built by the DPW years ago, is crumbling into the river on one side and needs replacing. (Many people argue a third bridge is also needed – over the Rotary itself – but that's not part of this project.)

Alongside the trail, issues are also getting ad-

dressed. Last week, the Conservation Commission across from Big Y, under the trail's historic arch bridge that's presently mostly screened by trees from

an abutting property. Franklyn Veloz said his "vision would be to have 20 apartments, a mix of studios, one bedroom and two bedroom" by adding two floors above the existing commercial floors. He noted the plans for the TIP project in that area, which includes the prosecution of this case." part of the rail trail and extension of Larochelle Way, took several of his parking spaces.

The board also raised concern about how the trail will cross Central Street. The TIP plan calls for it to tion, while earlier versions had it crossing Larochelle then Central separately.

Tum To **TRAIL** page 12 lice Department.

SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

reported the following arrests during the week of July 7-14. summons in lieu of arrest for Assault & Battery.

Carlos Acevedo, age 18, of Southbridge was arrested on July 8 for Domestic Assault and Bettery and Malicious Deceived a summons in lieu of arrest on July 9 for operating struction of Property valued at less than \$1,200.

Jocelyn Dorfeuille, age 38, of Southbridge was arrested at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper. on July 9 for Assault & Battery. Two other adult males, ages



ARTHRITIS?

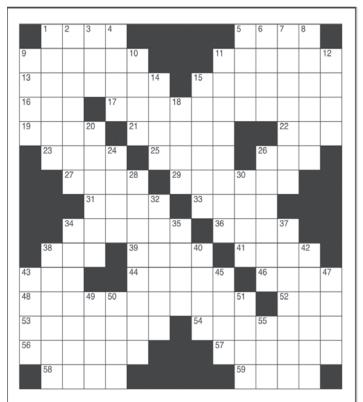
Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be? If not we may be able to help.

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Charles A. Birbara, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School 25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674

"Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis"



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Resorts
- 5. One point south of southwest
- 9. Musical performances 11. Matched
- 13. Four-footed animal part
- 16. Type of leaf
- 17. Preparatory
- 19. Walk heavily
- 21. Succulent plants 22. Rectangle of grass
- 23. Lump in yarn
- 25. Too
- 26. Foot (Latin)
- 27. Afflicts 29. Smoothed
- 31. Mind (Greek)

- 33. Tampa ballclub
- 34. Semitic language
- 36. Sheltered sides
- 38. Ocean
- 39. Electronic point of sale
- 15. Express severe disapproval of 41. Thrust a knife into

 - 43. 12th month (abbr.)
 - 44. Ringworm 46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)
 - 48. Fighting back 52. Cease to exist
 - 53. Insects in adult stage
 - 54. Freestanding sculpture
 - 56. Caps
 - 57. Repents
 - 58. Brown and Wallace are two
 - 59. Moved quickly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Goes bad 2. Yard structure
- 3. They _ 4. Marine invertebrate 5. European river
- 6. Office supplies firm 7. Physically abused
- 8. Service stations in Australia 9. Kills
- 10. Liquid body substances 11. Particular to a given individual 43. Negligible amount 12. Brave or noble act
- 14. Sicilian city 15. Conqueror 18. Elected officials
- 20. Type of "pig"
- 24. Drop of viscous substance

- 26. Monetary unit of Spain
- 28. Guarantees 30. Coloring materials
- 32. Reddish browns
- 34. Square measure
- 35. Will not
- 37. Canned fish
- 38. Appeared
- 40. Six (Spanish)
- 42. Took off
- 45. Posts in a Greek temple
- 47. Witnesses
- 49. Phil __, former CIA 50. Places to park
- 51. Guns
- 55. Dance to pop music
- 0 3 3 0

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SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department 33 and 20, respectively, both from Southbridge, received a

A 36-year-old male from North Grosvenordale, Conn. rean Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle and driving

Raymond U. Rivera Torres, age 22, of Southbridge was arrested on July 9 in connection with multiple warrants.

Brad J. Coughlin, age 47, of Southbridge was arrested on July 10 for Open and Gross Lewdness, Accosting and/or Annoying Another Person, Attempting to Commit a Crime (to wit, Kidnapping), and multiple counts of Disorderly Conduct and Disturbing the Peace.

A 29-year-old male from Springfield received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 11 for a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID and operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Mark Leo Miller, age 62, of Southbridge was arrested on July 12 for Kidnapping.

Shaun L. Salmon, age 46, of Leicester was arrested on July 12 in connection with a warrant for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Jose Antonio Figueroa Morales, age 25, of Southbridge was arrested on July 13 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of registration and Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Jeffrey Yu, age 29, of Milford, Conn. was arrested on July 14 for Disorderly Conduct, Resisting Arrest, Possession of a

REAL ESTATE

CHARLTON

\$1,310,000, 59 J Davis Rd, Gauthier Jr, Bernard V, to Keenan 3rd, John.

\$820,000, 87 Jennings Rd, Kendall Homes Inc, to Porretto, Gregory, and Quigley, Erin E.

\$605,000, 31 Freeman Rd, Deso, Michael R, and Deso, Col-

leen M, to Bornhorst, Kristen. \$525,000, 3 Burns Ln, Fantini, Joseph P, and Fantini,

Maura A, to Blighton, David. \$408,000, 13 Stevens Park Rd, Foley, Ann N, to Salazar, Ryan D, and Thompson, Kayla.

\$385,000, 14 Muggett Hill Rd, Bacon, Sandra J, to Clements, Elton K, and Clements, Heather M.

\$360,000, 58 Stevens Park Rd, Wilson, Barbara M, to Bishop, James W, and Bishop, Jennifer L.

HOLLAND

None

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$560,000, 25 Grandview Dr, Lizotte, John D, and Lizotte, Patricia, to Hopkins, Kersti M, and Hopkins, Robert J.

\$520,000, 59 South St, Giemola LLC, to Perez, Rudyver O, and Vazquez, Shaiprice.

\$375,000, 4 Violet Ave, Garcia, Juan L, and Cruz, Sheilah N, to Cruz, Joel D, and Garcia, Glendia M.

\$369,000, 504 Pleasant St, Heck, Thomas A, and Heck, Stephanie L, to Lopez, Sujeidy, and Lopez, Luzyvette S.

\$368,000, 235 Morris St, Molina, Jesus, and Molina, Elba, to Gonzalez, Nancy. \$360,000, 20 Marjorie Ln, Leblanc, Kenneth, and Leb-

lanc, Kevin, to Irish, Bethany A, and Irish, Kayleigh M. \$340,000, 20 Chartier Ln, Plouffe, Ronald, to More, William.

STURBRIDGE

\$517,500, 122 Wallace Rd, Webb, Aron D, and Webb, Sarah S, to Bond, Jillian, and Bond, Matthew.



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Class B Drug, a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID, Receiving a Stolen Motor Vehicle, Leaving the Scene of Property Damage, Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle, Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and in connection with a warrant for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

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

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays7:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays......7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200

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

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

Sat. 9:00 – 12:00 CHURCH LISTINGS

 Central Baptist Church $256\,\mathrm{Main}\,\mathrm{St.},\;\mathrm{Southbridge},\mathrm{MA}\,01550$ Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

• Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550. Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org
• Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sun-

day worship 10 a.m. • Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.

Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
•St. Anne St. Patrick Church, 16 Church St.,

Fiskdale (508) 347-7338 www.stannestpatparish.com

am. 12 noon. Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am • St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sun-

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10

day Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m. • Wayside Church, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144 · Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-

3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Living Word Church of Charlton, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349

Sunday Service 10:00am. www.livingwordhcarlton.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 9:00 am Pastor Dan Purtell

• Holland Congregation Church "Where the Bible is preached." 11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926

Hollandchurch.org Sunday Service @ 10:00 am Pastor Dan Maketansky **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550 Phone: 508-765-9559 Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org Sunday Service 11:00 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

Hitchcock's free Summer Concert Series returns

BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock's 2025 Summer Concert Series, presented by Country Bank returns to the Brimfield Town Common on Wednesdays 6 to 8 p.m. through Aug. 20. Rain dates will be Thursday evenings.

Kicking off on July 16 is The Island Castaways B and, New England's F avorite Tropical Rock Band in the music style made famous by Jimmy B uffett. BT's Smokeh ouse will be the food vendor this evening. Picn ics are also welcome



throughout the series.

July 23 brings New En-

gland Digital Accordion Orchestra with Flippin' the Bird BBQ. Conducted

by Sam Falcetti of Falcetti Music, this unique

nation's only Digital Acc ordion Orchestra and has a style all their own. Along with vocal perform ances, you will hear h orn & wind sections, s trings, guitars, and of course the accordion in b eautifully orchestrated a rrangements playing many genres of music including Big Band, Broadway, Ethnic, Country and Rock.

Polka is the vibe on J uly 30th with Eddie Forman Orchestra and "Thee" Taco Dude. The 20 piece orchestra is the Eddie Forman Orchestra, also known as "E.F.O.," is a Western Massachusetts polka band that has been performing before audie nces since 1968. Eddie Forman started the band while he was still in high school and has been creating and recreating music ever since. The Eddie Forman Orchestra has one of the largest followings in the New England

> " I'm excited to be a ble to present such a variety of genres," says Hitchcock Executive Dir ector Cindy Skowyra, w ho programs the series. "There's something for everyone, and I love s eeing the mix of generations at the concerts. There's a true feeling of c ommunity in the air, and that's what music and Hitchcock - are all about."

> A ug. 6 will welcome P ioneer Valley Flamet hrowers with Crust & Confections. The Pioneer V alley Flamethrowers

are a collective of New E ngland acoustic mus icians whose styles r ange from traditional, t o not-so-traditional, to c ompletely untraditional bluegrass, along with new-acoustic genres and acoustic blues.

Aug. 13 will mark the return of series favorite C obbleStone Road with F lippin' the Bird BBQ. C omprised of talente d musicians with lots o f experience who've played with some of the b est, CobbleStone Road b lends modern country with rock & blues to get your toes tapping and audiences dancing.

The series will close out on Aug. 20 with the UnionJack British Invas ion Band and Flippin' t he Bird BBQ. Union-J ack features the look and sounds of the 1960's British Invasion era - and beyond.

T he series is made p ossible with support from presenting sponsor Country Bank as well as funding from The Brimf ield Cultural Council. The Brimfield Cultural Council is a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information, v isit www.hitchcocka cademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookf ield Rd. in Brimfield s erving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Wales Community Pantry moves to new location



Courtesy

A sea of volunteers stepped up to arrange shelved, stock the freezers, labeling and stocking shelves, and unloading a van full of food on July 8.

BRIMFIELD — The Wales Community Pantry, serving Brimfield, Holland, and Wales communities, has moved to 172 Palmer Rd. (Route 20) Brimfield. With our fantastic team of movers and volunteers! In two days, Tiny's Moving was able to move all our refrigerators and freezers and racks into our new

Staff and volunteers worked diligently together to get everything in place for the next shopping day.

The Pantry's Executive Director, Ann Davidson, ared, "We're so thankful for all the volunteers who made it possible to be up and running in just 2 days! We look forward to showing our guests our new space. "

If you would like to be a sponsor for our move,

please visit our Web site, www.walescommunitypantry.com/the-move-sponsorships. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 4-6 p.m. All are welcome.

The pantry is open on Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursdays 4-7 p.m. Inquiries about eligibility should be made by calling the Community Pantry phone at 413 245-0055. You can find us on Facebook at Wales Community Pantry for updates.

Charlton Public Library presents "Better Pictures Start Here"

CHARLTON — Join former professional writer/photographer and photography instructor David Singer Thursday, July 24 at 6 p.m. for a onehour introductory class on taking better pictures. Topics covered will be the basics on equipment, settings and techniques to immediately begin creating more thoughtfully composed and powerful images.

Whether DSLR, mirrorless systems...or your phone, learn about supports and carrying systems, lighting options, filters, camera modes, shooting techniques and more. No equipment is needed for this class and it is camera system agnostic. All presented from a high level view. No going into the weeds here, this is what you need and what settings or techniques to achieve results, today.

David is a former pro who has won over 100 awards including international honors for his work, which has appeared on billboards, magazine covers, product packaging and much more. David was a contributing writer in many

Fairfield University congratulates degree recipients

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Samuel Bailen of Charlton graduated from Fairfield University in May.

At the time of graduation, a student must have earned a minimum of 120 credits and completed at least 38 threeor four-credit courses, depending on the course of study, and have an overall grade point average of 2.0 or better at the conclusion of the senior year.

industry publications, both B2B and B2C and worked in the photo/creative space for a decade at a photo accessory manufacturer and photography/photoshop media outlets. David has taught photography and Photoshop at conferences and camera clubs throughout the Northeast, and he is a trained photo competition judge.

Registration is appreciated but not required and can be done by visiting our Web site/event calendar at charltonlibrary.org.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St.



APPLIANCES







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Construction Sites

Daniel urges against cell phone use at meetings

S Last week's annual ent." Town Council reorganization surprised nobody, s tate public records w ith Scott Lazo and I aws make electronic M ike Montigny retaining their seats as chair c ation between public and vice chair, respec- officials public records,

Nor was there much tions. c hange at the School Committee, where Britt any Davison became Guide states, "The statc hair and Carla dela utory definition of 'pub-Cruz Davila vice chair.

al thing at both meetings paper records and eleccame up during Councilors' Forum, where John Daniel brought up four c alls he's received over the last two months regarding what he dubbed " a really mundane iss ue." Specifically, he said the caller expressed concern over repeatedly ing at their phones and laughing while spending h is tax money" during meetings.

Daniel admitted sometimes using his phone during meetings, noting "That's what he sees, and if he sees it, other people see it too."

I n response, Danphone in his pocket and on silent during meetings, and urged the othe rs "to consider that very seriously as well."

One of the concerns m any have on seeing w hat Daniel discussed is whether public officials are exchanging inthey aren't stating to the p ublic. While that may not be happening – when the individual is looking email or texts.

The Attorney Generl's Frequently Asked Questions webpage spec ifically addresses this, s tating, "With a few e xceptions, any use of c ock's historic Charles electronic messaging by p ublic body members the former high school to communicate with a founded in 1855 played quorum of public body d ecades of baseball members, during or out- have seen a long-awaits ide of a meeting, may ed revival these past few constitute private delib- years, kicking off with eration, which is prohib- the passion project of ited by the Open Meeting a hand restoration of Law. Electronic messag- the tennis courts by loing during a meeting by cals Emerson & Laurie less than a quorum of Recore. the public body's members, while not directly the installation of pickprohibited by the Open leball nets and a growing Meeting Law, is discour- community of picklebala ged if those electronic lers of all levels. The or-

w ith the members of OUTHBRIDGE the public who are pres-

> B eyond that, the and written communialso with specific excep-

T he Secretary of S tate's Public Records l ic records' does not About the only unusu- d istinguish between

s hared at the meeting t ronically stored inf ormation. Rather, the l aw provides that all i nformation made or received by a public ent ity, regardless of the manner in which it exists, constitutes 'public records."

> Beyond the potential l egal issues, Daniel's s tatements point to an a rea that has been researched over the years, which can be summarized in one word - distraction. In March 2020, Inc Magazine reported on a study finding "Peo-

in another room signific antly outperformed eople with their p hones on the desk, and somewhat outperformed those who put their phones in a pocket or bag. Yep: Having a p hone nearby affected mental performance."

T hat story by Jeff H aden – at https:// ww.inc.com/jeff-haen/the-verdict-is-inp eople-who-bring-theirhones-to-meetingsven-in-silent-modenstantly-get-dumber.

ple whose phones were html – goes on to cite the researchers directly, noting "Your conscious m ind isn't thinking about your smartphone, b ut that process – the p rocess of requiring y ourself to not think about something – uses up some of your limited cognitive resources. It's a brain drain."

> That's despite many people thinking they're good at "multi-tasking," they found. In general, humans are not.

This issue goes back a fairly long time. A Pew

Research poll from 2015 (before iPhones were a c ommon thing) found the public believes it's "generally not OK" to u se cellphones during public meetings. Just 10 percent of the youngest and most technophilic g roup (ages 18-29) supported it, and the numb ers dropped for each o lder group, reaching just 2 percent of those aged 65-plus.

G us Steeves can b e reached at gus. steeves2@gmail.com.

Local students graduate from Eastern Connecticut State University

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — More than 800 seeing councilors "look- Eastern Connecticut State University students received undergraduate and gradua te-level degrees in the 2024-25 academic year, which culminated this past May with two commencement ceremonies at the conclusion of the spring 2025 semester. Among the graduates are:

> Jordyn Szretter of Charlton, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. Eva Glaser of Sturbridge, who received a

Bachelor of Arts in English. Jeffrey Ferris of Wales, who received a

i el pledged to leave his Bachelor of Science in Business Adminis-

From first-generation college students to seasoned professionals pursuing advanced degrees, the graduates reflected the breadth and diversity of Eastern's public liberal arts mission. They ranged in age from 20 to 72, representing nearly all of Connecticut's 169 towns, 19 other U.S. states, and more than 30 foreign countries.

The graduates went through the Univerformation electronically sity's School of Arts and Sciences, School of Education and Professional Studies, and Graduate Division. Popular undergraduate majors included business administration, psychology, health sciences, sociology, and a t unrelated personal communication. At the graduate level, deemail or texts, for exam- grees were awarded in fields such as acple – there's no way to counting, education (early childhood, eleknow without seeing the mentary, secondary), management, applied

data science, special education, and educational technology.

During her keynote speech at the May 20 undergraduate commencement ceremony, Dr. Mary Grant, president of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, applauded the graduates for their resilience, especially as the first class to attend college following the initial shutdown of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In a world that sometimes chooses fear over hope, choose hope," she said. Drawing on her own liberal arts background, she e mphasized the enduring value of skills like critical thinking, creativity, and ethical reasoning. "These aren't soft skills," she said. "They're essential skills-skills that all employers want."

President Karim Ismaili echoed that sentiment, commending graduates for transforming through their college years into effective communicators, problem solvers, and thoughtful citizens.

" You've matured, you've discovered new passions, and in many ways, you've changed," he said. "These skills will serve you no matter where life takes you."

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong spoke at the graduate-level ceremony on May 17, where he was awarded Eastern's i naugural Distinguished Public Service Award. Reflecting on his upbringing as the s on of Chinese immigrants working in a

family-owned restaurant in Wethersfield, Tong said, "There are a lot of people who feel invisible. I want to help them because I know what they're going through."

He encouraged graduates to recognize shared humanity and stand up for margina lized communities. "See the people who don't look exactly like you; they're your people too," he said.

During her graduate ceremony remarks, student speaker Shellena Pitterson '25 highlighted the personal sacrifices and latenight study sessions that defined the graduate journey: "We've navigated assignments, exams, late nights, and - let's be honest - the occasional existential crisis."

At the undergraduate ceremony, Sen ior Class President Felishka Ramirez '25 t hanked the "Eastern village" of faculty and staff who invested in students' growth.

"They didn't just teach us; they believed in us. They taught us how to think critically, how to persevere, and how to believe in the power of our own voices," she said.

S peaking on behalf of alumni, Ellen Lang '81 spoke at both ceremonies to welcome new graduates into Eastern's alumni family, now more than 40,000 strong.

"You are now connected to a powerful and supportive network of leaders, changemakers, and lifelong learners," she said. "Once a Warrior, always a Warrior."

Hitchcock's Charles Field Courts continue to see revival

BRIMFIELD — Hitch-Field – where students of

This was followed by

few lessons and is begin- n is team coach for 5 n ing to organize meet- years. In that time, they

Hitchcock is now h appy to have added a second year of summer t ennis lessons to the fer lessons for ages 10 mix, this year thanks to to adult on Tuesdays & l ocal tennis instructor a nd enthusiast, Jared 29 and running through Haley. Haley grew up in A ug. 21. Wednesdays the Palmer area and has will serve as rain dates if b een playing tennis for 20 years. He is currently a chemistry teacher at

h as been the girls tenups. Free lessons will be had an undefeated seaoffered to beginners on son and went to the State July 19 at 9 a.m., July 21 C hampionships. He is at 7 p.m., and Aug. 2 at 9 p assionate about growing and sharing the sport with others.

> H itchcock will of-Thursdays starting July

n ecessary. Lessons will be offered in three hour long slots: age 10 – 16 beginner: 4 – 5 p.m., age 10 − 16 intermediate: 5 − 6 p.m., and age 17 - adult beginner: 6 - 7 p.m. The cost will be \$90 per stu-

For those interested in p ickleball meetups, the organization has created a "Hitchcock Pickleball Group" on Facebook.

Registration is re-

quired for the tennis lessons and recommended for the pickleball lessons t o help facilitate plan-

For more inforation, visit www. h itchcockacademy.org. H itchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Ruth Wells Center spotlights Martha Moore

SOUTHBRIDGE — Martha Moore's Life and Art will be featured at the R uth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge.

Martha was a quilter and knitter, e ven carded, dyed and spun her own yarn to make gorgeous creations. The opening for this July exhibit is Saturday, July 19, noon to 4pm. The exhibit will be in the galleries through July 26- with gallery hours noon to 4pm S aturday and Sunday. For weekday a ppointments call 508-764-3341. As always, the galleries are open to all, with no charge. Refreshments will be served at the opening.

Martha was a gardener and landscaper, owning her own company hiring primarily women. Her creative talents live on in her quilts, sweaters and scarves.

If you own a Martha Moore original, please bring to the gallery to be photographed for the legacy collection. Ruth Wells Center continues to support art and culture in the community with exhibits, classes and workshops, as well a s festivals and community events. For more information, go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com, or Facebook

Area residents named to dean's list at Tufts University

MEDFORD — Valen Burke, Class of 2027, of Southbridge; Trevor Wallace, Class of 2026, of Charlton; and Sebastian Suprenant, Class of 2028, of Fiskdale have been named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the spring 2025 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.







Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty awarded competitive funding for professional development

CHARLTON — The B ay Path Practical N ursing Academy is p roud to announce t hat four of its facu ltv members who w ere nominated for r ecent professional d evelopment funding have been successfully awarded, securing total of \$3,356 to support their ongoing growth and excellence in nursing education. Each faculty member will receive an award of \$839.00.

The funded faculty members are:

Virginia Dockstader, BSN, RN

Barbara Mar-

Christine Pie-

Rianna Romano, MSN, RN, CEN

success rate in securi ng funding unders cores the high calib er and commitment program. This educa-N ursing Academy's n ursing educators. These funds are designated to support faculty who are eligible to s it for the Academic C linical Nurse Educ ator Certification (CNEcl) exam, demonstrating the Bay Path P ractical Nursing A cademy's dedication to fostering advanced certifications and cont inuous professional d evelopment among its teaching staff.

The Academic Clini cal Nurse Educator C ertification Exam was created for acad emic clinical nurse e ducators to demonstrate expertise in this r ole. The academic c linical nurse edu-T his 100 percent learning of nursing s tudents throughout clinical components of an academic nursing

of Bay Path Practical tor is guided in this role by faculty of the nursing program and is accountable to that n ursing program for providing fair evaluations of learners' performance in meeting expected learning outcomes. The academic c linical nurse educator may have a variety o f titles depending on the classification u sed by the specific n ursing education p rogram (e.g., clinic al faculty, part-time f aulty, adjunct facult y, clinical instruct or, or preceptor), a ccording to https:// ww.nln.org/certiication/Certificat ion-for-Nurse-Educators/cne-cl

" We are absolutec ator facilitates the 1 y delighted by this n ews," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, M SN Ed, RN, CRRN, A cademy Director.

"This funding is a tes- ty members. Further tament to the dedica- f ollow-up will occur tion of our faculty to not only their students but also to their own p rofessional growth. Investing in our educ ators directly translates to an enhanced l earning experience P ractical for our students and A cademy's ongoing r einforces the

h igh standards of nursing education we uphold at Bay Path." The Bay Path

P ractical Nursi ng Academy w orked closely w ith the fundi ng body and f inalized n ecessary steps for payment processing. The Bay P ath Practical N ursing Academy received the l ump sum payment, which will then be distributed to the faculin approximately six months to capture outcomes for faculty who u tilized this funding for the CNEcl exam.

T his achievement h ighlights Bay Path

commitment to faculty development, ensuring that its students r eceive instruction from highly qualified a nd continually advancing nursing professionals.



The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge, will offer an adult workshop led by noted Charlton artist Simone Germain. On Thursday, Aug. 14, from 6-8 p.m., Germain will teach participants to paint a summer scene on a canvas tote. The fee is \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members. All materials will be provided. Registration form may be found on the website- ruthwellscenter.com. For more information, call 508-764-3341. The Ruth Wells Center started in 1976 as the Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities. Since then, the center offers exhibits of works by local artists, workshops, classes and programs to enhance the cultural life of the

Scent with purpose

Bryzee Candle Co. offers toxin-free creations & classes

STURBRIDGE — At Bryzee Candle Co., we believe scent has the power to transform any space—and it should never come with w orries. That's why all our products are made with love and completely toxin-free, so you can breathe easy and enjoy every moment with confidence and comfort.

F rom our clean-burning soy candles and mess-free wax melts, to our refreshing room sprays and long-lasting car diffusers, we offer a full line of thoughtfully crafted fragrance products designed to suit every lifestyle. Whether you want to cozy up your living room, freshen your car, or add a special touch to your personal space, our collection has you covered. Each item is carefully hand-poured in small batches, using safe, high-quality ingredients that are gentle on you, your loved ones, and the environment.

Our signature dessert-themed candle collection has quickly become a favorite, featuring warm and delicious scents. These u nique fragrances are designed to evoke

comfort, joy, and nostalgia, turning everyday moments into little celebrations.

In addition to our products, we offer candle-making classes, where you can learn the craft firsthand. It's a fun, hands-on experience perfect for those looking to create their own custom scents or find a creative outing.

Whether you're lighting a candle as part of your daily wind-down ritual, a centerpiece on your coffee table, or a thoughtful gift for someone special, Bryzee Candle Co. products are made to elevate everyday moments and create lasting memories.

We're proud to be a small, woman-owned, l ocal business dedicated to creating h igh-quality, sustainable products with heart. From the carefully chosen natural ingredients to our eco-friendly packaging, every detail reflects our commitment to you and the planet. Discover how mindfulness and care can transform your space.

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Kopas receives law degree

BOSTON — Jan Adam Kopas III, of Dudley, received a Juris Doctor degree with the honors of cum laude from New England Law Boston on May 16 at the Wang Theatre in Boston. He ranked 23rd of out 249 students in his class. He is the son of Attorney Jan Kopas and Cheryl Kopas.

Jan also received a certificate in taxation law from New England Law I Boston due to the number of tax classes taken, the high grades received in those classes, and satisfying the experiential education requirement.

While in law school Jan received CALI Awards in Evidence, Criminal Procedure, Taxation of Business Entities, and Perspectives: Taxation/Mergers & Acquisitions. CALI Awards are awarded to the student who finishes with the highest grade in each class. He was also the recipient of a New England Scholar Award (2023-2024) for superior academic achievement.

Kopas received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with the honors of summa cum laude from Nichols College in 2021 and a Master of Science in Accounting degree from Nichols College in 2022. He is currently studying to take the Massachusetts Bar Exam in July.

Braedon Jarvis graduates from Plymouth State University

Braedon Jarvis of Southbridge g raduated from Plymouth State University during its 154th Anniversary Commencement Ceremonies on May 9 & 10. Jarvis graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Adventure Education.

Jarvis was among more than 650 Class of 2025 undergraduate students who received degrees.

About Plymouth State University Established in 1871, Plymouth State U niversity serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learn-

P LYMOUTH, New Hampshire i ng produces well-educated undergraduates, and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances k nowledge and enhances professional development. The Plymouth State Cluster Learning Model emphasizes o pen, integrative, and project-based experiences. With distinction, we conn ect with community and business p artners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire. To learn more about Plymouth State University, visit www. plymouth.edu.

* * Triday's



Laren Age 10 Registration #8313

Laren is a friendly, fun-loving, and energetic young girl who brings joy and enthusiasm to everything she does. She thrives in a structured environment where routines are clear and consistent, as this helps her feel safe and supported. Laren loves being creative and often spends her time drawing and expressing herself through art. Music and dance are also some of her favorite outlets-she enjoys moving to the beat and letting her personality shine. Active and adventurous by nature, Laren enjoys outdoor play and being on the go, whether it's exploring new places or simply running around outside. She has a deep love for animals, especially turtles and other aquatic creatures, and enjoys learning about them whenever she can. Her in-

terest in sea life is a special part of who she is and brings out her sense of wonder and curiosity. With the right support, encouragement, and structure, Laren continues to grow and shine. She would do best in a nurturing, active family that can provide consistency, patience, and plenty of opportunities to explore her interests.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21182507386

Can I Adopt?

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

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



STONEBRIDGE **PRESS**

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Frank G. Chilinski

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE Editor

Having a pet might just save your life

T here's nothing like coming at this microscopic levh ome to someone who's actually happy to see you. Not out of obligation, not because they want something, just pure, tail-wagging joy that you exist. That's what a dog gives you. That's what any pet can g ive you, really. They don't need you to have your life figured out. They just want to be near you.

Lately, we have been thinking a lot about how much pets do for us. Without fanfare, especially when life's been heavy.

If you have ever gone through a hard time, grief, illness or heartb reak, you know what I mean. There's this moment when the people fade out a bit. They get busy, they don't know what to say, they pull away. But the dog? The cat? They stay. They sit right beside you when you're too tired to talk. They follow you from room to room like your little emotional support shadow. They just know.

Having a pet means someone's a lways keeping watch. Someone's listening to the silence with you. Someone's there when the world doesn't make sense.

They remind you to take a walk. To go outside and to get up. To feed them, which sometimes is the only r eason you feed yourself. They force you into a rhythm when eve rything feels offbeat. Plus, they m ake you laugh, even when you think you forgot how.

There is a kind of healing that comes from being needed in the m ost simple, unconditional way. Pets don't care what your job title is or whether your life is falling apart. They just want to sit beside you on the couch and maybe steal your blanket.

And science backs it up! Petting a dog or cat has been shown to lower cortisol (the stress hormone) T homas Young ran and raise oxytocin, the same hormone that helps us bond with other people. Just spending time with a pet can lower blood pressure, ease anxiety, and even reduce feelings of loneliness. Some studies show that dog owners, in particular, are more likely to reach recommended physical activity levels, just from walking their dog.

So no, they are not just pets. They are therapy. They are family. They are the ones who show up every day and ask for nothing but your presence.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the E ditor to determine whether a s ubmission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

()PINI()N

Quantum field!

Imagine if you were shrunk down to the size of a molecular particle. You wouldn't see walls, chairs, or solid objects anymore; you'd see millions of other particles flying around, darting in every direction. It might look a bit like the inside of a Champagne glass millions of tiny bubbles, jittering, popping, shimmering in and out of view all around you at the quantum level.

What you're seeing el isn't just a bunch of particles—it's the pixelated foundation of reality, like the tiny dots that make up an image on a screen. Up close, you'd see individual pixels-red, green, or blue lights—but when you zoom out, they blend into the full picture. In the same way, these particles are the smallest "dots" that build everything you see in the world around you.

Every type of particle comes from its own field. There's an electron field, a photon field, and a quark field—These f ields overlap and interact with one another c onstantly, forming a u nified foundation to e verything. Together, they make up what scientists call the Quantum Field—a single, connecte d fabric made from

many invisible layers. The Quantum Field i sn't something "out there" in deep space. It's right here. It's the invisible fabric reality is made electron somehow went from—and you are made from it, too.

Your body, your brain, and even your thoughts are built from particles that rise up from these f ields. Every atom in y ou—carbon, calcium, o xygen—comes from ripples in those same invisible fields.

How do we know?

I n 1801, physicist simple experiment Positively **SPEAKING**

> **TOBY MOORE**

w ith light. He shined it through a single slit, t hen through two narrow slits, and observed the pattern it made on a screen behind.

If light behaved like tiny particles—like little b ullets flying through t he slits—he would've s een just two bright s pots. Instead, he saw something strange: a series of bright and dark bands.

This experiment bec ame one of the first major clues that light behaves like a wave.

Years later, with the r ise of quantum mec hanics, scientists ran a modern version of the same test—not with beams of light, but with individual particles, like electrons.

They fired these elect rons, one at a time, like bullets from a gun, t hrough the two slits, a nd something unexpected happened.

W hen no one was w atching, the electrons didn't behave like particles at all. Instead, they landed on the wall behind in a wave pattern t hrough both slits at

How did the scientists figure this out?

T hey tracked where e ach electron landed. And over time, instead of forming two neat lines, the electrons built up a pattern of light and dark b ands-the unmistakable fingerprint of wave behavior.

B ut then came the twist.

W hen scientists w atched the particles pass through the s lits, the particles b ehaved exactly as e xpected—like litt le bullets passing t hrough one slit or the other. But when no one was watching, the particles behaved in a completely different way.

The only thing that changed... was the act of observing.

W hen the particles were observed, they beh aved the way the scie ntists believed they s hould. When not observed, the particles had a mind of their own.

We all live our lives with an underlying exp ectation of what we t hink will happen. We expect certain outcomes in our relationships, our work, our health—even without realizing it.

If you expect failure, y ou'll probably see it. But if you expect success, and you are prese nt, focused, and emot ionally aligned with t hat outcome, quantum p hysics suggests that you may literally begin to tune into a version of reality where that success starts to show up.

Just as the observer changed the outcome of the particle's path, quant um physics suggests your awareness and expectation will shape the path of your own life.

T he Quantum field j ust like Young's light. i s not distant. It's all It was as if each single around us, it's inside of

> We are not separate from it; we are expressions of it.

W e are constantly s ending signals into t he field—through our thoughts, our emotions, a nd our beliefs. Put those three together, and you get expectations.

The Quantum world is telling us something. It's not just what we see, b ut how we see, that shapes our reality.

Why rebalancing your port-folio matters and how to do it



FINANCIAL Focus

TREVOR NIELSEN

In life, balance is everything — whether it's finding time between work and family or m aintaining a healthy diet. The same goes for your investments. Keeping your financial portfolio balanced is a smart way to stay on track toward your long-term goals, even as the markets shift.

That's where portfolio rebalancing comes in. Rebalancing is the process of adjusting y our investments — like stocks, bonds and cash — so they stay in the right mix for your needs. This mix, known as your asset allocation, is designed to reflect your comfort with risk, your investment goals and how long you have until you'll need to use the money for a m ajor life event like retirement or the purchase of a new home.

For example, let's say your target portfolio is made up of 60 percent stocks, 30 percent bonds and 10 percent cash. Over time, as the value of each investment changes, your portfolio may become unbalanced. If stocks have a great year and rise in value, they could end up making up 70 percent of your portfolio. That means you're taking on more risk than you originally intended.

To get back to your 60/30/10 target, you would sell some stocks and possibly buy more bonds or cash investments. This helps bring your portfolio back in line with your goals.

Markets go up and down. That's normal — but it also means your portfolio can shift without your even touching it. If you don't rebalance regularly, you might be taking on too much (or too little) risk.

R ebalancing offers several benefits. It helps keep your investment plan on track and manages your exposure to risk. It also encourages disciplined decision-making, rather than chasing trends.

It might feel strange to sell investments that have been doing well and buy ones that haven't. But this strategy can help you "buy low and sell high," which is one of the key ideas behind successful investing.

You may be wondering how often you should rebalance your portfolio. There really is no one-size-fits-all answer. Some people rebalance once a vear. Others do it more frequently based on how far their investments drift from their target percentages.

What's important is that you check your portfolio regularly — at least annually — and m ake adjustments when needed. After big market movements, whether up or down, it's a good idea to take a closer look.

Keep in mind that if you rebalance by selling investments in a taxable account, you might owe capital gains taxes. Also, some brokers charge fees for trades. But if you own similar investments in a retirement account like an IRA or 401(k), you can often rebalance without triggering taxes. A financial advisor can help you choose the best approach — and may even be able to help you avoid or reduce

Your ideal investment mix will probably change as your life changes. Younger invest ors might favor stocks for growth. As you near retirement, you may want to focus more on income and stability. Rebalancing helps you adjust as your goals evolve.

Think of your portfolio like a car on a road trip — regular check-ins and small course corrections will help you stay on the right path. A financial advisor can help you design a strategy that keeps your investments aligned with your goals every step of the way.

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.

Home Remedies for Sunburn

Summer is officially here, and the sunny season promises exciting outdoor activities, as well as direct exposure to the sun's rays. If your "hot fun in the summertime" included getting burned, read on - these sunburn tips can take the heat off.

overexposure to the sun is dangerous. Not only does a sunburn dehydrate your skin, break down collagen and provoke wrinkles, just one blistering sunburn doubles the likelihood of developing malignant melanoma. The golden rule to treating a sunburn is to avoid applying lo-

Everyone

tions or creams that can hold in the heat, for the first 48 hours. Aloe Vera may be applied during that time. Here are some more ways to combat needed. the common seasonal malady:

knows

Cool milk compress-



TAKE THE HINT **KAREN** TRAINOR

es take the heat off a sunburn. Simply soak cheesecloth in whole milk and lay compress over skin. Reapply as necessary.

The tannins in black tea will also help soothe a sunburn. Simply pat the sore skin with wet teabags for almost instant relief.

White vinegar has long been used to relieve sunburn pain. mix two tablespoons of white vinegar in one half cup water and dab on burned area with a soft cloth as often as

Or apply plain yogurt to the skin, then add some cold water and

smooth on skin.

Sunburn sprays are handy to tote with you while you are suffering the after effects of a sunburn. There's no need to spend big bucks on commercial mists when there are many effective sprays you can make yourself.

Here are some to try: Super Sunburn Spray: Mix together liquid aloe vera (sometimes called aloe vera juice, available at health stores); with half as much liquid Vitamin E and a few drops of lavender essential oil. Pour into a spray bottle and lightly mist the body.

Cucumber Sunburn Lotion is another cool cure for sore skin: To make, squeeze the juice from one chopped cucumber (use a juicer) and mix with one quarter cup each glycerin and rosewater.

Turn To **HINT** page 15

Harvest garlic and replant with quick-maturing vegetables



GARDEN Moments MELINDA

G et the best flavor and longest storage life from your homegrown g arlic with proper harvesting, curing and storage. Then fill that space w ith a quick-maturing vegetable for a tasty fall harvest.

Harvest garlic when approximately one third, but less than half of the leaves turn brown. Start by digging one plant to check the garlic for maturity. Cloves should be plump and fill the skin.

Immature garlic does n ot store well, while o ver-mature bulbs are m ore subject to dise ase. Don't discard but r ather use immature garlic as soon as possi-

C ure the garlic you plan to store for three to four weeks in a warm, well-ventilated location. Once dried, remove soil, long roots and only the damaged outermost layer of papery skin with a brush of your gloved h and. Cut off the tops being careful not to damage the papery covering that protects the cloves.

S tore the garlic in a cool location with good a ir circulation and out of direct sunlight to prevent resprouting. Properly harvested and cured garlic will last for up to eight months.

G arlic can also be frozen. Place the whole b ulb, individual cloves, or peeled, chopped cloves in a single layer in a plastic freezer bag. Use frozen garlic to flavor your f avorite recipes within three to four months for the best flavor.



Garlic is ready to be harvested when the cloves are plump and fill the skin.

Once harvested, prepare the area for another planting. Spread a layer of compost over the area or incorporate an inch of compost into the top six inches of soil and fertilize if needed.

C alculate the number of frost-free days remaining in your growing season. Simply count the number of days from p lanting to the date of

the average first fall frost in your area. Select and p lant vegetable seeds a nd transplants that will be ready to harvest b efore the first killing f rost in fall. Check the back of the seed packet or plant tag for the n umber of days from p lanting to harvest. If there is enough time for the summer planting to grow and produce before

they can be added to the g arden. Or extend the season with cold frames a nd floating row covers to protect plantings as needed from killing frost.

D epending on the v ariety, cucumbers and bush beans are ready to harvest in as few as 60 days. Enjoy great flavor from summer plantings of broccoli and cabbage t ransplants harvested during the cooler months of fall. Sow seeds of radishes, beets, carrots and o ther quick-maturing vegetables for a fall harvest.

Once your seeds and t ransplants are in the ground, be sure to water properly. Keep the seedbed and roots of transplants moist for the first few weeks. Gradually reduce watering frequency as seedlings sprout and grow and transplants be-

t he first killing frost, c ome established. Help k eep the soil cool by mulching plantings with s hredded leaves, everg reen needles or other organic mulch.

E njoy the rewards of all your planning, planting and care with b ountiful harvests now through the end of the season.

M elinda Myers has w ritten more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edit ion and Small Space G ardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" ins tant video series and the nationally syndicate d Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. M yers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms maga zine and her Web site i s www.MelindaMyers.



Community Connection





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The play behind engineering



Gus Steeves

Jackson Crouse and Aurora Wilson lay out some giant dom-



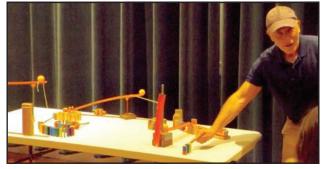
Pippin, Bren and Penny Myler of Dudley collaborate on a system.

CHARLTON — "Cause and effect" is a basic principle of science, be it biology, ecology, or engineering. It can be expressed by complex math ... or by simple

Last week, Jay Mankita brought the latter to Charlton Library, in the form of "Playful Engineering" – plastic boxes of dominoes, wheels, ramps, balls, cars and various other toys with a message.

"Sometimes, we have to step back and make some room to let real play happen," he told the group of time traveler" - start with what you hope to achieve parents and kids of all ages.

That play often leads to real learning. He noted a key point of that process is willingness to accept fail- engineering or teaching, but music. He said he came



Jay Mankita points out a detail of his winding creation before setting it off. It didn't work as planned, so he used it as a teaching moment to encourage troubleshooting and trying



Gus Steeves

Henry and Ellie Barr start their latest project.

ure, seeing what didn't work, making changes, and trying again.

"Our whole universe is based on the domino effect," he added.

To make machines and systems, you have to be "a and work backward from there.

Curiously, he noted his background isn't in either a touring business while playing with his own kids.

Gus Steeves

Morin lengthens her already long raceway.





Lizzy Grimshaw of Auburn focuses on her own creation.

A couple of event participants Aria and Jackson Crouse are peruse the boxes for mate- just about to trigger the domino effect.

up with the idea for doing "Playful Engineering" as

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Moses is an African sulcata tortoise, whose species Lee

described as "the cows of the tortoise world" because they

eat grasses and similar plants.



A couple kids have a very close-up meeting with Jessie the kangaroo. One was overheard saying "Now I'm going to have the cutest nightmare of my life."



Wilson, a ball (or royal) python from Africa, curls up around Burpee's hand. These snakes are the second most poplar reptile pets in the US after bearded dragons, and have been

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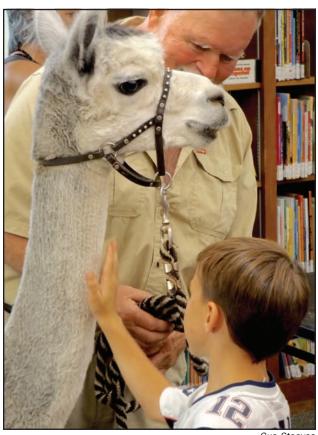


Records brings in two South American macaws, a parrot spe cies that can live 60-90 years and is famous for being able to say things in almost any human language they hear.



When one mother asked her daughter what she thought the "danger" painted on one of the carrying cases referred to, the girl guessed alligators. She was right - Records is holding Chomper and Burpee's holding Bob; they can grow to be 16 feet long and 1000-plus pounds.

someone you want curling around you. This snake is notoriously invasive in the Florida Everglades, where they've eaten all kinds of native species. They're normally green, but he's



protective of her and will even bite Records.

Burpee lets Chip the squirrel monkey climb on her arm. Despite her diminutive size, Chip's about 26 years old and can live about 35. Burpee warned against having monkeys as pets, noting they'll "eat your crayons," "bite your friends," "poop all over the place," and various other things. They got Chip as a rescue because she was an illegal pet; Lee noted Chip's very

SOUTHBRIDGE — Last week, animals from Lemon, a Burmese python from SE Asia, is definitely not all over the world visited Jacob Edwards Library. Kids got to meet snakes and tortoises from Africa, kangaroos from Australia, birds and monkeys from South America, and more.

"Most of them, people had them as pets, and it wasn't a good choice for them," said Lee Burpee, c o-owner of the Records & Burpee Zoo Show with her husband, Larry Records. Some of the animals were born on or donated to their Dudley farm, where they now have about 90 animals.

S he urged people to think carefully about getting some animals as pets, considering their longevity, how to feed and care for them, wheth-

er they'd "be happy living with you" given your lifestyle and daily routines, and other factors. Larry agreed, n oting some animals are "good pets for some p eople, but very few p eople" because they c an have "habits peop le really don't like." (He was specifically referring to macaws at the time, but they cited such behaviors of several of their animals.)

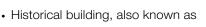


A girl pets Lemon as Lee looks on.



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Burpee lets Chip the squirrel monkey climb on her arm. Despite her diminutive size, Chip's about 26 years old and can live about 35. Burpee warned against having monkeys as pets, noting they'll "eat your crayons," "bite your friends," "poop all over the place," and various other things. They got Chip as a rescue because she was an illegal pet; Lee noted Chip's very protective of her and will even bite Records.





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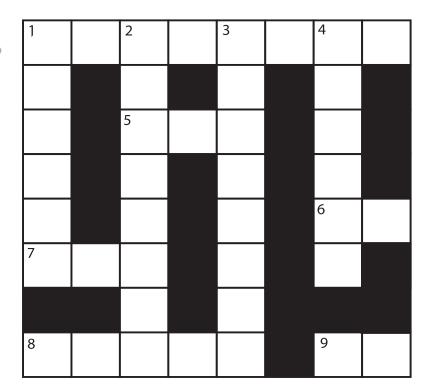


Animal ***** FACL:

When enjoying parks, it is important to avoid close encounters with these.

Answer: Wild animals

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Figure out the route
- 5. Area of land
- 6. "City of Angels" (abbr.)
- 7. Breakfast food
- 8. Green areas used for recreation
- 9. Opposite of "yes"

DOWN

1. Nature 2. Villager 3. Getaways 4. Trails

1. Navigate 5. Lot 6. LA 7. Egg 8. Parks 9. No

- 1. Plants, animals and the landscape
- 2. Person who lives in a village

UMOM

Answers:

- 3. Vacations, trips
- 4. Pathways to hike

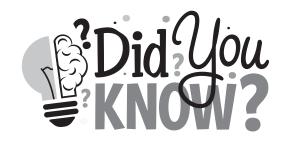


money for a particular purpose, like conservation



English: Nature Spanish: Naturaleza Italian: Natura French: Nature

German: Natur



"Forest bathing" started in Japan and is the process of spending time in nature. There



Answers: A. cooling

œ.

. fan

C. indoors

D. repairs

is growing research to show that it promotes overall health.





Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

VA :19w2nA

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to air conditioning.

Each number corresponds to a letter.

(Hint: 22 = 0)

A. 9 22 22 24 18 25 17

Clue: Make less warm

B. 5 21 25

Clue: Circulates air

C. 18 25 1 22 22 13 4

Clue: Inside

D. 13 26 16 21 18 13 4

Clue: Fixes

SUDOKU

				4				
		2					5	
		6	8		9			Abanoa
	8			9		2		
				3		4		
	3		5		ngoonge .	9		
				ossooda	7		4	
5			6					2
7		3	4					

Level: Intermediate

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Level: Interm

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column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will
appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The
more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

8	6	9	9	2	ţ	3	vanda	1
S	L	undi	3	œ	9	6	T.	G
3	Þ	9	L	anaba	6	8	2	9
L	8	6	done	9	Ğ	挈	8	2
G	yeen	Þ	8	ε	2	L	9	6
9	3	2	Þ	6	L	දු	8	mode
denne	2	ε	6	G	8	9	L	7
ħ	9	8	9	L	www	S	6	3
6	9	L	2	t	S	dense	Ğ	8

ANSWER:

dome

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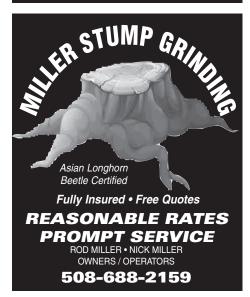
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Caring

continued from page **1**

Gladys E. Kelly Library in Webster. The day beg an at the Southbridge Common with breakfast s andwiches provided by the Elm Centre Café and fresh fruit donated by Big Bunny Market.

Volunteers also received c ustom embroidered hats, sponsored by Webster First Federal Credit

A ccording to United W ay Executive Direct or, Kristin McCarthy, "Our volunteers accomplished so much in just five hours, and we are so

grateful for the time and energy they contributed to each project. I'd like to thank the companies a nd agencies who allowed their employees to volunteer with us: CASA Project, Center of Hope, Community Legal Aid, Dexter-Russell, JLA Contracting, MAPFRE, Our

B right Future, Reconc iliation House, Savers Bank, Southbridge Credit Union, Starkweather & Shepley, Tri-Valley, Inc., W ebster First Federal Credit Union, and Webs ter Five. It was a succ essful day and several v olunteers mentioned t hat they are looking forward to participating again next year!"

T he United Way of S outh Central Massachusetts is a non-profit o rganization dedicated to improving the lives of people in the communities it serves. UWSCM a chieves its mission by

that focus on education, health, and financial stability. For more information, or to donate, please visit www.uwscm.org.

TRAIL

continued from page 1

funding local programs trail, a couple of them ice cream places. On Crystal S treet, the former Margaux's is now the Cereal C ow Creamery, where the ice cream is "cereal infused" (yes, that's what it sounds like). On Foster S treet, Scoops of Hope has been in operation for m ore than a year now. For those seeking more than dessert, the Golden Greek in Sandersdale and t he Dark Horse Tavern on Crane Street both sit r ight on the trail. Once the trail's alive, more will likely pop up, if other rail trails are any indication.

> Although it's been disc ussed for decades, the rail trail as we see it is being built under a Roach & Sons' \$3.9 million contract a pproved last August. It covers about five miles of partly-paved, partly stone dust multiuse trail, most of it along abandoned, b ridge. Some parts will the Crane/Mill/West area

An art display is being i stry; the first piece is already up in the pocket park there. There has also been some talk of adding osks in various areas.

A related contract for when the state DEP indi-

Both contracts are cov-

G us Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@ gmail.com.



This rock at the Walnut Street access point has been graffitied so long it cries out for a good mural artist to make it attractive.



Gus Steeves

The trail's overlook at the Rotary mostly gives a view of greenery.

Letter

continued from page 1

forth dating to early March regarding concerns brought forth by Charlton Selectman David Singer who has made s everal public attempts to procure an official statement from school officials. Representatives of the School Committee have consistently stated that their stance against h ate and antisemitism has been made clear in the student and staff handbooks, as well as district policies. The committee acknowledged the letter from the Select Board during a meeting on July 10, and decided in a unanimous vote not to issue an official w ritten statement. Several m embers of the committee and the superintendent made their own verbal responses on the record concerning the Select Board's letter and allegations contained within.

I n March, Singer app roached the School Committee as a private citizen requesting that the committee issue a written statement denouncing controversial material made available in a member-only page of the MTA for educators to reference when teaching about the ongoing Israel-Hamas War. Singer eventually brought this matter to t he Charlton Select Board, first as a citizen and then as a selectman, condemning the c ommittee's lack of action, the social media content of one of its members – which he deemed antisemitic - and r evealing that he had been made aware of unconfirmed incidents of hate within the s chools. In June, the selectm en granted his request to issue a formal letter asking, but not requiring, the School

Committee to issue a written s tatement. The School Comm ittee officially addressed the letter for the first time in a public forum on July 10.

After an extensive discussion where several members a ired their frustration with t he Select Board's request, the School Committee voted not to respond to the letter in a ny written capacity. Some members felt that the Select B oard acted beyond their reach by making a request to a nother autonomous elected b oard. Members were also concerned about the accusations of antisemitism within t he hallways, which school officials said there was no evidence of such activity taking place, and that the Select Board was attempting to dictate what material should be used within the schools when there is a procedure and a s ubcommittee that exists to a ddress those concerns. It was also noted that Singer had only approached the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee and not Bay Path or the Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative (SWEC) about the MTA material.

S uperintendent Steven L amarche issued a verbal s tatement responding to the Charlton Select Board, which he stressed was not a letter and was not intended to be issued to the selectmen in writing. He read the statement into the record, calling some of the claims "unfounded" and defending the district's policies and procedures for addressing hate and antisemitism. He also acknowledged S inger's concerns over rep orted incidents, which he s tated had been investigated. According to Lamarche, there was no evidence that such situations had occurred between students, but that if those incidents did occur the d istrict has a procedure in place to address them.

"I ask that we not allow conjecture to distract from the real work of educating and supporting all students and staff of the Dudley Charlton Regional School District," said Lamarche. "As a district, we are steadfast in our commitment to uphold the civil rights and liberties of all individuals. We do not and will not tolerate discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender, identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness. These values are not negotiable. They are the fabric or our schools and guide the work we do every day on behalf of the children and families we serve."

The superintendent added that any incidents should immediately be brought to his office's attention to allow for timely action and response. He promised to ensure that any credible reports be addressed. He also repeated prior responses to Singer's concerns about the MTA material that the district's teachers are guided by their own professional judgement, and that the educators "do not blindly access or use MTA materials."

The School Committee ultimately arguing that the Superintendent's words and the d istrict's own longstanding p olicies within their handbooks speak for the committee's position. Several members voiced their own deeper c oncerns regarding the situ ation, with some members

asking if they should consider seeking a formal apology f rom Singer or asking the Select Board to redact from their letter implications that a lack of a public statement from the School Committee state-owned railway from has led to an increase in acts the Dudley line to Sturof hate in the schools.

S chool Committee Chair be on streets, mostly in Kelly Szela closed the discuss ion saying that while they and a short stretch along m ay disagree with how the E ast Main and Main Select Board has handled the through the Rotary. matter, they want to keep a p rofessional and productive designed for the section w orking relationship with downtown near the Regt he town. Szela also stated that while they would inform Charlton that they would not i ssue a statement, they do understand and acknowledge historical and ecological the concerns shared by the information signs or kiselectmen.

" It's an unfortunate climate that we're in right now, \$273,000 with BSC Group but I don't think that, as far c overs construction adas the schools go, we should m inistration, oversight issue a statement at this time. and licensed site profes-Just having Mr. Lamarche's sional work, the latter to w ell-written words that he a ddress contamination. spoke regarding the situation O ne reason the project p robably covers our bases," took so long was that the S zela said. "I don't want to c ouncil expressed conhurt the relationship that we cern over liability for poshave with the towns going for- sible contamination from ward, but I feel like just put- r ailroad spillage over ting it on the burner and let- more than a century. That ting them know we're aware initially caused the counand we understand their con- cil to reject one long-term cerns and not taking really a land lease a few years ago. s tand at this time would be It later accepted the lease our best bet."

A video recording of the cated that if Southbridge July 10 meeting containing follows its trail construc-L amarche's full statement t ion recommendations, and the statements of indi-it'll be protected. v idual School Committee m embers has been made ered by state and federal a vailable for the public on grants. The trail is slated the Dudley Charlton Regional to open this fall. School Committee page of the district Web site.

LEGALS

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A Notice is hereby given by

Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after JULY 11,2025 at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle: VEHICLE MAKE: 2003 CHEVROLET CAVALIER

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Charlton MA 01507-1901 JULY 11, 20205 JULY 18,2025 JULY 25,2025

The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals will host a public hearing on July 21, 2025, at the Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield MA at 5:00 pm on behalf of Timothy Pratt for the property located at 8 Woodhill Rd, assessor's parcel 5C-A-37. The applicant wishes relief on setback requirements due to topography issues with a proposed 24x24 garage. Abutters are encouraged to attend and offer feedback. The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals will host a public hearing on July 21, 2025, at the Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield MA at 5:15 pm on behalf of Robert Ardizzoni for the property located at 55 Paige Hill Rd, assessor's parcel 17-C-19. The applicant wishes to build a single-family home, and it is looking for relief for the time frame allowed for rebuilding and the lot size requirements. 1.37 acre instead of 1.5 due to existing foundation. Abutters are encouraged to attend and offer feedback.

The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals will host a public hearing on July 21,

2025, at the Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield MA at 5:30 pm on behalf of Paul Vandal and Kristen Surozenski for the property located at 49 Seventh St, assessor's parcel 5A-B2. The applicant wishes to add a 14x24 addition to the west side of the existing home and extend the deck to match the additional. The applicant is asking for relief on the setback and side requirement. Abutters are encouraged to attend and offer feedback. The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals

will host a public hearing on July 21, 2025, at the Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield MA at 5:45 pm on behalf of Kimberly Fleming for the property located at 94 Five Bridge Rd. The applicant wishes to appeal a rejection letter from the Zoning Enforcement Officer letter, dated June 10, 2025. The applicant wishes to convert an accessory dwelling unit on her property to conform with the recent amendments to the State Zoning Act (GL c.40A, s.3) and regulations adopted by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities as authorized in the Act, (760 CMA 71).

July 11, 2025 July 18, 2025

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO08P0808GR1 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESINGATION OF **GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED**

> **PERSON** In the matter of: Stephenie McCall Of: SOUTHBRIDGE, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

Cheri Matthews of Worcester, MA

in the above captioned matter alleging requesting that the court: Accept the Resignation of the Guard-

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/ or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/ or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the 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 07/29/2025. 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. Date: July 01, 2025 Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate July 17, 2025

accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Holland Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 08/12/2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by David Bauchiero Jr. for an addition to the home and a driveway at 46 Over The Top Road (Map R14-A-1). To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person and virtual; for virtual meeting login information contact Holland Conservation at conservation@hollandma.org or call (413) 245-7108 x114.

Conservation Commission Town of Holland July 17, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family** Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. WO25C0338CA

CITATION ON PETITION TO **CHANGE NAME** In the matter of:

Meghan Mary Whalen A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by

Meghan Mary Whalen of Charlton MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Meaghan Mary Whalen IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 08/05/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First

Justice of this Court. Date: July 02, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate

July 17, 2025

Sturbridge Planning Board **Public Hearing Application for Special Permit Dollar Tree**

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 28, 2025 at 6:35 PM in the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Viewpoint Sign & Awning (representing Dollar Tree) for the property located at 178 Main Street.

The applicant requests a Special Permit as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XVII §300-17.5E regarding the erection and maintenance of signs in excess of what is specifically allowed in the Bylaw. In accordance with the plans and application submitted, the applicant is proposing an 89.57 square foot wall mounted sign, where 30 square feet is allowed under the sign bylaw.

A copy of the site plan and application can be inspected on the Sturbridge Town Website at https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/pages/ recent-filings or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508) 347-2508 or by email at jlacy@sturbridge.gov.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means.

https://global.gotomeeting.com/ join/472675877

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Charles Blanchard Chairperson July 10, 2025 July 17, 2025

Town of Southbridge Town Manager's Office

41 Elm Street Southbridge, MA 01550

The Town of Southbridge will receive sealed Bids for the purchase, delivery, installation and training in the use of

One (1) McCloskey 512A 5' x 12' **Trommel Screening Plant** and Related Equipment or Approved Equal

At Southbridge Town Hall until Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the Town Manager's Office, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Faxed bids will not be accepted.

Bids should be addressed to: Town Manager's Office

ATTN: John D. Jovan Jr., Town Manager

41 Elm Street

Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550 And shall have the title "TROMMEL **SCREENING PLANT AND RELATED** EQUIPMENT" indicated in the LOWER LEFT CORNER of the BID ENVELOPE. All bids must be in conformity with all

pertinent statues and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Specifications may be obtained at the Town Manager's Office. Please call (508) 764-5405, for a copy.

The Town of Southbridge reserves the right to accept any or any part of, or reject any or all bids received, as deemed by them to be in the best interest of the owner, and their decision shall be final.

BY: John D. Jovan Jr. Town Manager 41 Elm Street (508) 764-5405 DATE: 07/18/2025 July 17, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO25P2254EA **INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE** Estate Of:

Kevin P. Tremblay Date of Death: March 30, 2025 To all persons interested in the above

captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Adam P. Tremblay of Southbridge

a Will has been admitted to informal

probate. Adam P. Tremblay of Southbridge MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without Surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

July 17, 2025

Sturbridge Planning Board **Public Hearing Application for Site Plan Review & Special Permit** Old Road Realty, LLC

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 28, 2025 at 6:40 PM in the Center Office Building 2nd Floor, located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Haley Ward, Inc. (Representing Old Road Realty, LLC) for the property located at 660 Main Street.

The applicant requests Site Plan Approval as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XIX, Site Plan Review to construct a 40,150 square foot manufacturing building ancillary office space with associated site improvements as shown in the plans and application submitted.

The applicant also requests a Special Permit as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article V §300-5.6 C (6) Groundwater Protection District, which is required for any use that will render impervious more than 15% or 2,500 square feet of any lot, whichever is greater. This proposed use will result in an increase in lot coverage of approximately 54,150 square feet.

A copy of the site plan and application can be inspected on the Sturbridge Website at https://www. sturbridge.gov/planning-board/pages/ recent-filings or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508) 347-2508 or by email at jlacy@sturbridge.gov.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means.

https://global.gotomeeting.com/ join/472675877

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Charles Blanchard Chairperson July 10, 2025 July 17, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Worcester Probate & Family Court

WO25E0081

Petition to Partition Citation (A.C.92A)

The Estate of Tammy Mitchell (Mark Mitchell Personal Representative) and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Richard W. Stearns of Fiskdale in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part of share of certain land lying in Charlton in said County Worcester and briefly as fol-

The land in Charlton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, consisting of two (2) parcels of land, bounded and described as follows:

Tract I: BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof on the easterly side of the State Highway leading from Southbridge to Charlton City and at point of intersection of the easterly line of said State Highway with the line of Snake Hill Road, so-called;

THENCE northerly by the easterly line of said State Highway, 421 feet to an

THENCE turning at a right angle and running easterly by land now or formerly of S. Warren Clark, 190 feet and 6 inches to a pine tree;

THENCE continuing easterly by said Clark land in the same court, 109 feet and 6 inches to the westerly line of a brook:

THENCE southerly by the westerly line of said brook to the northerly line of Snake Hill Road;

THENCE westerly by the northerly line of Snake Hill Road 136 feet, more or less, to the easterly side of said State Highway at the point of beginning.

Containing about 2 I/4 acres, more or less.

Tract II: the land and buildings thereon situated on the easterly side of the State Highway leading from Charlton City to Southbridge bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof on the westerly side of said Highway and at the northwesterly corner of land conveyed by deed of S. Warren Clark to Edward F. Stearns et ux dated April 25, 1938 and recorded with Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 2789, Page 159;

THENCE northerly by the easterly side of said Highway, 368 feet, 6 inches, more or less, to an iron post in the ground:

THENCE S. 44 1/4° E., by other land now or formerly of said Clark, 312 feet, more or less, to a stone wall;

THENCE in a general easterly direction by a stone wall and other land now or formerly of said Clark, 25 feet, more or less, to the westerly line of Cady Brook;

THENCE southerly by the westerly line of said Brook to an iron post in the ground at the northeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Edward F. Stearns;

THENCE in a general westerly direction by the northerly line of said Stearns land, 109 feet, 6 inches, to a pine tree; THENCE continuing westerly by said northerly line of said Stearns land, 190 feet, 6 inches, more or less, to the easterly side of said Highway at the point of beginning.

BEING the same premises conveyed to the late Edward Francis Stearns, Jr. and the land Irene Stearns by deed of Donald R. Stearns, Sr. et ali dated May 15, 1975 and recorded with said Deeds in Book 5743, Page 315.

setting forth that he/she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale not less than Five Hundred Forty Thousand (\$540,000.00) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 29th day of July, the return date of this citation.

Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esq., First Judge of Said Court, this 27th day of June.

Stephanie K. Faltman Register of Probate July 10, 2025 July 17,2025 July 24,2025

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Bay Path LPN Ruth 'DeeDee' Betz: A legacy of compassion and service

WORCESTER — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is proud to announce that its annual Community Service Award has been fittingly named in honor of Ruth "DeeDee" Betz, LPN, a distinguished alumna from the PN Class of 2015 and a past dedicated staff member and PN Secretary. The program, represented by Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, along with DeeDee's family and friends celebrated DeeDee's impactful life and contributions at a special "Celebration of Life Party" Saturday, July 12, from 4-8 p.m. at the Tatnuck Post, located at 570 Mill St., Worcester.

The Ruth "DeeDee" Betz Community Service Award, established by the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, recognizes individuals who demonstrate significant contributions to the community through their time, actions, talents, and unwavering dedication to volunteerism. Ruth "DeeDee" Betz, LPN, embodies these ideals, serving as a powerful role model for compassion, service, and a commitment to making the world a better place.

As a staff member, DeeDee provided invaluable assistance to both students and alumni. Her appointment as UNICEF Club Advisor further solidified her deep commitment to practical nursing education and her passion for influencing future nurses and advocating for children's well-being. "We are proud of her Bolandrina.

ism quickly garnered national recognition, including the prestigious 2019 Community Impact Award from Manager Edward M. Augustus, Jr. the American Red Cross. Her exceptional dedication



and value her time, practice, and experience," said Dr. she volunteered at Worcester shelters and the DCU Center field hospital, providing crucial care to those DeeDee's journey of selfless service began not in need. This invaluable work earned her recognition long after her 2015 graduation. Her tireless volunteer- from the City of Worcester, with a heartfelt letter of gratitude signed by Mayor Joseph M. Petty and City

"It's just a huge honor to represent LPNs in the shone brightly during the COVID-19 pandemic when area and give back to those in our community who

are in need," Betz remarked. "I am very happy to be an LPN and enjoy what I do. I have to share the recognition with the Bay Path Community."

Inspired by her nursing school experiences, particularly service learning opportunities at Harrington Hospital and the encouragement of her then-Instructor Dr. Bolandrina, Betz has continued her extensive volunteer work, including joining the Medical Reserve Corps and mentoring practical nursing stu-

DeeDee's Celebration of Life Party welcomed adults and children alike. Attendees were encouraged to dress in bright, cheery colors for an evening filled with music, dancing, and plenty of food. There was an activity table for younger guests and a Bunco game for those wishing to join in the fun dice game.

DeeDee's philosophy is simple and powerful: "We give back because we can. We don't do this for the awards, although it's nice to be appreciated. We do it because we are nurses, we care, that's what we do!"

Her legacy of compassion and community engagement continues to inspire the entire Bay Path Practical Nursing community.

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry

St. Mary's Church 4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506 Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM: Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

CHARLTON

Chip - In Food Pantry McKinstry Building 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday 9-11 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

LEICESTER

Leicester Food Pantry St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish 759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524 Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD

St. Joseph's Food Pantry Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469. St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County

OXFORD

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf Oxford Community Center 4 Maple Road Oxford, MA 01540 Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ROCHDALE The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry

Greenville Baptist Church 674 Pleasant St. Rochdale, MA Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 -2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry, Located in the St. Anne Church basement, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518 Stocked by donations Contact: 508-347-6398

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD -RESIDENTS ONLY

Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry 60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562 Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

STURBRIDGE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry, Located in the St. Anne Church basement, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518 Stocked by donations Contact: 508-347-6398

WEBSTER

Webster-Dudley Food Share 4 Church St #2 Webster, MA 0570 Distribution: Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 -11:00 am. Open to Webster and Dudley residents. Please call ahead: 508-943-9171

WEST BROOKFIELD

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry First Congregational Church 36 North Main Street, W.Bookfield, MA 01585 Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



Roger Williams University announces Spring Dean's List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that se-

Christopher Davey of Charlton Will Reece of Charlton Sawyer Smith of Charlton Mason DeSimone of Sturbridge Lizzy Thompson of Sturbridge

About RWU

Roger Williams University is a comprehensive university with a liberal arts core and professional programs, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the state capital of Providence, Rhode Island. Across eight schools of study, we provide real-world learning focused on social and environmental justice, small classes, and direct access to faculty and staff. Our students create powerful combinations of degrees,

credentials, research and internship opportunities, study-abroad programs, and involvement in clubs, student organizations, and athletics. Our Northeast location facilitates a strategic network between New York and Boston for community-engaged research and career opportunities for our students and alumni. Graduating with a unique skill set and the passion to make an impact in their careers, our students become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

Roger Williams University announces 2025 graduates

degrees in May as part of the Class of 2025.

Nicholas Allegrezza of Uxbridge Cam Hackett of Charlton Drew Lemansky, of Sturbridge

About RWU

Roger Williams University is a comprehensive university with a liberal arts core and professional programs, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the state capital of Providence, Rhode Island. Across eight schools of study, we provide real-world learning focused on social and environ-

BRISTOL, R.I. — The following students received their mental justice, small classes, and direct access to faculty and staff. Our students create powerful combinations of degrees, credentials, research and internship opportunities, study-abroad programs, and involvement in clubs, student organizations, and athletics. Our Northeast location facilitates a strategic network between New York and Boston for community-engaged research and career opportunities for our students and alumni. Graduating with a unique skill set and the passion to make an impact in their careers, our students become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.



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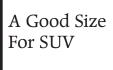
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Hint

continued from page 6

This Cooling Sunburn Mist is quick and easy to whip up. Mix together two ounces distilled water; nine drops of lavender essential oil: two drops of peppermint essential oil; and one drop of spearmint essential oil. The lavender has antibacterial properties and the mint oils cool off skin fast.

This recipe relieves the pain and tightness of a sunburn almost instantly:

Sunburn Bath: In a blender, puree one cucumber and pour into a bowl. Add four cups oatmeal, ten black tea bags two tablespoons rosemary leaves and mix well. Pour mixture into bath under running water. Take a long, relieving soak.

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 whenever enough submissions are ceived) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge, Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although

I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful

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. email KDRR@aol. com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

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WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LIVING AT IT'S FINEST! THIS 4000+/- SF ** THE VIL-WEBSTER LARE WATERFROND LIVING AT IT'S FINES!! THIS 40004/- 575 "IT BYLL'S AT SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT** IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE of ONLY 6 UNITS > Custom Built w/Special Features & Upgrades. Offers 4 BRs - 3 are Primary BR Suites w/private baths, 4-1/2 Baths Total!! The Outstanding direct lakefront location provides exceptional Southern panoramic views across Middle Pond, a boat dock, & full recreation of the provided of the tion activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding - - whatever Floats Your Boat ;-)! Perfect setup for entertaining family, friends & guests! Enjoy All 4 Spectacular Seasons! It's more than a home - it's a Life Style!



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Webster Lake -Waterfront 8 Long Island



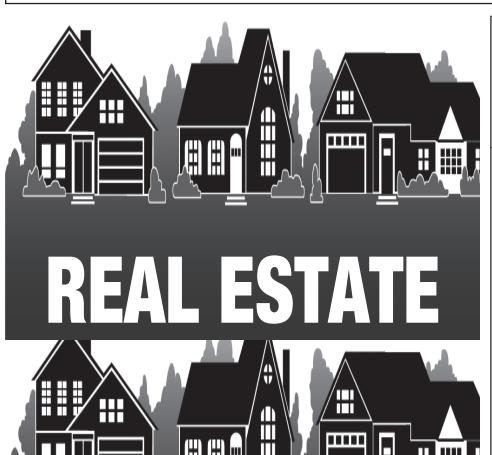
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tine, Sandy Shoreline! Boasting 6 Large rooms, 2 Baths, 3 Bedrooms, Garage. All on a Private road \$1,000,000

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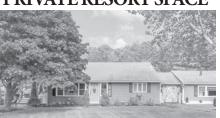
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KEVIN KVEIN **Check out our New Summer Menu**

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations,



In the continuing mission of the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, the monthly kids' workshop will be held on Saturday, Aug. 9 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Center, 111 Main St., Southbridge. Kids of all ages will create their own design as they tie dye a shirt to bring home. All materials will be provided as instructor Liz Carroll will teach this craft. The workshop is free for paid family members. Registration is required in order to plan materials. Membership and registration may be found on the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com. For more information, call 508-764-3341. The Center started n 1976 and continues to serve the community by offering classes, workshops, exhibits and events.

Summer Clearance Sale!

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We are in the process of selling out some of our current stock to make room for new Fall models. Because of this, we are offering savings throughout the store!

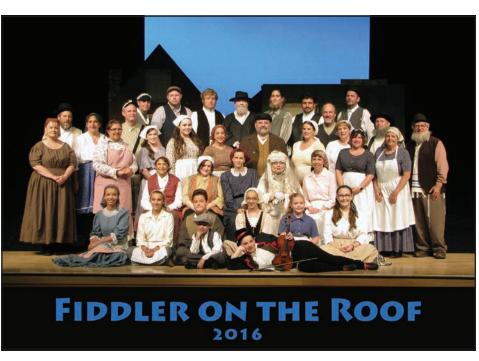
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Tickets available for **Gateway Players'** "Fiddler on the Roof"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Tickets are now available for the August production of "Fiddler on the Roof" by Gateway Players Theatre, the third show of our 50th anniversary season. Performance dates are Aug. 1 & 2 at 7 p.m., and Aug. 3 at 2 p.m. at the Southbridge High School/Middle School auditorium, 132 Torrey Rd., Southbridge.

Directed by Patricia Haddock, produced by Kathi Grenier, with musical director Connie Galli, this show is presented by permission through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 5 08-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available a t https://www.ticketleap.events/.../gat.../fiddler-on-the-

bridge Cultural Council, a local agency

This program is supported by a grant from the Southwhich is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

G ateway Players Theatre started in 1975 and has been a vital member of the community, providing quality entertainment and offering adults and youth the opportunity to grow and learn. This 50th season consists of loved shows throughout its history, This production will be the second version of this beloved musical. The photo below shows the cast of the 2016 version. (Photo credited to David Cor-

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect h is daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in h istorical and ethnic detail, Fiddler on the Roof's universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

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