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Friday, December 1, 2023

# Local police collect donations for those in need

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Many area police departments are giving back this holiday season by collecting donations for those in need.

On behalf of the town of Blackstone, the Blackstone Police Department released that it is accepting donations for a family in town whose house was “involved in a devastating fire” on Nov. 21.

“This unexpected disaster has left them in a state of distress and uncertainty,” the Blackstone Police Department shared. “As a close-knit community, we can come together to support them during this challenging time.”

Donations and gift cards to Target or Walmart for the family can be dropped off at the police station lobby at any time. The family involved consists of two parents, two girls, ages six and seven, one three-year-old boy, one baby girl, according to police.

“We thank everyone in advance for their help and kindness during this difficult time for the family,” police said.

Meanwhile, the Sutton Police Department said that it has collected donated Christmas items for different folks in town over the last several years; this year will be no different, police said, adding that the “Donations for Den” campaign will collect donations for the Massachusetts National Guard.

“Den is our newest officer who is also a Sergeant,



Courtesy

A recent Fill-A-Cruiser event was held by the Millbury Police Department.

First Class, with the Massachusetts National Guard,” the Sutton Police Department released on social media. “Den and his soldiers were deployed in October to Texas for the foreseeable future as they help with some issues in that area. We’ll be setting up a box in our lobby to collect donations for these soldiers who will be away from their families over the holidays and make sure they receive them.”

Community members can donate candy, baby wipes, gum, snacks, lip balm, cheese crackers, toiletries, foot powder, beef jerky, sun screen, board games, cards, stationery, pens, or “pretty much anything that doesn’t need to be refrigerated,” police said.

“Let’s show these soldiers that we have not forgotten about them and are here to support their efforts,” Sutton Police said.

In Millbury, the police department hosted its Fill-A-Cruiser event on Nov. 25, during which unwrapped gifts were collected on the Common.

“We can’t thank everyone enough for stopping by and dropping off toys, gift cards, and money,” the Millbury Police Department released in a statement after the event. “Our hearts are full right now.”

Police said Dorenzo Towing stopped by with a flatbed full of new bikes; additionally, the department thanked 11-year-old Lydia Orsi, who personally raised 135 toys.

“From all of us at Millbury PD, including Mikah and Dusty, Merry Christmas and happy holidays,” police added.

The gifts will be distributed to Millbury families in need, according to event details.

Meanwhile in Millville, police said the NAM Knights, Band of Brothers Central Massachusetts Chapter, donated \$500 to help with the Millville Police Department’s toy drive. Area President Joe Fitzpatrick presented the donation to Millville Police Chief Bill Coupe.

“Every year as far as memory goes back, the Millville

Turn To **DONATIONS** page **A15**

## Sand offered to keep seniors safe

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

REGION — To help keep seniors safe this winter, several area fire departments have announced they will provide sand for seniors.

According to the Uxbridge Senior Center, seniors in the community can contact the Senior Center if they are in need of a bucket of sand for the winter.

“The Uxbridge Fire Department is, again, going to provide sand for seniors as part of their ‘Slip Safety for Seniors’ division of Senior SAFE,” the Senior Center released.

The Upton Department is offering a similar opportunity for seniors in town.

“[With] funding provided through the Senior SAFE grant, the Upton Fire Dept. has developed a ‘sand for seniors’ initiative,” Upton Fire & EMS released in a statement. “This initiative allowed the Upton Fire Dept. to purchase buckets with easy-off lids and scoops for the seniors in the town that own their own home to help in preventing slips and falls due to ice and snow on walkways and outside steps.”

Upton Fire & EMS shared that this is the department’s third year offering this program; to date, the department has more than 40 buckets deployed to the “wonderful seniors in town.”

“The department will provide a full bucket with sand/salt or ice melt for no charge for the winter sea-

Turn To **SAND** page **A10**

## Residents, dog safe after fire

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

BLACKSTONE — Fire officials say the residents of a Rayner St. dwelling are safe after a stove fire last week.

“The residents of the home were able to make

it out of the home safely,” the Blackstone Fire Department released in a statement. “One of the Blackstone crews was able to get a dog out of the home quickly.”

Fire officials released that at 7 p.m. the evening

Turn To **FIRE** page **A10**

# Three-peat Spartans down Monomoy for third consecutive Division 4 State Championship

WORCESTER — Saturday, Nov. 18 was the big day for the top seeded Uxbridge varsity field hockey team, as they played No. 3 Monomoy for the Division 4 State Championship at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

The Spartans and Sharks faced off last year in the State Semi-Finals, and it took double overtime for Uxbridge to come away with that win. This year the Spartans are looking for a State Championship Three-Peat after another phenomenal season, with only one loss in their first 23 games played.

Uxbridge head coach Kelly Rosborough said before the game, “Whether it is your first, second or even third trip to the state finals, the pressure feels the same.”

Rosborough was looking forward to a great game with her players giving it their best out there. Rosborough concluded saying, “I want to see smiles at the end of the game.”

It didn’t take long for the Spartans to strike

first, as four minutes into the first quarter Julianna Casucci maneuvered the ball in front of the Monomoy net for the first goal. The Sharks tried to counter, but a strong Uxbridge defense held them scoreless. The first quarter came to a close with the Spartans leading, 1-0.

The second quarter saw more back-and-forth action with both teams battling hard. Casucci kept fighting as the clock ticked down, and with seven seconds left in the quarter she put Uxbridge ahead, 2-0.

Another quarter brought another goal for Uxbridge as, in the third, Casucci took the ball down the right-hand side, centered it in front of the Monomoy goal where an awaiting Ava Rosborough guided her shot into the back of the cage, extending Uxbridge’s lead to 3-0.

The Spartans sealed the deal with a fourth and final goal when Tessa Johnston worked the ball through the middle of the field to Ava Rosborough, who then put another shot past the Monomoy goalie.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones

The Uxbridge varsity field hockey team is all smiles after capturing their third straight Division 4 State Championship. This year they defeated Monomoy, 4-0, at Worcester Polytechnic University on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Smiles were without a doubt prominent on the Uxbridge players, coaches and spectators as they celebrated their Division 4 State Championship for a third straight season.

Uxbridge finished its season 23-1, only losing to Division 1 State Finalist Andover, 2-0. The Spartans defeated Walpole, the Division 1 State Champion, 1-0. Uxbridge, which claimed the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association’s Class A Tournament Championship before States, outscored their playoff opponents, 35-0.

Uxbridge also became the third school, after

Turn To **CHAMPS** page **A15**

## Holiday season brings early deadlines

The holiday season is upon us, bringing with it an accelerated press schedule for your local weekly newspaper.

The deadline for next week’s edition (out Dec. 8), Monday afternoon at 4 p.m., will mark the conclusion of business as usual for the remainder of the year.

The submission deadline for any press releases and letters to

the Editor intended for publication in the Dec. 15 edition of the Blackstone Valley Tribune will be Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.

For the following week (Dec. 22), the submission deadline will be Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.

For publication on Dec. 29, submissions must be received no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19.

The deadline for our first edition

of 2024, Jan. 5, will be Friday, Dec. 22 at 4 p.m.

As always, submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news).

The Blackstone Valley Tribune thanks our readers for their cooperation with our accelerated schedule, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.



# BVT student earns national recognition from College Board

UPTON — A Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School student earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs, which celebrate under-represented students who excel academically. Vanessa Lizotte, a senior in Information Technology, has been granted the National

*Courtesy*  
Pictured, from left to right, are Principal Anthony Steele II, Senior Vanessa Lizotte, and Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. Vanessa Lizotte, a senior in Information Technology at BVT, earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Program.



9th and 10th grade.  
• Attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, or Indigenous/Native.

Eligible students are invited to apply on BigFuture during their sophomore or junior year and are awarded at the start of the next school year in time to share their achievements in high school as they plan for the future. At the same time, colleges and organizations using College Board's

African American Recognition Award. This academic honor can be included in college and scholarship applications and is designed to help students stand out during admissions. Many colleges intentionally recruit awardees through College Board's Student Search Service™. "We're happy to recognize Vanessa and acknowledge her academic excellence and hard work. We are incredibly proud of her strong academic performance in the classroom and on the College Board assessments, including PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and AP® exams," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "This recognition reinforces the great work she has done and will continue to do as she advances her career."

Student Search Service can connect directly with awardees during the recruitment process.

"It's becoming increasingly hard for students to be 'seen' during the college recruitment process. We're exceptionally proud of the National Recognition Programs for celebrating students who are at times overlooked but have shown their outstanding academic abilities," said Tarlin Ray, Senior Vice President of BigFuture at College Board. "This is a benefit not only for students but also for colleges and universities committed to recruiting diverse and talented students."

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT)

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

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**Taizé Service- Saturday, December 9th at 6:30 pm**  
Meditative services of readings and reflection, songs, silence & candlelight.

**Sunday, December 17th at 10:15 am**  
Sunday School Christmas Pageant Worship service  
with Organ, Piano, Cantor and the *Village Bell Ringers*  
Bell Choir performing.

**Christmas Eve ~Sunday, December 24th**  
10:15am - Worship Service  
10 pm- Our traditional "Candlelight Service" with Organ, Piano,  
*Village Bell Ringers and Chancel Choir* performing.

*Come as you are, all are welcome!*



*Courtesy*  
Pictured are Michael Shain, founder and president of Thanks to Yanks; John Milot, Commander, American Legion Post 75, Franklin; Caroline Molla and Christine Molla, both of Costello Real Estate Franklin. Yearly, around Veterans Day, Costello Real Estate takes up a collection in support of Thanks to Yanks initiative of hope for heroes which is an annual event in which needed item for veterans are collected. Costello real estate has always been generous in not only the collection of items but also in the donation of funds to thanks to Yanks to further its mission, of serving those who have served. For more information regarding Thanks to Yanks, please like them on Facebook.

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FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR #NED4655EW <b>\$1099.99</b> WAS \$1,599.99	AMANA WASHER OR DRYER #NED4655EW <b>\$469.99</b> WAS \$599.99	MAYTAG DRYER #VEDC46HW <b>\$549.99</b> WAS \$699.99	WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER <b>\$1599.99</b> WAS \$2,699
10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$439.99</b> WAS \$599.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$899.99</b> WAS \$1099.99	LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE <b>\$699.99</b> WAS \$999.99	G.E. OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE <b>\$199.99</b> WAS \$279.99

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## Friday Acoustics

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# Working together for Uxbridge seniors



UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Senior Center wishes to thank all the volunteers, contributors and donors who helped make the 2023 Thanksgiving Meal Distribution Project a success. The Senior Center packaged and delivered more than 260 turkey dinners to seniors throughout the Town of Uxbridge on Monday, November

20th. This year, the senior center collaborated with the Mendon Street Kitchen in Uxbridge to cook the luncheon. The Town is truly blessed to have so many people who care for each other. It is with many hands that we accomplish so much. What a wonderful way for the community to come together for a great cause.

We especially want to thank our major contributors/donors that helped make this project financially feasible- Fallon Health, Hannaford's, Savers Bank, Table Talk Pies, the Mendon Street Kitchen, the Uxbridge Elderly Connection and Unibank.

The Senior Center also wants to acknowledge all our volunteers, too many to name. (Some are pictured here) Thank you to Sophia Smith, a Sophomore from Northbridge High School, who contributed her time and talents to make special greeting cards for some of our seniors. We especially want to thank Josh from Nature's Medicine in Uxbridge, who donated a large majority of the cranberry sauce and gravy to the Center. Thank you all for allowing the Senior Center to be a part of this endeavor. Our seniors thank you!

The Uxbridge Senior Center is located at 36 South Main St. For a current newsletter and to get more information on our programs and services, please contact Lisa Bernard, Director at the Center by calling 508-278-8622.



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## Milford Regional's Tree of Life fundraiser taking place Dec. 4

MILFORD — Milford Regional Medical Center will once again hold its Tree of Life fundraiser on Monday, Dec. 4 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the hospital.

This special evening celebrates the life and care of those patients and families affected by cancer. Proceeds benefit the Oliva Fund, which provides resources to support patients and their families being treated at Milford Regional and the Dana-Farber/Brigham Cancer Center at Milford Regional.

The event is sponsored by the Milford Regional Healthcare Foundation, which raises funds throughout the year to support the hospital's most urgent and immediate patient care needs.

The December 4 event kicks off with refreshments and entertainment in the Atrium Café, located on the main floor of the hospital, followed by a brief outdoor speaking program and tree lighting ceremony.

Those who wish to donate to the Tree of

Life may purchase an angel to be hung on the Christmas tree to honor or in memory of someone affected by cancer. Gift levels include \$200 for a gold angel, \$100 for a silver angel, \$50 for a luminary or \$25 for a light. Contributions may be made online at [foundation.milfordregional.org/treeoflife](https://foundation.milfordregional.org/treeoflife) and must be received by November 30 to be included in the program.

"Milford Regional's Tree of Life remains such a poignant ceremony for so many in our community who have been affected by cancer," said Milford Regional Vice President of Philanthropy and Executive Director of the Milford Regional Healthcare Foundation Emily Quinn. "The event is also a time to reflect and be grateful for the advances the medical community continues to make in treating this disease that affects millions of people."

For more information on the Tree of Life or to make a contribution, view [foundation.milfordregional.org/treeoflife](https://foundation.milfordregional.org/treeoflife) or call 508-422-2228.

## Plummer Place Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

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Win an iPad 64GN, 9th Generation! Buy your \$10 ticket at the Plummer Place front desk or through a FINE board member during November and December to enter the contest. The winner will be drawn on December 29th.

Tech Café: Technology help is now at Plummer Place on the last Wednesday of the month from 9:00-10:00am. Susan Letscher, one of our vol-

unteers, will help you as best she can to answer your questions and fix your technology problems. Please bring your device to the session. Our Tech Café will be held in the main dining room in a "drop in format", no need to sign up.

We are looking for anyone interested in joining a new Meditation Class at Plummer Place. It will be held on Thursdays at 9:30am. We would like to

begin as soon as possible, call Michelle to get more information and to sign up.

"Take a Hike Plummer Place Walking Club" will meet Tuesday, December 5th, at 10:00am. Call Jeanne for the location. Weather permitting.

Writing Your Way will meet Tuesday, December 12th at 2:30pm. Join instructor Lori Gannon in our new creative

writing class. Call Michelle to learn more.

We need volunteer out of town medical drivers. This is a very important service we provide at Plummer Place for seniors who cannot drive to their medical appointments. If you can spare some time, even if it is one day a week, it would be much appreciated. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage. Call Michelle or Amy if you would like more information or

to volunteer.

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**Hi! Our names are Asa and Lilianna and we like karate!**

Lilianna and Asa are amazing sibling group hoping to be adopted together. Lilianna (Lilly), the older sister is very outgoing. She is described as active, fearless, and strong-willed. Lilly also has a side she describes as "classy", such as enjoying getting her nails done and putting on makeup. She attends in karate class and really enjoys it. Lilly also loves art, enjoys watching cartoons, and helping her foster mother in the kitchen. In school, she performs at grade level and would benefit from support and consistent structure to stay task. Lilianna is severely allergic to cats and dogs and families with cats will not be considered but her social worker would consider a family with a hypoallergenic dog.

Asa, the younger brother, unlike his big sis has an introverted personality. He also likes to attend karate class. Asa likes indoor activities like mind-stimulating games that include problem solving, drawing, and playing with cars. He also loves outdoor activities such as going to the park. In school, Asa performs above average compared to his peers.

Lilly and Asa will bring joy to a home that can provide them with structure, consistency, and freedom to express their emotions. They will do well in a loving two parent family of any constellation, where they can be the only or youngest children in the home. Asa is biracial, being of African America and Caucasian descent and interested families must be dedicated to providing appropriate information and ethnic and cultural role models regarding his culture which includes discussing racism and discrimination.


<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/children/6956-6957>

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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](https://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.





# Douglas Girl Scout Troop welcomes new members

DOUGLAS — Girls in grades 4 & 5 are invited to join Girl Scout Troop 65050. The troop meets every other Tuesday, at 5:30 p.m. in Douglas. Register now to claim her spot as troops fill fast. Annual membership cost is \$35 and financial assistance is available. See for yourself what Girl Scouts have to offer. Girl Scouts is the premier organization for girls to learn about leadership, financial literacy, life skills, science and technology, the outdoors, and community service. Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary. You can register for a spot in the troop at <https://bit.ly/troop65050> Questions? Email [info@gscwm.org](mailto:info@gscwm.org) or call 508-365-0115.

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves more than 5,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. Girl Scouts' mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Since 1912, girls have explored new fields of knowledge, learned valuable skills, and developed strong core values through Girl Scouts. Today, Girl Scouts is, as it always has been, the organization best positioned to help girls develop important leadership skills they need to become successful adults.

## First Congregational Church hosting Christmas floral arrangement class

MILLBURY — A Christmas floral arrangement class will take place at the Millbury First Congregational Church, 148 West Main St. Sandy Michalak of Herbert E. Berg Florists will teach participants how to complete their own Christmas floral arrangement on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Beginners are welcome, and advance registration is required. Payment of \$25 is due by Saturday, Dec. 9 to Janice Fortin (508-826-6381).


# REAL ESTATE

**BLACKSTONE**  
\$650,000, 142 Lincoln St, Jolicoeur, Gary, to Laforest, Christine A, and Laforest, Daniel J.  
\$410,000, 2-4 Howard St, Hennigan, Mark F, to Silva, Thiago.  
\$400,000, 15 Carter Ave, Tancrelle, Deborah L, and Vilnit, Patricia L, to Thornquist, Nicholas R.  
\$240,000, 22-24 Church St, Pisani, Sheila M, to Carpentier, James.

**DOUGLAS**  
\$675,000, 23 Hilltop Dr, Champagne, Keith L, and Champagne, Carolyn T, to Heckler, Gretchen, and Cardarelli, Jonathon.  
\$610,000, 31 Webster St, Lukianuk, Richard, and Lukianuk, Lee A, to Ghoummid, Said, and Hsissou, Fatima.  
\$490,000, 191 Walnut St, Fernandes, Danielle, to Bryant, Andrew, and Bryant, Amanda.  
\$464,900, 2 Nautical Way #2, Arpin, Gary P, and Arpin, Noreen F, to Patel, Mayurkumar.

**NORTHBRIDGE**  
\$625,000, 245 Sand Trap Ct #245, Davidson, Timothy, and Davidson, Bonnie, to Maloney, James, and Maloney, Colleen.  
\$525,000, 129 Rumonoski Dr, Kosciak, Neil J, and Kosciak, Jaime A, to Farrell, Dyan, and Geoghegan, Maura.  
\$290,000, 614-616 Sutton St, Buma, Paul R, and Buma, Patricia A, to Filho, Paulo, and Sardinha, Fabiana.  
\$229,900, 12 High St #12, Snell Jr, Bruce H, and Snell, Laura, to Huang, Lei.  
\$175,000, 315 Main St, Whitinsville Redevt, and Jolles, Leonard, to Kee Properties LLC.

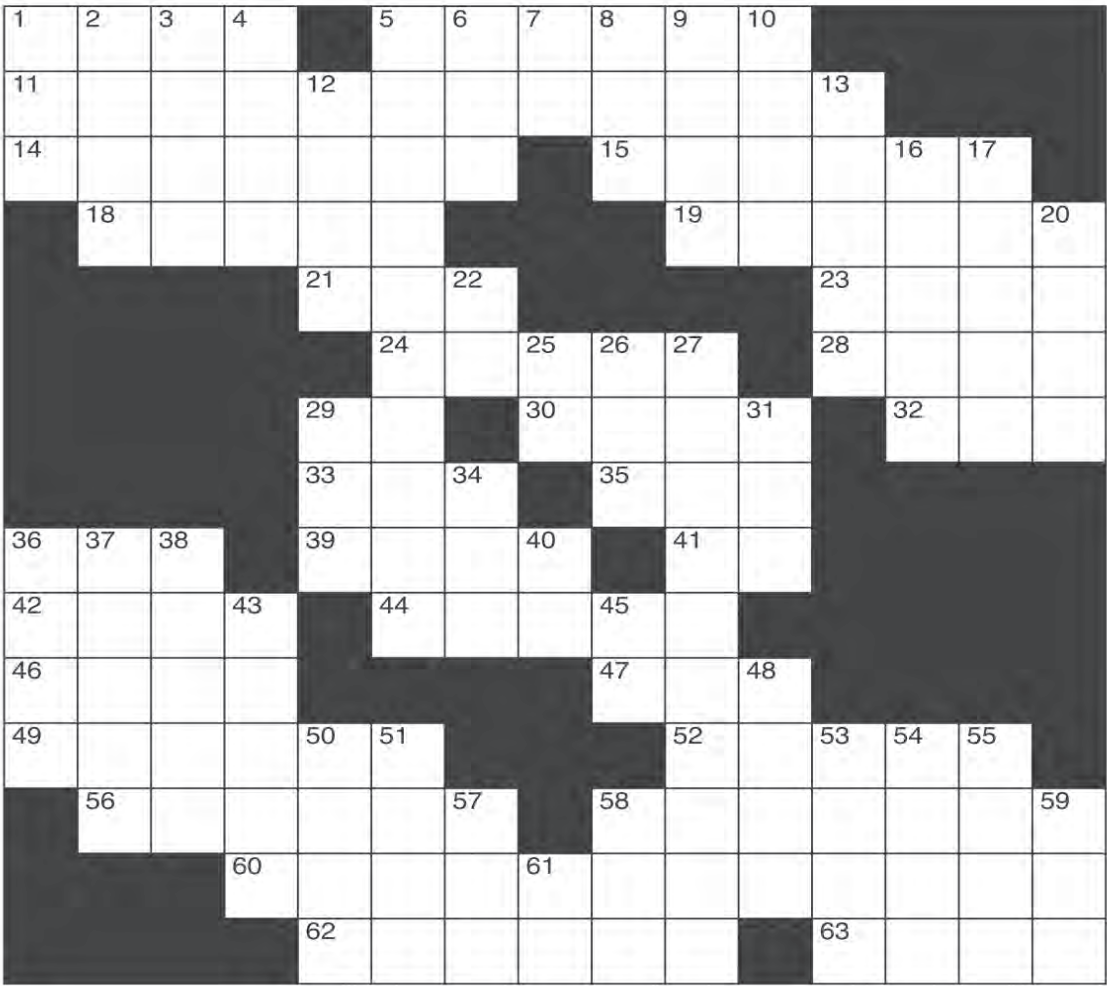
**UXBRIDGE**  
\$762,700, 23 Bayliss Way, Sutton Street LLC, to Berger, Matthew, and Berger, Kara.  
\$600,000, 35 Capron St, Donaldson Holdings T, and Donaldson, Kevin T, to Melgarejo, Manuel R, and Ramos, Samantha.  
\$590,000, 125 Eric Dr, Morton, Michael W, and Morton, Kelly L, to Ashton, Craig, and Ashton, Shayna.  
\$400,000, 15 Myers St, 15 Myers Street Nt, and Jezerski, Cindy L, to Flanagan, Kevin M, and Flanagan, Deborah J.



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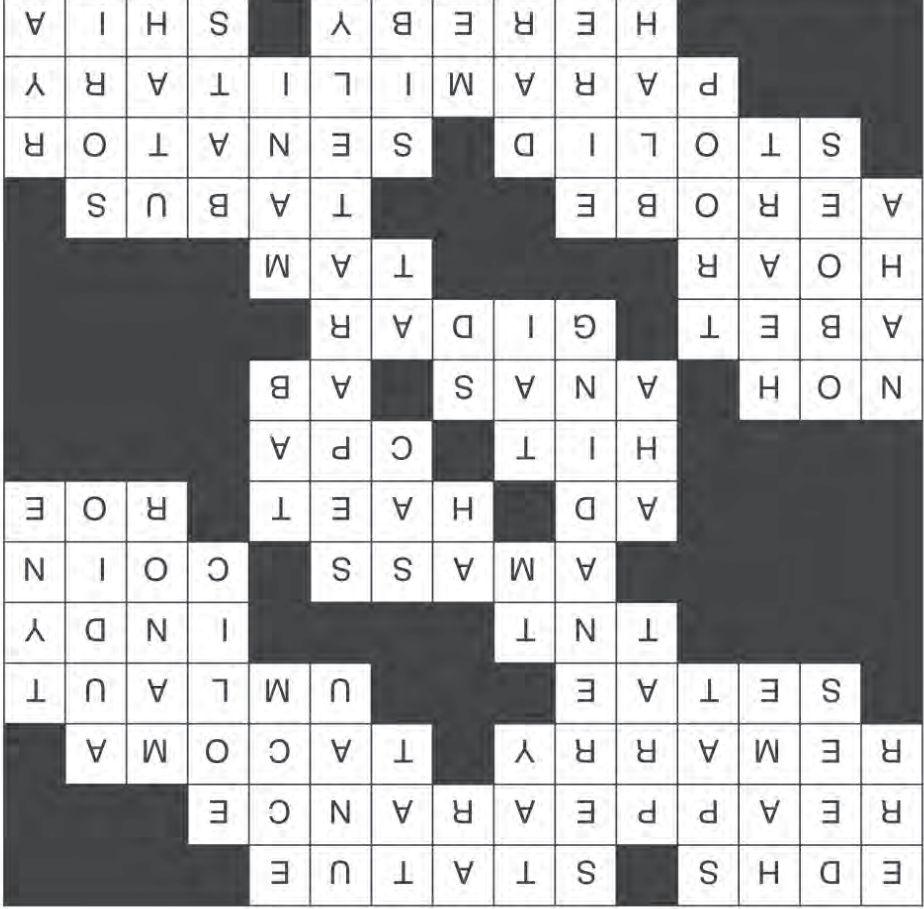
### CLUES ACROSS

1. Old English letters  
5. Sculpture  
11. Showing up again  
14. Tie the knot again  
15. Washington city  
18. Stiff structures in invertebrates  
19. Mark over a vowel  
21. Explosive  
23. Popular race: \_\_ 500  
24. Pile up  
28. Mint  
29. Commercial  
30. A minute amount (Scottish)  
32. Small Eurasian deer  
33. Baseball stat  
35. Numbers cruncher
36. Japanese masked drama  
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two  
41. Blood group  
42. Assist in wrongdoing  
44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad  
46. Grayish-white  
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin  
49. Microorganism  
52. Place under prohibition  
56. Calm, dependable  
58. Congressman  
60. Force  
62. As a result of this document  
63. One of two main branches of Islam

### CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake  
2. Gordon and Snider are two  
3. Geographical region of Finland  
4. Ejected saliva  
5. A way of performing  
6. Scotland's longest river  
7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)  
8. Body art  
9. Two-toed sloth  
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures  
12. Foolish person (Brit.)  
13. Of the wind  
16. Grand home  
17. Sound  
20. English river  
22. Symbol indicating ownership  
25. Exclamation of surprise  
26. Pouch
27. Apart from  
29. Satisfaction  
31. The bill in a restaurant  
34. Sea bream  
36. Port in southern Japan  
37. Double-reed instruments  
38. Center  
40. South Dakota  
43. An orderly crowd  
45. Indicates position  
48. \_\_-pedi  
50. Nonsense (slang)  
51. Republic of Ireland  
53. Nocturnal flyers  
54. American state  
55. Clusters in fern fronds  
57. Patriotic women  
58. A person's brother or sister  
59. Breed of sheep  
61. Popular film "Despicable \_\_"

PUZZLE SOLUTION









# Whitinsville Christian School honor roll

WHITINSVILLE — Whitinsville Christian School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade 6

High Honors: Chloe Barker, Evelyn Barnes, Lily Brochu, Ethan Cwiakala, Hadley DeFrancisco, Colin Dertien, Remi DesJardins, Gianna Dyke, Ruthie Philip, Ella Pitts, Stella Ryan, Lillian Schwenke, Alexis Thakkallapalli

Honors: Riley Ahearn, Madelyn Arrigan, Konstantinos Boras, Nathan Boria, James Bourguignon, Vienna Butzke, Antonina Cirincione, Brooks Corkran, Leonardo Dasilva, Luca Deliso, Charlotte Fogg, Atticus Freitas, Brayden Kurczy, Aletta Osterman, Hannah Reynolds, Kayo Silva, Valerie Taylor, Lucy Tinio, Jacob Tomasino, Brooklyn Zych, Micah Zylstra

Grade 7

High Honors: Elise Bastien, Molly Chambers, Thomas Cintolo, Ava Cormier, Kaleb DeWeerd, Sophie Finch, Audrina Lucas, Sienna Roach, Mason Thakkallapalli

Honors: Olivia Barnatt, Mackenzie Brower, Joao Victor Carvalho, Putnam Costello, Emily Coyne, Poliane Da Silva, Jack Foppema, Eliza Gaudiano, Kayden Harshaw, Mazzy Hollibaugh, Anya Hruzd, Dawson Martinka, Ethan McCabe, Elyse McGee, Mason Moesker, Caitlyn Neal, Hailey Paiva, Molly Piascik, Makayla Sedzro, Emma Simao, Effrosyni Tzimogianni, Arielle Zdanis

Grade 8

High Honors: Neriah Bagaya, Jacob Beatty, Judah Freitas, Isabelle Gava, Chloe Kelly, Raegen McAlister, Jacob Pitts, Ryleigh Shanahan, Michael Vos

Honors: Brayden Alix, Thomas Barry, Aislyn Butzke, Cadence Calarese, Annika Corkran, Casrae DesJardins, Alec Gazda-Tran, Tessa Grelewicz-Ferreira, Joshua Hilgenberg, Cameron Houde, Jack Johnson, Tadal Kachaje, Katelyn Keeler, Mia McGuire, Kailen Murzycki, Madeline Olkowski, Emma Smith, Yvette Solorzano, Celine Tran

Grade 9

High Honors: Isabella Aloise, Nathan Bagaya, Emily Bastien, Demetri Boormeester, Samantha Boria, Amelia Bowler, Aberlin Cwiakala, Charlotte DeFrancisco, Avery Dertien, Gabriel Deters, Audyn DeWeerd, Mya Duffy, Josephina Dyke, Enson Enoch, Ian Finch, Emily Flagg, Mollagh Flannery, Lucia Gaudiano, Jensen Gonneville, Jude Goodson, Miley Hazard, Aimee Jolicoeur, Hailey Kindl, Emma MacCarthy, Elliot McCabe, Eamon Moloney, Julia Monteiro, Neola Nigh, Sophia Robbins, Amelia Rufo, Brinley Rufo, Rachel Scott, Ruth Stenbuck, Elisavet Tzimogianni, Nathanael Vos, Emma Whitsitt

Honors: Amelia Besong, Owen Brown, Ethan Curry, Abby Flagg, Alexi Gilchrist, Eden Gluckin, Finch

Harvey, Indiana Hollibaugh, Carrie Keeler, Connor Kitchen, Joshua LaBonte, Jaejun Lee, Vaughn Mulroy, Connor Neal, Maksim Smith, Matthew Taylor, Caleb Tetreault, Xin Jiannan

Grade 10

High Honors: Madison Amati, Kacy Brochu, Emily Burkhart, Maxwell DeFrancisco, Micah Deters, Matthew Dudley, Noah Garrant, Brinley Gonneville, Jack Hutchinson, Faith Najem, Maria Ramos, Kyria Sedzro, Justin Smith, Matthew Wren, Mark Yarger

Honors: Addison Boone, Natasha Carreiro, Eli Focht, Elijah Fortna, Ethan Hand, Jillian Lawson, Ryan Martinka, Cam Morse, Pham Minh Hang Nguyen, Emily Oatis, Charles Ramsdell, Ludmilla Silveira, Genevieve Tatulli, Lilly Wierenga, Brian Wright

Grade 11

High Honors: Charlotte Bartlett, Jack Carlin, Rebeca Dasilva, Emelyn DeWeerd, George Foint, Julia Gibbons, Katherine Godin, Braden Gorman, Ashley Jeong, Isabella Kling, Julia Lawson, Gillian McGee, CJ Najem, Logan O'Connell, Hannah Ostroff, Jacob Piascik, Rosemary Poe, Scarlett Shaw, Alison Sim, Corbin Swaim, Emma Wierenga

Honors: Caden Anema, Amanda Cinelli, Joanna Graves, Hyun Joon Kim, Chuqui Liu, Joshua Monteiro, William Mulroy, Gabriella Neves, Hannah Rejmer, Quinn Rice, Joseph Tatulli, Claire Tubo, Hannah Walton

Grade 12

High Honors: Asher Bell, Nicolas Belucio, Ella Brochu, Grace Connors, Caleb Deters, James Dudley, Ethan Enoch, Maria Fletcher, Kaylin Fogg, Annika Fortna, Colin Gava, Avery Glidden, Sining Guo, Evan Hand, Ava Ibrahim, Margaret Johnson, William Johnson, Makenna Kitchen, Hannah Lashley, Jaquelyn McNamara, Liam Menard, Meadow O'Connell, Carlie Paharik, Hayden Plourde, Nathan Romine, Isabella Silveira, Declan Smith, Justin Vos, Grace Walton, Eme Wyndham, Erin Wyndham

Honors: Molly Burkhart, Wesley Burns, Zach Casey, Noelle Champigny, Kathleen Crowley, Megan Foellmer, Camdyn Forget, Matthew Godin, Kelly Keeler, Adrienne Marshall, Sean McGrath, Victoria McNamara, Delia Moloney, Elyssa Pastor, Chloe Richey, Alexandria Weedon, Abigail Wozniak

## The strength to overcome obstacles lies within you

We sometimes find ourselves standing at the feet of towering giants and facing impossible battles. The types of battles that make you question everything you thought you knew, making you feel as if you don't have what it takes and that you should give up and die.

What if I told you that this perception, this daunting outlook, is often a mere illusion?

There is a truth that many of us find hard to believe: that deep within you lies everything you need to triumph over your giants.

At an early age, Stephen Wiltshire received an autism diagnosis, a condition that faced significant stigma during his childhood. He was non-verbal until the age of five; few could have imagined his disability would eventually become one of his greatest strengths.

Stephen had a love for drawing; he was passionate about it. It was his way of connecting and communicating. Being autistic, I'm sure nobody thought Stephen had any chance in art.

Soon enough, Stephen had the attention of a teacher who noticed his remarkable talent. His drawings, characterized by their stunning detail and complexity, were entered into competitions and started winning awards.

As fate would have it, Stephen discovered that he had an eidetic memory that allowed him to draw complex landscapes and cityscapes even after just a glance.

Against all odds, Stephen's perceived disadvantage also came with an advantage that gave him everything he needed to become a world-class artist.

Ludwig van Beethoven, a renowned musical genius, faced an unimaginable challenge as he began to lose his hearing. Many might have thought this marked the end of his illustrious career. Yet, in an astonishing turn of events, this loss became a transformational force in his musical journey.

His compositions got better as he lost his hearing; they soared in depth and expression. Astoundingly, Beethoven's most celebrated works emerged when he was entirely deaf.

This profound loss forced him to listen in a new way, feeling the vibrations of each note. He began to perceive and compose music in a way he never had before.

This unforeseen challenge became the catalyst that propelled his artistry to unprecedented heights.

What seems like a crippling setback can be precisely what's needed to bring you toward your destiny.

Aron Ralston, an adventurer and mountaineer, lived for the thrill of conquering the great outdoors. His passion for exploring remote canyons and scaling rugged peaks was not just a hobby but a profound expression of his connection with nature. Ralston's adventures showed his profound love for the wilderness, a love that would be tested in ways he probably never imagined.

In April 2003, a routine solo canyoneering trip in Utah became a life-or-death struggle. While navigating a narrow canyon, a dislodged boulder trapped his right arm against the canyon wall. For five agonizing days, Ralston battled the elements, his physical limits, and mounting despair.

With dwindling supplies and no hope of rescue, he faced an unimaginable decision: amputate his trapped arm with a dull pocketknife to escape. This harrowing choice marked a turning point not only in his ordeal but in his entire life.

Ralston was undoubtedly forced to alter his relationship with the outdoors dramatically. What had once been a playground became the scene of his most profound challenge.

Yet, it deepened his respect and appreciation for the wild and led him down a new path.

He penned his memoir, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place," recounting his extraordinary survival and the lessons learned in the canyon.

His story inspired millions, leading to speaking engagements and even a film adaptation, "127 Hours," that brought his tale to a global audience.

In losing a part of himself, Ralston found a deeper purpose and discovered that even with losing his arm, he still had everything he needed to get to the next level of his life.

Each of us has an untapped well of inner strength. More often than not, we possess the tools necessary to navigate life's biggest challenges. Sometimes, the presence of a daunting obstacle reveals the actual depth of our ability. Next time you feel overwhelmed or insufficient, hold onto this truth: within you lies everything you need to overcome and succeed.



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

Add a bit of greenery to your front steps, window box or patio with a winter container garden. You'll find all the

ingredients you need at your local garden center, craft store, and maybe even a few in your backyard.

Start with a walk through your yard and look for evergreens and other potential ingredients for your winter containers. Fruits like rose hips, winterberries, holly berries, crabapples and others add color to the container. Fluffy seedheads of grasses make a nice vertical accent and add a bit of motion to the arrangement.

Next, convert one or two of your summer or fall containers into a winter display. The container should be able to tolerate the winter conditions in your area. Concrete, iron, metal, wood and fiberglass containers are best suited for year-round use. Even plastic pots will last for a few years when left outside.

Or start a new container for winter. Repurpose or purchase a container. Nursery pots that once housed trees and shrubs make excellent options. These black containers provide the perfect backdrop for greenery and are available for free from most garden centers and fellow gardeners.

Make sure the pot has drainage holes to prevent water-logged soil and water from overflowing the pot. Fill the container about seven eighths full with a well-drained potting mix. The soil helps hold the greenery, twigs and other materials in place and adds weight to keep the pot upright throughout the winter.

Consider using a mix of greens for a variety of textures and various shades of green. Pine, spruce, arborvitae, box

wood and junipers may be growing in your landscape and most are available at garden centers. Spruce tips are popular, allowing you to add "mini" trees or create vertical accents in your containers.

Use greens to cover the pot and create an attractive base for your winter display. Place some branches upright and others at a 45-degree angle so the greens drape over the edge. Secure the stems by placing them at least four inches deep in the soil.

Now add some color and vertical interest with stems of red twig dogwoods, paper birch branches, berry-laden stems from holly and winterberry and curly willow branches. Artificial material and outdoor ornaments can also be used. It's your opportunity to get creative.

Do consider adding other elements such as evergreen cones, seed pods, allium seedheads, and balloon plant pods. Leave them natural or add some paint and glitter.

Water thoroughly to remove air pockets and lock your ingredients in place. Keeping the soil moist until the potting mix freezes can help extend the beauty of the greenery. The winter containers will also last much longer in cooler temperatures. And those displayed in more sheltered locations out of direct sunlight and wind will suffer less drying.

Once your container is complete it is time to relax and enjoy your holiday celebrations.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



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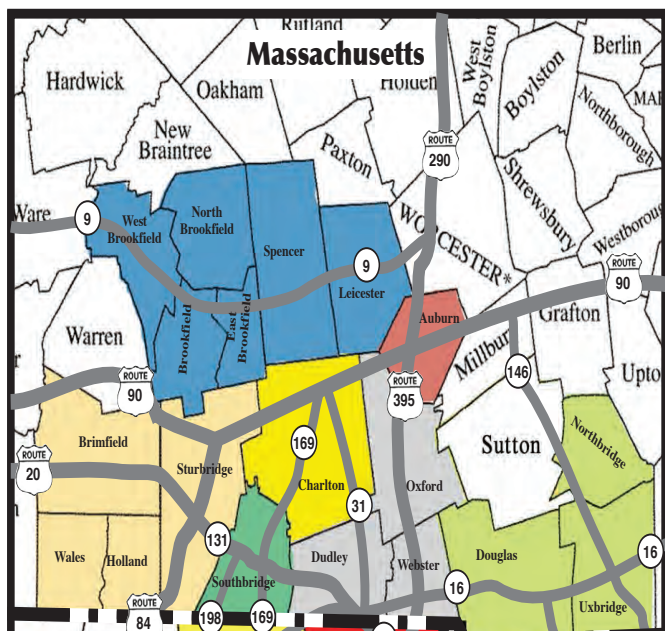
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# EDITORIAL

## The power of small changes

In a world that often celebrates instant results and quick fixes, the true path to personal growth and self-improvement lies in the steady accumulation of small changes. We live in an age where we're bombarded with information about radical transformations and overnight success stories. However, it's essential to remember that lasting change often comes from the consistent practice of good habits, one small step at a time.

The journey of self-improvement can be daunting. Whether it's striving for better health, financial stability, or personal development, the thought of making significant changes can be overwhelming. But here's the secret: progress is not about massive, dramatic actions. Instead, it's about the cumulative effect of tiny, daily efforts.

Developing good habits requires patience, persistence, and an understanding that meaningful change doesn't happen overnight. Instead, it unfolds gradually.

Small changes are sustainable because they don't disrupt your life drastically. When you start with tiny steps, you're less likely to feel overwhelmed and give up. These changes become integrated into your daily routine, making them easier to maintain over the long term.

Consistency is the backbone of habit formation. By taking small actions every day, you reinforce positive behaviors and build momentum. Over time, these behaviors become second nature, and you don't have to rely on willpower alone.

Large changes can trigger resistance and anxiety. Our brains are wired to resist big, sudden shifts. In contrast, small changes are less threatening, making it easier to overcome the resistance that often accompanies change.

Celebrating small victories along the way boosts motivation and confidence. Each small change achieved is a step forward, reinforcing your commitment to your goals.

Life is unpredictable, and sudden disruptions can derail even the best-laid plans. When your habits are built on small, manageable changes, you can adapt more easily to unexpected challenges without losing sight of your goals.

Identify one habit you want to cultivate and break it down into the smallest possible steps. For example, if you want to exercise regularly, start with just five minutes of activity each day.

Set specific goals: Make your goals clear and measurable. Instead of saying, "I want to get in shape," say, "I will walk for 10 minutes every morning."

Establish a daily routine that includes your new habit. Consistency is easier to maintain when your habit becomes part of your daily life.

Track your progress: Keep a journal or use habit-tracking apps to monitor your daily efforts. Seeing your progress can be motivating and help you stay on track.

Stay accountable: Share your goals with a friend or family member who can offer support and encouragement. Having someone to hold you accountable can be a powerful motivator.

Remember, the journey of self-improvement is not a sprint but a marathon. Embrace the process of making small changes every day, and in time, you'll look back and be amazed at the significant transformation that these incremental efforts have brought to your life. By cultivating good habits one step at a time, you'll not only achieve your goals but also develop the resilience and discipline necessary for a lifetime of positive change.

### Letter submission policy

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

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

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Happy Wokesgiving

To the Editor:  
Isn't this the best "Wokesgiving" holiday season ever invented, concocted or totally confabulated in the minds of the 'woke-folk' masters and their minions?  
Even more so since this 'Wokesgiving' might just be the start of the end of "Wokeness" altogether. With more and more people learning the ins and outs of the "Wokeness" editor in Microsoft Office 365, there are bound to be some fun days ahead.  
Ever wonder how NPR and PBS, since the earliest days of the pandemic, were always on the cutting edge of "woke-speak" in their news reporting?  
All of that and more is due to

the "inclusivity editor" that hides itself within the Microsoft Word menus. With that "woke-monster" of 'non-offensive' language unleashed on mankind during March of that 2020 election year.  
With the Florida Bar and other online sources instructing us on how to go about accessing it.  
The Sun reporting back in January 2022:  
The checker can be turned on and off in a menu called "Grammar & Refinements," which lists everything it checks: Age bias, Cultural bias, Ethnic slurs, Gender bias, Gender-Neutral Pronouns, Gender-Specific Language, Racial Bias, Sexual Orientation Bias and Socioeconomic

Bias.  
Even better are the reports that mock Microsoft Founder Bill Gates and his "Equitable Math Curriculum" love child. Where it is professed that "White supremacy culture shows up in math classrooms when the focus is on getting the 'right' answer."  
Meanwhile, for those who don't know, "Wokesgiving" made its way into the online vernacular circa 2016. With the term often used by the pro-woke persons and anti-woke people to mock each other in truly humorous ways.  
*Stephen Gambone Northbridge*

### What would Yogi do?

To the Editor:  
Yogi Berra once said, "When you come to a fork in the road..... take it." America is now at that proverbial fork. Down which path do we go?  
Before getting to that, imagine anyone quoting a Fox source for political or economic 'facts' after Fox has admitted lying to their viewers? Politifact found that "60 percent of all Fox News statements are either mostly false, or a complete lie. That leaves 40 percent that are true, or mostly true (and 25 percent of the 'true' statements consist of "...and now a word from our sponsors"). These lies have cost people their lives - remember the COVID 'hoax'? Fox has already paid \$785 million in fines for their on-air lies, and still faces a \$2 billion defamation lawsuit, along with several additional ex-employee lawsuits. So, what does it say about someone who openly admits to still getting her 'information' from Fox? Fun Fact: Fox is the #1 network in red (Republican) states with the lowest school test scores.  
Marxist Joe Biden has foisted many terrible things on the people of America in the last three years. We are all aware of that dreadful infrastructure bill that Republicans all voted against, but back home, are now taking credit for; and then there is that horrible negotiated reduction in the prices of critical drugs, commencing in 2025. And there's more bad policy everywhere you look.  
In the first 30 months of Biden's administration, 13.2 million non-farm jobs were created. That is 10 times more than Trump created in his first 30 months (Politifact). According to a local writer, those are mostly second or third jobs, so don't matter. 13.2 million second and third jobs? Are they all at McDonald's? It makes perfect sense to blame Marxist Joe for an economy that he has little control over. Apparently, some believe that he not only decides what jobs are available, but how many you can have, and who gets to fill them. Joe is not only a Marxist, he's a dictator! The fact that, according to just released spending numbers, the economy is

doing just fine doesn't mean that we should give Marxist Joe any credit. It's more satisfying to just ignore the fact that inflation in the U.S., at 3.2 percent, is the lowest of all the G7 countries - basically, the countries with the world's largest economies. Damn you, Marxist Joe!  
Biden doesn't set food or gas prices, and he doesn't control the Federal Reserve, which is on a mission to reduce an already low rate of inflation by raising interest rates and increasing the level of unemployment. (For reference, inflation was at 13 percent in the '70's.) When interviewed, corporate execs brazenly state that they are not lowering prices, even though their costs have come back down, and despite the impact of unreasonably high prices on the economy. They simply refuse to cut into their new mega profits. Exxon and Citibank, for instance, have reported record billions in profits this year alone. Laying off highly paid, skilled workers only adds more profit to their bottom line. Of course, Marxist Joe also decides whom, and how many employees get axed.  
I personally wish Biden would fire Jerome Powell, the head of the Federal Reserve. He is a lawyer, not an economist, whose sole solutions to inflation are to force job cuts and make it harder for consumers to buy cars, homes, appliances, and pay down credit card balances. He never considers anything on the supply side, such as price controls, or an excess profit tax (a bill that was killed by Republicans in Congress). To quote Alfred E. Newman: "What... me worry?" But, it's all Marxist Joe's fault.  
But back to Yogi's fork in the road: Does America maintain democracy and continue left, or do we go 'a droit,' as the French would say, with authoritarianism and/or fascism? If we do go right, what will America look like? (For a post-Halloween fright, Google 'Project 2025').  
Well, we already have a far right Republican party that is focused on eliminating the Constitution and ending democracy in America. That sounds pretty appealing. We can

surely count on GOP billionaires to help out the middle class. Look at all the freebies they give to the conservative Supreme Court justices! We can always hope that the big tax cuts given to corporations will eventually trickle down to the rest of us, as Reagan and every Republican since has promised. I know I'm still waiting to be 'trickled on.'  
The far-right has already tried redistributing/gerrymandering, restricting voting, inciting cultural and social divisions, disseminating lies and misinformation through their media outlets, attempted a coup - known in polite circles as an 'insurrection' - to overturn the will of the people after the last presidential election, so we have some historical data as evidence. This party's erstwhile standard-bearer is the head of a criminal enterprise, currently under indictment in 4 separate jurisdictions, on 91 counts. He has openly promised to turn the country into a dictatorship, and "root out the Marxist vermin that infest our government." Sounds like a despicable human being, but with the leadership qualities we certainly deserve! This party does offer other choices who have promised to cut basic services like social security, Medicare/Medicaid, all public health care, food and child assistance programs, as well as take away our human rights, our bodily rights, our voting rights, our freedom of religion, our right to vote, equality rights, workplace rights, and more. You know, all those things laid out in the constitution that they want to eliminate. The only 'right' that we will retain is the right to buy personal weapons of mass destruction. Which we will probably end up wanting to use on ourselves.

We will be told what books to read, what our children can be taught, what sex we can be, what sex we can have, who we can marry, what we can dress like, who we must hate, how, and who we must worship... wow! For women, having a baby will become a punishment! Republicans keep crying that the left is trying to take away their freedoms! I guess they mean taking away the far-right's freedom to tell everyone else what they can and cannot do. An America, thusly 'forked,' would certainly be a great place to live.

Since I am an Independent voter, I don't expect you to take my word for anything regarding the Republican party. Here is Rep. Chip Roy (R — Texas), this week on the floor of the House (I bet no one saw this on Fox Faux Noise): "One thing!... I want my Republican colleagues to give me one thing—one—that I can go campaign on and say we did. Anybody sitting in the complex, if you want to come down to the floor and come explain to me, one meaningful, significant thing the Republican majority has done for the American people?" The response? Crickets.

I had intended to write on the topic of whether today's Americans even deserve democracy - how we have all become 'one issue' voters, with no ability to think critically, or to look beyond our own selfishness, prejudices and fears, to recognize, and strive for a more inclusive, equal and free society. Ultimately, I may have just answered my own question, and, fortunately, foregone the type of discussion that could be too 'woke' and offensive to some Bonehead out there. But check in next week. If the good editor ever again sees fit to print something I write, it may still happen. In the meanwhile, give thought to another of Yogi's aphorisms: "You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there." Stay safe.

*Rick Bevilacqua Whitinsville*

### It's truly appalling!

To the Editor:  
The disruptions in US cities and globally after a middle-of-the-night attack against Israel by Hamas on Oct. 7 are appalling! What passes for 'freedom of speech' and 'diversity of opinion' by protesters is awful to see and hear, because Hamas broke the existing 'peace,' a.k.a. 'ceasefire.' No matter the nationality, how can unprovoked barbarian-style murders of over 1,000 (mostly Israelis) and hostage-taking of more than 200 by a known terrorist organization (imbedded among millions of innocent Palestinians in Gaza) warrant flag-waving praise for aggressor and condemnation of victim, Israel? Such hatred shocks; the world is tilts!  
Faced with surprise attack on the US homeland at Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1942, and the unimaginable on Sept. 11, 2001, we defeated German and Japanese dictators in WWII; then fought to destroy terrorists harbored in Afghanistan. Israel asks the same: justified defense to protect its State and, by extension, preserve peace in the wider Arab world and insulate Western Civilization against geopolitical impact.  
The contrast between peaceful pro-Israel and lawless, disruptive pro-Palestine rallies is displayed by vicious anti-Semitism on our streets and college campuses. "From the river (Jordan) to the sea (Mediterranean)" is no innocent

'aspirational' slogan, as described by a US Congresswoman. Rather, since 1948, it continues as a clarion to erase Israel's very existence by whatever means necessary as heard in the recent Hamas promise that "Israel can expect attacks again and again."  
What is happening before our eyes should awaken all people of 'faith', because Islamic terrorist groups, by whatever name or country of origin, seek dominance of their religious rules through global jihad; Hamas in Gaza is but one. Sadly, Israeli and Palestinian populations are each trapped in the middle: the former fears never-ending attacks on their homeland while the latter, equally defenseless, is shamefully used as human shields by their 'leaders'.  
Exhibiting not one humanitarian 'heart beat,' Hamas engages in a slow, tortured release of innocent hostages (50 so far) in exchange for more than triple numbers of Palestinian prisoners. Scant relief and no lasting solution for peace are offered! Hamas is master of 'psychological warfare,' dead as gunfire; somehow existential change in Gaza's governance must be achieved. Since another chapter in this human tragedy is being written, perhaps this time, centuries-old books can be re-opened to where Jews and Arabs co-existed peacefully and profitably.  
*Jane F. Keegan Uxbridge*



# Be alert against CIRDC

Shotgun deer hunting season opened in Mass. this past Monday, in somewhat ideal conditions. The early morning rain was over by sunrise, followed by light winds in the morning, for hunters hoping to harvest a deer for the family's freezer.

Deer have already started to become nocturnal (traveling and feeding only at night). Deer hunters often work in small groups, hoping to locate the deer, often pushing them from their beds. With the high population of deer in Mass., hunters should have no problem harvesting a couple for the family freezer.

A canine respiratory disease known as CIRDC, "Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease," is a disease that is highly contagious, and has been detected in numerous pets recently. People that frequent dog parks are exposing their pets to this deadly disease. Taking your pets to the veterinarian to diagnose and treat the disease can be extremely expensive, as most visits to the



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
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Veterinarian are. Getting an appointment to the veterinarian can often take days, as most are often booked up. Pet owners are often referred to Tuff's medical clinic in Grafton, which is extremely expensive. Anyone that has had to take their pet to Tuff's, often come out with a bill of \$500 or more, a thousand dollar bill is not unusual. Owning a dog that is healthy is great, and the companionship is most often a strong bond with the owners. I have often mentioned the risks of taking your pets to a dog park, and with the recent outbreak of this disease, you should not do it! People take their dogs almost everywhere they go, and the risks are very high that they could become infected. Don't do it!

Purchasing a dog as a Christmas present for someone is also a foolish thing to do! There is too much going on, and the pup could be injured during all of the commotion of opening other gifts. Also, when you decide to buy a new family member and/or hunting partner, be sure to buy a healthy dog directly from a breeder. Be sure to see both parents and spend a little bit of time with them. Labradors are still the no. one pet, but if you do not do your homework before you purchase one, diseases like hip dysplasia could end up costing you hundreds, if not thousands of dollars, not to forget to mention a short life for your new family member. Choose wisely and good luck! Christmas shopping for those special sportsmen is often a hard thing to do. It is best to give that special guy or gal a gift certificate at their favorite sporting goods store. Shopping at a Mom & Pop store is the best way to go, and will help keep the establishment in business. Many of these



Courtesy

This week's picture shows Aiden, Charlotte, & Holden Walker enjoying a day of pheasant hunting recently with their dad. small shops have gone out of business over the last 20 years or so, and there are very few left. Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## Know the key benefits of a Roth IRA



FINANCIAL  
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As you save for retirement, you'll want to take full advantage of the investment vehicles available to you — and one of the best is a Roth IRA. But what sets it apart from other accounts? Three key factors distinguish the Roth IRA: Tax-free earnings – When you invest in a Roth IRA, your earnings can grow tax free, provided you don't begin taking withdrawals until you're 59 and a half and you've had your account at least five years. If you don't meet these criteria, withdrawals of earnings will be subject to taxes and a possible 10 percent penalty. No penalties on withdrawals of contributions – You fund a Roth IRA with after-tax dollars, which means you can withdraw your contributions — not the earnings — at any time for any reason, without facing taxes or penalties. So, you could use some of your Roth IRA money for non-retirement purposes, such as helping pay for a child's college education. No required withdrawals at age 73 – With a traditional IRA or a 401(k), you must start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — once you reach 73. But this rule doesn't apply to a Roth IRA — you can keep it intact as long as you like. You may need to tap into it for some of your retirement income, but if you don't use it all, the remainder could benefit your beneficiaries. A Roth IRA does share one similarity to a traditional IRA: It can be funded with virtually any type of investment, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on. However, unlike a traditional IRA, a Roth IRA does have income limits. For the 2023 tax year, if your modified adjusted gross income was less than \$138,000 (for a single filer) or \$218,000 (married filing jointly), you can put in the full amount of \$6,500 and an additional \$1,000 catch-up contribution if you're 50 or older. The amounts you can contribute will gradually decline at higher income levels and are phased out entirely at \$153,000 for single filers and \$228,000 if you're married and file jointly. These income ranges will likely change for the 2024 tax year, so you'll want to consult with your tax advisor for details. Still, even if you've contributed to a traditional IRA or a 401(k) for many years, you may have a chance to eventually "convert" some, or all, of these funds to a Roth IRA and gain its benefits. It's not hard to do this conversion — it involves minimal paperwork from your traditional IRA or 401(k) provider — but it does come with tax issues. Any money that's converted from a traditional IRA or 401(k) to a Roth IRA will be treated as ordinary taxable income. This can trigger a large tax bill, so, unless you have the money available from other accounts to pay the taxes, the conversion may or may not make sense for you. But you don't have to convert all the funds at once. By spreading the conversion over several years, you could reduce the effect of a large tax hit in any single year. You may want to consult with your tax advisor before converting any funds to a Roth IRA. If you can find a way to contribute to a Roth IRA, either directly or through a conversion, consider it carefully — you'll find a lot of upsides to this investment account. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

## Holiday Crafts for Kids

As we count down to Christmas, a host of festive preparations take center stage in most families. This exciting time of year is hectic, and even more so for anxious children eager to be part of the pre-holiday activities. If you're searching for easy, creative ways to keep little ones from underfoot, look no further. The following ideas are fun and easy ways to keep kids busy. Best of all, these imaginative projects make great gifts for the special loved one in a child's life.

### Magic Snowflake Ornament/Suncatcher

This amazing scientific project takes a little time, but it is educational as well as interesting. Kids really get a kick out of gifting teachers with this sparkly ornament. (Adult supervision required.)

Materials: String, wide mouth jar (such as a mason canning jar); white pipe cleaners; boiling water; borax (such as 20 Mule Team Borax booster, available at grocery stores); pencil; blue food coloring (optional).

Directions: Cut a white pipe cleaner into three equal sections. Twist the sections together in the center so that you have a six sided star shape. If your points are not even, trim the pipe cleaner sections to the same length. Attach string along the outer edges to form a snowflake pattern. Attach a piece of string to the top of one of the pipe cleaners and tie the other end to a pencil (this is to hang it from). Fill a wide mouth jar with boiling water. Mix borax into the water one tablespoon at a time. Use three tablespoons of borax per cup of water. Stir until dissolved, (don't worry if there is powder settling on the bottom of the jar). If you want you can add a little blue food coloring now to give the snowflake a bluish hue. Insert your pipe cleaner snowflake into the jar so that the pencil is resting on the lip of the jar and the snowflake is freely suspended in the borax solution. Wait overnight and by morning the snowflake will be covered with shiny crystals. Hang in a window as a sun-catcher or

### Coal Stocking Bags

Children love to think they aren't the only ones who are "naughty" at times, and really enjoy



TAKE  
THE  
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KAREN  
TRAINOR

bestowing this holiday teaser on family members and friends. This tried and true project is so simple, yet never fails to garner giggles and fun! Materials: Small, coal sized rocks; black paint; ziplock bags or brown paper lunch bags; ribbon or twine. Instructions: Have kids package painted rocks in zipper bags or brown paper bag pouches and tie with a ribbon for gift giving. They can hand print out the following message and tie it to the bag: I heard you have been naughty not nice, And Santa even checked his list twice. So all the way from the cold North Pole, All you're getting is a bag of coal!

Pinecone Trees Gathering pinecones for holiday crafts is a generations old tradition that reflects one of nature's many gifts of the season! Creating cute, colorful, pinecone "trees" is easy enough for young children to do. The little trees are made simply by painting a single pinecone and are ideal for displaying on the windowsill, desktop or table.

Materials: Pinecones, dried (see below)\*; paints; glitter; beads; cinnamon candies, etc. and other adornments as desired; wine cork or a slice of tree trunk for base. Instructions: Choose a pinecone that mimics the shape of a Christmas tree (short and stout tall and slender; etc.). Paint pinecones green and decorate with beads or tiny buttons; cookie decorations such as cinnamon candies and silver balls, etc.; dip tips in glue and glitter, if desired, etc. Glue bottom of pinecone to a wine cork or small tree trunk slice to form a base (trim bottom of pinecone to make it flat for gluing). \*To dry pinecones for crafting; Lay pinecones out flat on an old cookie

sheet. Bake at 225 for two hours. This not only helps the pinecones to open, but eliminates moisture and any insects. Note: a mix of short, stout pinecones and long, slender ones can create a "forest" of varying heights for a tabletop display! \*\* Garden Bows The gardener on your child's gift list will truly appreciate this creative tree ornament. Perfect for a grandparent, teacher or special adult, the gift can be opened for use in the spring, or hung on the tree year after year. Materials: Flower or vegetable seed packets; white glue; glitter; metallic tree garland; fishing line. Instructions: Fold seed packet into pleats. Spread white glue along the outside edges of the pleats. Dip the pleated packets into glitter and let dry. Pinch the top of the packet to create a fan. Hang the ornaments by wrapping them at center point with metallic garland. Thread fishing line or ribbon through the garland and tie in a loop for hanging on tree. \*\* Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House Your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough tips are received) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints! Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

## 2023 auction results



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
.....  
WAYNE TUISKULA

I hope that you had a Happy Thanksgiving! As we near 2024, I'll use today's column to share some results from our 2023 auctions. In previous columns, I've discussed how comic books are classified. As a refresher, Golden Age comics were printed from 1938 to 1956. The Silver Age of comics lasted from 1956 to 1970. The Bronze Age spanned from 1970 to 1985 and the Modern Age began in 1985 and continues today. A Golden Age superhero comic book

in great condition could make you a millionaire. More recent ones can still be valuable, though. We sold a group of Bronze Age and Modern Age X-Men Comic Books that brought \$2,880 in November. Old and newer collectible toys also brought strong prices this year, including two cast iron toys from our June auction. Kenton Toys of Kenton, Ohio began manufacturing toy trucks in 1903, according to the National Museum of American History. An early 1900s Kenton Toys Cast Iron Police Patrol Horse Drawn Carriage brought \$960. "Samuel F. Pratt, Pascal P. Pratt, and William P. Letchworth established the Buffalo Malleable Iron Works in 1836," according to worthpoint.com. They began toy production in 1889. A late 19th



century Pratt & Letchworth Cast Iron Horse Drawn Steamer Fire Engine sold for \$1,020. Some more modern toys also sold well in our 2023 auctions. "The Munsters" was the 18th highest-ranked TV show for the 1964-65 season. A 1964 Talking Herman Munster figure by Mattel with original box sold for

\$900. The intro for "Six Million Dollar Man" became a 1970s catch phrase: "We can rebuild him; we have the technology." A 1970s The Six Million Dollar Man Venus Space Probe in the box went for \$960. Even newer toys can be valuable. A 2016 Lego Ghostbusters Fire House MIB (mint in box) sold for \$780 earlier this year.

Baseball and other sports cards continue to be popular with collectors, especially graded cards of star players. Cards featuring two Hall of Famers brought strong prizes in our June auction. A 1954 Topps Hank (Henry) Aaron #128 PSA 5 (out of 10) Baseball Card fetched \$4,425. Mickey Mantle cards in good condition are highly desirable. A 1952 Bowman Mickey Mantle #101 PSA 6 (out of 10) Baseball Card knocked it out of the park, selling for \$5,000. We are expecting more strong auction results at our major multi-estate online auction which starts soon and ends on January 10th. We will be offering fine art including paintings by listed artists (those whose works have sold at auction), Pablo Picasso limited edition pottery, and bronze sculptures. We

have gold, platinum, and diamond jewelry and a large amount of sterling silver. There's also a wide range of mid-century modern furniture and accessories. We will also offer aviation and Civil War memorabilia and much more, including a book from the 1600s. Our online estate auction of a Concord, Mass. home is also currently running and will end on Dec. 12. The Concord home has fine furnishings, oriental rugs, an antique tall case clock, and more. Please visit our Web site, https://centralmassauctions.com, for links to upcoming events. Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/ Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111).



# OBITUARIES

## Ernest (Ernie) Joseph Racicot, 91



Whitinsville--Ernest (Ernie) Joseph Racicot, 91, of Heritage Dr., passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 23, 2023 at Blackstone Valley Health and Rehab after a period of declining health.

He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Cecilia J. (St. Martin) Racicot. He also leaves 3 children, Mary Legg and her husband James of The Villages, FL, Deborah Boyd of Dudley, and Laurie McGonigle and her husband Sean of Milford; 5 grandchildren, Heather West, Jonathan Dawe, Shelby Fortin, Kaitlyn Legg, and Andrew Legg; 5 great-grandchildren, Avery, Ayden, Chloe, Noah, and Thomas, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was brother of the late Donald, Earl, and Florence Racicot.

Born in Whitinsville on October 16, 1932, he was the son of Joel A. and Mabel F. (Skeary) Racicot and was a lifelong resident of Whitinsville.

Educated in the Northbridge public schools, Ernest went on to serve in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era, and was honorably discharged as a Corporal. Ernie worked nearly forty years for the former Whitin Machine Works and retired in 1987.

Ernie was a true gentle man and loved his family wholeheartedly. He enjoyed family vacations, walks with his wife, the ocean, cruising, the New England Patriots, and playing Flight Simulator.

As to his wishes, services will be privately held at the convenience of his family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ernest's memory may be made to: the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Floor, 17 Chicago, IL 60601. (<https://act.alz.org/site/Donation>). To leave a condolence message for his family please visit: [www.Jackmanfuneralhomes.com](http://www.Jackmanfuneralhomes.com)



## Thalia Dorothy Oosterman, 84



Northbridge--Thalia Dorothy (Ashworth) Oosterman, 84, of Northbridge, passed peacefully surrounded by her family on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

She was born in Northbridge in 1939, to Anne (Westra) and Herbert Ashworth. She lived in Northbridge her entire life and graduated from Northbridge High School in 1956. It was there that she met and later married her life-long love and beloved husband Jim Oosterman. Jim and Thalia were proud to have recently celebrated their sixty fourth wedding anniversary in October.

Thalia graduated from nursing school and worked at Memorial Hospital and UMASS in Worcester for many years.

She had a wonderful sense of humor and was a friend to all she met. She made the world a better place with her unconditional love and compassionate spirit. She will be dearly missed by her friends at the Fresenius Kidney Care Dialysis Center in Sutton. The entire Oosterman family would like to extend their gratitude for the exceptional care which Thalia received there over the past few years.

A former Girl Scout, avid reader and puzzle maker, she was also talented with needlepoint and Swedish weaving. Thalia enjoyed time spent sailing on calm seas and spending the

winter months with friends in Nokomis, Florida.

Perhaps Thalia's greatest legacy is her remarkable family. A loving wife, devoted mother, confidant, and best friend, Thalia is survived by her husband Jim; son Steve, daughter-in-law Kathy; daughter Karen Barkin, son-in-law Steve; daughter Wendy Hagarty, son-in-law Ted; son Wayne; daughter Holli, son-in-law Freddy; daughter Jean; daughter Jodi Barnard, son-in-law Jimmy; daughter Bridget Barber; son Ron Cloutre, and daughter-in-law Heather. Thalia was predeceased by her beloved daughter Alice.

In addition, Thalia leaves 18 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren whose lives were enriched by this remarkable woman, each one holding a special place in her heart; her grandchildren and great grandchildren were her pride and joy. Each one treasured their time spent visiting on Cooper Road.

A selfless mom and wife, Thalia opened her heart and her home to many over the years. She considered all who passed through members of her beloved family.

In keeping with her wishes, funeral services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Fresenius Kidney Care Dialysis Center, 10a Galaxy Pass, Sutton, MA 01590.

**SAND**  
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son," the department continued.

Residents interested in the Upton program may contact Lt. Bonnie Lopez at 508-529-3421.

According to the Department of Fire

Services, "Senior SAFE" is a grant program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors.

"Seniors have a high risk of dying in a fire," the state's Department of Fire Services released on its website. "Fire and burns risks for seniors include: cooking, smoking, home oxygen use, and electrical and heating dangers."

Senior SAFE also aims to improve safety in senior housing. Other programs include: smoke and carbon monoxide alarm installation; testing and replacing batteries; installation of house numbers; heating limiting devices on stoves; in-hood stove fire extinguishers; and nightlights.

"Education is key to improving the safety of seniors at home. Senior SAFE creates partnerships between agencies that serve seniors and fire departments. Together, these agencies collaborate on local fire and life safety education programs."



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**FIRE**  
*continued from page A1*

of the fire, a first-alarm fire assignment was called for the stove fire at 65 Rayner St. in Blackstone. Crews from Blackstone and Woonsocket responded initially, according to reports.

"Crews arriving to the scene found smoke coming from various areas of the residence," fire officials released. "A working fire assignment was made, calling in additional crews and apparatus, including an ambulance and Rapid Intervention Team [RIT]."

According to reports, Blackstone Car 2 and Car 1 arrived soon after the initial responding units and requested a second alarm as "additional crews were needed for extensive overhaul inside and outside the residence."

Mutual aid crews responded from the following departments: the Woonsocket Fire Department;

Bellingham Fire Department; Mendon Fire Department; Millville Fire Rescue; Uxbridge Fire Department; Cumberland Fire Department; and North Smithfield Fire & Rescue Service, Inc.

"Thank you to the Providence Canteen for providing assistance to our crews," Blackstone's Fire Department released.

Additionally, the fire department shared that it "put into service" its new Engine 2 and within three hours of being in service, it had been called to the fire.

"Engine 2 was the first-arriving apparatus and deployed the initial hand lines, which extinguished the fire," the department released.

The fire was investigated by the District 7 Fire Investigation Unit along with the State Fire Marshall's Office, according to reports. The Blackstone Police Department is collecting donations for a family whose house was involved in a "devastating fire" on Nov. 21.

# LEGALS

**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. WO23P4054EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
**Estate of:**  
**Antoinette Trant**  
**Date of Death: 02/15/2023**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Linda A. Boyle of Blackstone MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:  
**Linda A. Boyle of Blackstone MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/19/2023**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the ad-

ministration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: November 20, 2023  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
December 1, 2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Division**  
**Docket No. WO23P4026EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Domenic Anthony Migliacci**  
**Also Known As:**  
**Domenic A. Migliacci, Jr.**  
**Domenic A. Migliacci**  
**Date Of Death:**  
**October 14, 2023**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner  
**Lisa B. Migliacci of East Douglas, MA**  
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Lisa B. Migliacci of East Douglas, MA**  
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the 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.  
December 1, 2023

**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. WO23C0261CA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:  
**Luigi Antonio Cianciulli**  
**A Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by  
**Luigi Antonio Cianciulli of Uxbridge MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
**Louis Anthony Cianciulli**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/12/2023. 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: November 17, 2023  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
December 1, 2023

**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. WO23P32797EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
**Estate of:**  
**Paul D. Eldredge**  
**Date of Death: 10/12/2023**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kendalyn J. Banks of Exeter RI** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:  
**Kendalyn J. Banks of Exeter RI** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/19/2023**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: November 16, 2023  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
December 1, 2023



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# SPORTS

## Spartans take Battle of the Bridges over Rams, 35-14

### Undefeated Uxbridge next set to play in D7 Super Bowl



Northbridge's Joel LaChapelle is brought down just short of the end zone by Uxbridge defenders Benjamin Roerden (32) and Timothy Devlin (30).

Nick Ethier



Defender Nick D'Alfonso of Northbridge goes in for a tackle of Uxbridge ball carrier Kellen LaChapelle, who had been tripped up on the play.

Nick Ethier



Nick Ethier

Northbridge's Caden Mastroianni keeps his eyes on the ball as he catches an Uxbridge punt.



Nick Ethier

Aidan Blood of Uxbridge slips in between a pair of Northbridge defenders as he hauls in a pass.



Nick Ethier

Uxbridge's Nathan Noyes lifts teammate Carter Gilmore into the air after Gilmore caught a touchdown pass.



Nick Ethier

Quarterback Joel LaChapelle of Northbridge heaves a pass down the field.

NORTHBRIDGE — Heading into Uxbridge's annual Battle of the Bridges Thanksgiving Day varsity football game with rival Northbridge, there was a question as to whether or not the Super Bowl bound Spartans would rest their starters. That question was answered early and often as Uxbridge employed their top players for a bulk of the contest, which was played at Lasell Field. The Spartans won the game, 35-14, as they improved to a perfect 12-0. Uxbridge, the top seed in the Division 7 State Tournament, will play No. 6 Amesbury for the championship on Friday, Dec. 1 at Gillette Stadium at 3 p.m. In the game with Northbridge (5-6), the Spartans got on the board first when Kellen LaChapelle connected with Aidan Blood for a 64-yard touchdown toss. Luke Esposito then booted

the extra point to grab his team a 7-0 lead. The Rams battled back and tied the score later in the first quarter. There, quarterback Joel LaChapelle — cousins with Uxbridge's QB, and both (as well as Uxbridge's Camden and Northbridge's Jake) grandsons to Northbridge head coach Ken LaChapelle — hit Caden Mastroianni in the end zone for an 8-yard TD, and James Potter kicked the extra point. But Uxbridge grabbed a 21-7 lead at the halftime break with two more scores. Both were thrown by Kellen LaChapelle, one to Liam Kaferlein (51 yards), the other to Carter Gilmore (16 yards), with Esposito tacking on the PAT's. The Spartans then put the game away in the second half, as they now have their sights set on the State Championship.





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*Webster Lake*  
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(P) Land	(L) Mobile Home	(A) Apartment	(W) Waterfront	
ADDRESS	STYLE	TIME	PRICE	REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2</b>				
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To have your open house listed in this directory, please contact Mikaela Victor 774-200-7308

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**Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

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**38 Clark Road a/k/a 38 Clarke Road**  
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Book 37463, Page 127

**TERMS:** Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder. No CASH. No personal checks will be accepted. Cashier/certified checks should be made out to whomever is going to bid at the auction. The balance to be paid within thirty (30) days at the law offices of Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851, Attorney for the Mortgagee.

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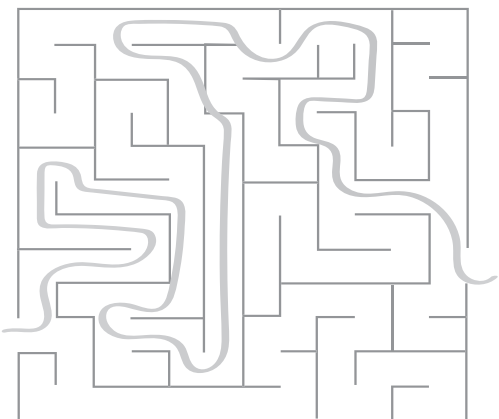
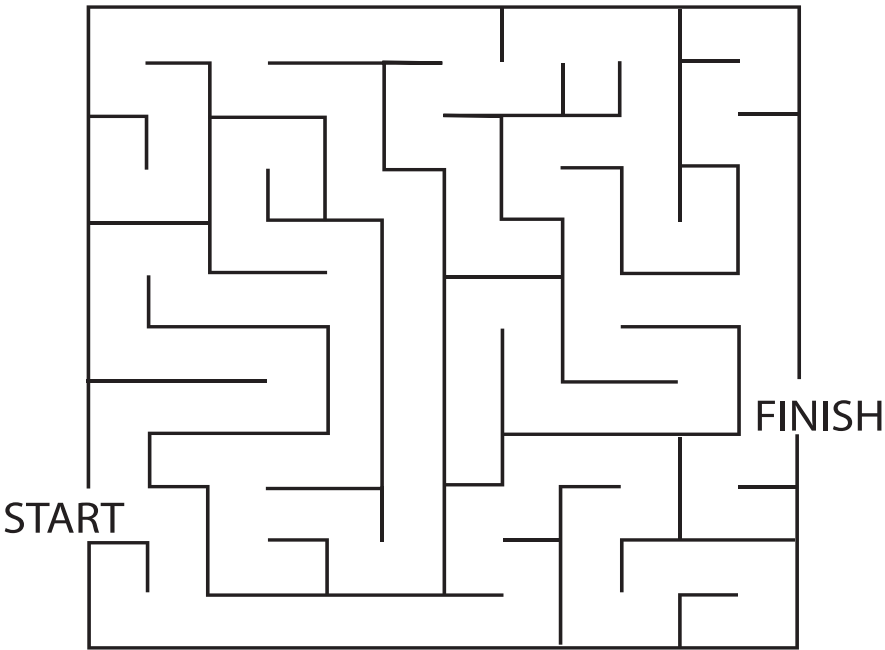




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- **1919:** LADY ASTOR BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN TO SIT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.
- **1991:** SOUTH OSETIA DECLARES INDEPENDENCE FROM GEORGIA.



EVEN THOUGH 'BLACK FRIDAY' TENDS TO BE THE BUSIEST SHOPPING DAY OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON, THIS DAY ALSO ATTRACTS CROWDS OF SHOPPERS.

ANSWER: THE LAST SATURDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

New Word

DEBIT

amount owed or removed from an account

## How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Purchase

**SPANISH:** Comprar

**ITALIAN:** Comprare

**FRENCH:** Acheter


**GERMAN:** Etwas kaufen

## Did you know?



CUSTOMERS WHO WANT TO AVOID THE CROWDS ON BLACK FRIDAY CAN SHOP LOCALLY ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY.

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ANSWER: SALE SIGN



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DONATIONS

continued from page A1  
Police Department has worked with area agencies to provide some toys and other

items that hopefully bring a smile to the face of another child,” the police department released in a statement on social media. “Thanks again for this generous donation.”



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones

Juliana Casucci of Uxbridge controls the ball past a Monomoy defender.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones

Uxbridge goalie Julia Brynn Okenquist uses her entire body to prevent a Monomoy goal.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones

Uxbridge celebrates its third consecutive Division 4 State Championship after the final whistle.



Courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones

Ava Rosborough focuses on the ball as she head up the field for Uxbridge.

Walpole and Watertown, to three-peat for a field hockey State Championship.



Courtesy

Direnzo Towing stopped by the Millbury event with a flatbed full of new bikes



Courtesy

The NAM Knights, Band of Brothers Central Massachusetts Chapter, donated \$500 to help with the Millville Police Department's toy drive. Pictured are Area President Joe Fitzpatrick presenting the check to Millville Police Chief Bill Coupe.

CHAMPS

continued from page A1

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