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 Friday, October 18, 2024

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Free by request to residents of
 Douglas, Northbridge, Uxbridge, Linwood, Whitinsville and North Uxbridge

Willard House & Clock Museum announces Third Annual David G. Gow Memorial Scholarship for Horology

NORTH GRAFTON — Endorsing the field of horology (the study of time) and aiding those working toward a professional career in clock-making, the family of former Willard House & Clock Museum conservator, David G. Gow continues to support the industry with its annual scholarship.

“The career path of conservator-level clock-making is not well defined and arduous,” says Robert C. Cheney, Willard’s Executive Director and Curator. “Unlike years’ past, there are virtually no apprenticeship programs available, and any kind of funding is difficult to come by.”

How has the Gow Scholarship helped clockmakers?

2023 Gow scholarship recipient Patrick Mont said, “The Gow scholarship has made way for new and significant relationships in my professional life. It allowed me access to mentors who have helped me learn new skills, as well as provided the funds for tooling in my workshop - I can now hone the skills I am learning.”

Peter Boughton, 2022 scholarship receiver commented, “[The scholarship] has accelerated my learning in clock-making and gave me the means to purchase tools used in Sympathetic restoration. With the rising costs of basic tools, this scholarship helped me get what I needed to start my work and focus on my future in the Horological World.

Cultivating a community of clockmakers “My family has deep connections with clockmakers and restoration experts,” says Callum Gow of the scholarship review board. “There is a severe shortage of these highly skilled and



trained specialists and it’s our mission to help cultivate and grow this community over the many years to come.”

Last year, candidates from around the country submitted applications for the scholarship. The Gow family expects a diverse national turnout for 2024.

The Gow family has collaborated with the museum trustees and staff to establish the award. Below are the details:

-Any US-based student that has begun the jour-

ney into the profession of clockmaking qualifies.

-\$5,000 will be awarded and the money may be used attend advanced courses provided by various clock and watch making schools across the country.

Applications are due by Nov. 4. The scholarship recipient will be announced on Dec. 14.

To learn more about the Memorial Scholarship for Horology, go to: <https://willardhouse.org/david-gow-scholarship>. Read about the Gow

Scholarship recipients: <https://willardhouse.org/scholarship-recipients>.

Located at 11 Willard St. in North Grafton, Willard House and Clock Museum exhibits more than 90 Willard clocks in the birthplace and original workshop of the Willard clockmakers, along with family portraits, furnishings and other family heirlooms. Works by all three generations of Willard clockmakers, and the famed clockmakers Simon Willard Jr. and Benjamin

Franklin Willard, are also displayed. The Museum tour includes the Willard House, built in 1740, the original clock-making workshop, and three modern galleries.

Willard is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Visit the Willard House and Clock Museum Web site at www.willardhouse.org

Follow Willard House on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Manchaug Pond Foundation to hold fall clean up Oct. 26

SUTTON/DOUGLAS — The Manchaug Pond Foundation will be holding their Fall Clean Up of scenic Manchaug Pond on Saturday, Oct. 26, volunteers are invited to join members and Friends of the Manchaug Pond Foundation in cleaning up Manchaug Pond and its watershed. Volunteers with boats are also welcome to help us clean up coves. Volunteer time will support the MPF’s third s319 Non-point Source Pollution Grant requirements which was awarded in the Fall of 2020 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The effort is scheduled to take place Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon, with volunteers meeting at the state Public Access Boat Ramp on Torrey Road in Sutton. Everyone will hit the pavement with garbage bags in hand to clean the roadsides, shoreline, and boat ramp - all areas within the Manchaug Pond watershed and volunteers are not required to stay for the duration of the clean up. Good company, beautiful scenery, safety vests, rubber gloves, and garbage bags will be provided. Rain date will be Sunday, Oct. 27, and a rain date notice will be posted on the Manchaug Pond Foundation’s Facebook page and website early Friday.

The Manchaug Pond Foundation’s educational events look to improve the water quality of the picturesque 380 acre community lake, which lies within Douglas and Sutton, through the education of the many users and watershed residents. Educational information on residential Low Impact Development (LID) techniques such as landscaping with buffer zones and rain gardens to limit runoff of fertilizer nutrients are available on the Foundation’s website. Educational materials have been made possible by the MPF’s previous two water quality grants awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. For more information, visit manchaugpond.org.

Three Northbridge High students admitted to Fattman’s Senate Youth Council

NORTHBRIDGE — Caleb Smith, Sariena Ison, and Kayla Bolduc, students at Northbridge High School, have recently become members of the Fattman Senate Youth Council.

They attended the kick-off meeting on Thursday, Oct. 3 at the YMCA Camp Blanchard in Sutton. Under the direction of Massachusetts State Sen. Ryan

C. Fattman of Worcester and Hampden County, Hochmuth and student delegates from district towns, will meet monthly throughout the district, or virtually, to engage in respectful discussion and debate about current events.

Student delegates will attend monthly club meetings, State House visits, bipartisan campaign and speaker series events,

and more, where they will have the opportunity to learn more about leadership, volunteerism, activism and politics, civic knowledge, and current events.

Students ranging from ninth to 12th grade are selected by Senator Fattman’s staff based on merits including their involvement in student government, academics, and volunteer work.

Sutton Historical Society hosting program on locating bounds

SUTTON — On Thursday, Nov. 7 at 2:30 p.m. in the Sutton Senior Center, 19 Hough Rd., Sutton Historical Society members Peter Michelson and Ross Weaver will share their knowledge of locating bounds from historic deeds and records and overlaying those points onto current maps. This process allows current landowners to visualize how their properties fit into the historic character of Sutton.

The Freegrace Marble Farm will be used to demonstrate this process. Located at the intersection of Sibley and Burbank Roads, this historic property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and



has a preservation restriction agreement with the Society for the Preservation of New

England Antiquities. This property was one of the first 30 parcels deeded when Sutton

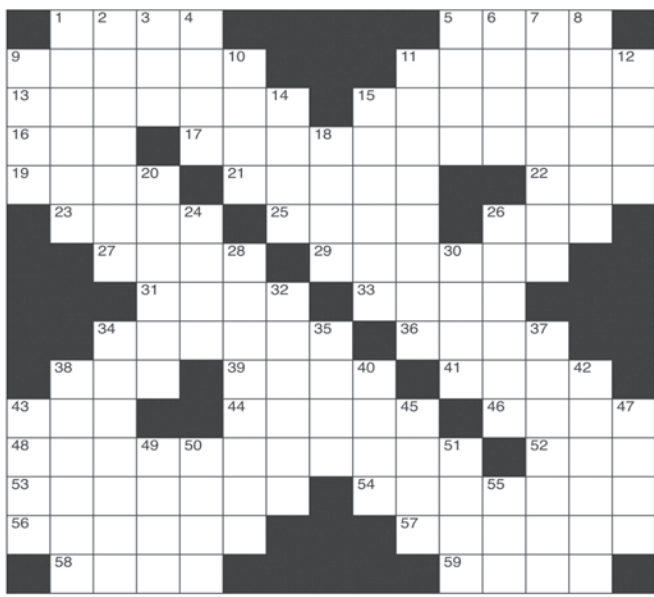
was settled. Looking forward, mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 7,

for the annual Sutton Chain of Lights from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (sutton-chainoflights.weebly.com).

The Society will host visitors at their three properties, The General Rufus Putnam Museum, 4 Uxbridge Road; The Eight Lots School House, 54 Eight Lots Rd.; and the M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletary Avenue. On Saturday, Dec. 14, from 4 - 8 p.m., Society members will be sharing their knowledge of Manchaug History at the Second Annual Manchaug Stroll, 9 Main St. (valfa.com/event/manchaug-stroll)

These events are free and open to all members and the general public of all ages.

Visit us at suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org for event updates and membership information.

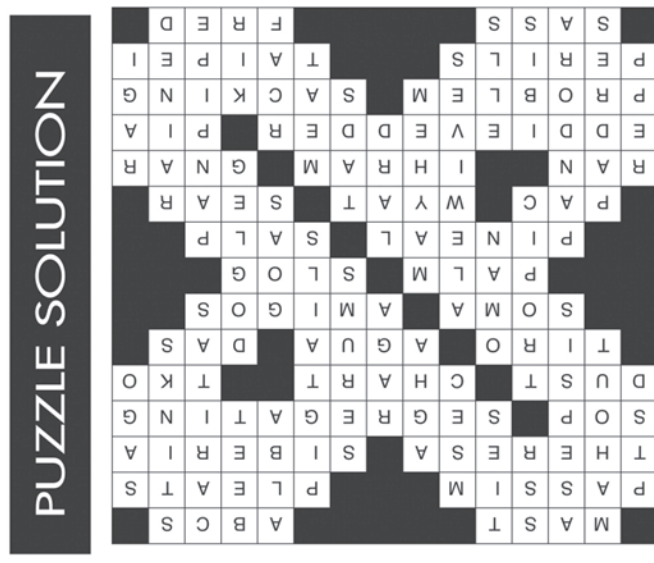


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tall, upright post on a boat
- 5. Basics
- 9. Used to refer to cited works
- 11. Folds
- 13. Former UK PM May
- 15. Cold region of Russia
- 16. Standard operating procedure
- 17. Separating
- 19. Particles
- 21. A way to map out
- 22. Referee declares
- 23. Beginner
- 25. Water (Spanish)
- 26. Gov't lawyers
- 27. Non-reproductive parts of an organism
- 29. Spanish friends
- 31. A type of tree
- 33. Walk heavily
- 34. About a wood
- 36. Free-swimming marine invertebrate
- 38. Political action committee
- 39. SB19 hit song
- 41. Scorch the surface of
- 43. Moved quickly on foot
- 44. Sacred state for a Muslim
- 46. Growl
- 48. Pearl Jam frontman
- 52. Irritating person
- 53. Something requiring a solution
- 54. Firing
- 56. Hazards
- 57. Taiwan capital
- 58. Impudence
- 59. Rock frontman Durst

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One who rides an elephant
- 2. Absence of bacteria
- 3. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 4. Men's fashion accessories
- 5. "Honey" actress Jessica
- 6. Round red root vegetable
- 7. Latin term for "charity"
- 8. Doesn't smell good
- 9. Mental health issue
- 10. Millisecond
- 11. Hairstyle
- 12. Edible starch
- 14. Middle Eastern military title
- 15. Protein-rich liquids
- 18. Indian musical pattern
- 20. Cancer and Capricorn
- 24. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 26. A bend
- 28. Fishes of the herring family
- 30. Antelopes
- 32. Chaos
- 34. Popular music app
- 35. Cooking material
- 37. Musical instrument
- 38. San Diego ballplayers
- 40. Small amounts
- 42. Poured
- 43. Fabric
- 45. Food option
- 47. Finger millet
- 49. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 50. Alberta, Canada river
- 51. Canadian flyers
- 55. Dry white wine drink



News from Beginning Bridges

BeginningBridgesCFCE.weebly.com
 Facebook: Beginning Bridges CFCE
 Emurray@smoc.org
 508-278-5110

Events. Links can be accessed on our website or contact Emily Murray at 508-278-5110 or Emurray@smoc.org.
 Please check our website and Facebook page for our latest Newsletter.

Monday 11/4/24 – Music and Movement with Deb Hudgins 9:30 – 10:30 Upton Town Library, 9 Milford Street, Upton. Register on the Upton Town Library website.

Beginning Bridges CFCE 's vision is that children, youth and families reach their full potential now and in the future. Our mission is to work with families and community partners to create the conditions for children, youth and families to thrive socially, academically and economically. Funding for the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant (CFCE) is provided by the Massachusetts Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) and sponsored by South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC-Childcare/Head Start). Beginning Bridges CFCE has funding for the towns of Mendon, Northbridge, Upton & Uxbridge. Currently, our FREE comprehensive services include weekly indoor and outdoor parent/child playgroups. We also offer parent education programs, the Ages & Stages Developmental Questionnaire and can connect families to community resources.

Wednesdays beginning 9/27/24 and running through 12/18/24 – The Parenting Toolbox 9:30 am – 10:15 am Northbridge Elementary School 21 Crescent Street Whitinsville. Join us for a discussion on parenting topics such as (but not limited to) Transitioning to PreK, Tips for Establishing Routines, Positive Discipline, Bedtime Struggles, Eating Challenges, The Importance of Play and Toileting Troubles. Childcare is not available.

Wednesday 11/13/24 – Music and Movement with Deb Hudgins 10:30 – 11:00 Whitinsville Social Library, 17 Church Street, Whitinsville. Register online at the Whitinsville Social Library Website.

Monday 11/18/24 – Is Your Child Really a Picky Eater? Presented by Jill Vetstein. Join us via zoom from 7:00pm – 8:30 pm.

Wednesdays beginning 10/2/24 and running through 12/11/24 – Lap Babies 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm at the Uxbridge Play Center, 9 North Main Street Uxbridge (rear of 1 N. Main) This is a time for caregivers and infants, not yet walking, to circle up and enjoy singing, finger plays, tummy time and reading. New parents will have opportunities to connect in a relaxed environment and time dedicated to discussion topics of interest to you!

Wednesday 11/20/24 – Coffee and Conversations 9:15 am – 10:15 am, Taft Public Library, 29 North Ave, Mendon. Join us for an informal playtime where families will be able to build social connections, learn about early childhood development and family friendly resources. Taft will supply Muffin House Muffins! Please stay for the 10:30 am Puppet Storytime. Join Newton and Friends of Through Me to You Puppetry for songs and stories. At the end of the 30 minute show, children can greet the puppets. (Geared for children 2-5 years but all are welcome!)

Blackstone Valley Education Foundation opens applications for Youth Leadership Academy

REGION — Valley Youth Leadership Academy and sophomore students from BVEF opens applications for the Blackstone

year, is composed of 30 freshmen and sophomore students from BVEF full-member high schools. The six-month program aims to enhance the potential of these emerging leaders while deepening their connection to the Blackstone Valley community; with a long-term goal of fostering the next generation of community stewards who are committed to serving and uplifting any community they reside in. The mission of the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is to partner with school districts, industry, and community partners to expose students to careers as

early as possible. Through building supportive networks, providing access to mentors, and delivering career-connected curricula that builds essential skills BVEF will provide equitable opportunities for all students. Applications for BVYLA are open to full member schools until November 5th. For more information about BVEF and to stay updated on our latest initiatives, please visit <https://www.bveducationfoundation.org/> or contact Dr. Erin Conley at 508-234-3133, ext. 8888. About BVEF The Blackstone Valley Education Foundation, originally a sub-committee of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, grew and developed until its official establishment as its own federal nonprofit organization in 1999. BVEF continues to expand while honoring its original mission to enrich education by connecting member schools with local businesses to prepare students for the workforce. With an initial focus of primarily awarding small grants to schools, today BVEF's 15 member and affiliate member school districts benefit from more extensive programming and services thanks to the strong partnerships we have with local businesses.

REAL ESTATE

BLACKSTONE

\$550,000, 19 Orchard St, Bkpl-Eg Hld Prop LLC, to Ensko, Zachary.
 \$500,000, 102 Bellingham Rd, White Ft, and White, Kenneth B, to Volpicelli, Michael, and Volpicelli, Samantha.
 \$472,000, 3 Chestnut St, Melchionno Jr, Anthony A, to Vodden, Taylor, and Walsh, Thomas.
 \$432,000, 351 Blackstone St, Mccann, Phyllis J, to Ferrucci, Anthony.
 \$399,900, 169 Mendon St, Ray 3rd Lawrence I Est, and Ray, Ann T, to Taft, Wayne D, and Taft, Sandra A.
 \$100,000, 8 Clyde St, Krajewski Ft, and Nutter, Karen, to Custom Builders LLC.

DOUGLAS

\$505,000, 228 South St, Reneau, Heather, to Telhada, Christopher.

NORTHBRIDGE

\$799,000, 78 Valerie Run, D & F Afonso Builders Inc, to Russel & Nancy Quetti RET, and Quetti, Russell M.
 \$471,000, 1277 Quaker St, Leeman, Laurie A, to Lorange, Stephen, and Leis, Kevin R.
 \$254,000, 85 N Main St #85, Macpherson, Heather E, to Guney, Amhet.
 \$246,100, 16 Delray Gdns, Nelson, Chloe R, to Figueiredo, Slade, and Lavoie, Hailey.
 \$225,000, 206 Church St, Creighton, Kevin T, and Creighton, Jill, to Simpson, Lori A.

UXBRIDGE

\$750,000, 15 Foxwood Ln, Apple, Mark E, and Apple, Victoria L, to Fleury, James, and Fleury, Nadia.
 \$539,900, 57 Pouts Ln #57, West River Homes LLC, to Boucher, Corwin L.
 \$480,000, 166 Douglas St, Bd Homes LLC, to Loach, John P.
 \$345,000, 83 Oak St, Girouard, Hector A, and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc, to Nep Ssns I LLC.
 \$235,000, 101 Aldrich St, Stefanick, Robert J, to Malec, Frank A.

BVT Admissions to hold open house

UPTON — Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School will hold an Open House for prospective students and their families on Wednesday, Nov. 13, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. No registration is needed. The evening is an opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art facility located at

65 Pleasant St. in Upton and see for yourself how BVT is transforming education and the lives of its students. Meet staff members who will be on hand as a resource to answer questions about academics, student support services, student activities, and the admissions process. The schedule of events will include

mini-sessions featuring the Special Education program and the support available to students at BVT and during the application process. Also, learn more about the Spanish Immersion program and how to enroll. If you are interested in learning more, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/admission-sopenhouse.

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BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
 FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@salmonpress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
 RYAN CORNEAU
 860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
 JIM DiNICOLA
 508-764-6102
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR
 BRENDAN BERUBE
 508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
 JULIE CLARKE
 860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewsletters.com

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About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Stone, 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.

Sheriff's Office launches winter coat drive

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — With winter on the way, the season of giving has started early for Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his team.

Last week, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association held their annual Winter Coat Drive Kick-Off at Pepe's Italian Restaurant in Worcester.

The event raised money and awareness for the massive community coat drive initiative, which will keep area residents of all ages warm this winter.

"Many community members and representatives of local organizations have supported the coat drive in various ways," read a statement released

by the Sheriff's Office.

Starting on Tuesday, Oct. 22, and continuing through the first week of November, Sheriff Evangelidis and his outreach teams will distribute coats to community members at 20 nonprofit organizations and other local venues.

Their goal is to deliver a total of 4,000 new winter coats to those in need throughout Worcester County. Families, seniors, children, veterans, and other community members will all benefit from the program.

"Every year, we have the joy of handing out these coats, which symbolize much more than just a winter jacket. They represent a community that cares," said Evangelidis. "The people who receive



Courtesy

Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his team kick off their annual winter coat drive.

these jackets are grateful for the gesture from the Sheriff's Office. This is a special time of year for the Sheriff's Department, and we're excited to connect with the community members we serve."

Since the pandemic, high prices and lost jobs have combined to place a strain on residents nationwide,

especially families and seniors. For Evangelidis and his team, it means a lot to help those seeking assistance in keeping their families warm this winter.

Officials thank all community members, businesses, volunteers, and local organizations who have stepped up and shown support for the annual coat

drive.

"Thank you to all who have supported this initiative and joined us," read the statement issued by the Sheriff's Office.

This year's coat distribution sites are located in Southbridge, Webster, Worcester, Gardner, Fitchburg, and Leominster.

For more information about the

coat drive, or to learn about several other programs

the Sheriff's Office runs to support the community, visit

www.worcester-countysheriff.com.

Country Bank donates \$10,000 to American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western

Massachusetts, is pleased to demonstrate its unwavering support for those affected by recent hurricanes, with a generous \$10,000 donation to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. This contribution reflects the bank's commitment to its motto, "Made to Make a Difference," by providing assistance during times of need.

As Florida communities face the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene and the impending landing of Hurricane Milton, the urgency for support and relief efforts is paramount. Country Bank, under the leadership of Mary McGovern,

President and CEO, is standing by those greatly impacted during this recent event.

"We believe in supporting those greatly impacted during these weather-related events, especially when it matters most," said Mary McGovern. "Our donation to the American Red Cross is not just a financial contribution; it's a commitment to helping those in dire situations rebuild their lives and restore hope."

The American

Red Cross, a key player in disaster response, provides shelter, food, and emotional support to individuals and families affected by hurricanes. Country Bank's donation is aimed at supporting the American Red Cross's ability to provide immediate relief and long-term recovery services to impacted communities.

Country Bank encourages other local businesses and community members to join in the effort to

support hurricane relief. Together, we can make meaningful difference and help those impacted recover from these challenging circumstances. Learn more at redcross.org.

About Country Bank

Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown,

Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

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cate and speak up for herself.
<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6966>

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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. 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.



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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Celebrating the spooky season

As the air turns crisp and the leaves crunch beneath your boots, there's something about this time of year that feels both cozy and a little eerie. Halloween is upon us, and with it comes the unmistakable pull of ghost stories, pumpkin carving, and a sense that maybe—just maybe—we aren't as alone as we think.

Halloween has roots that go way back, all the way to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. Imagine bonfires lighting up the dark, chilly night, with people in animal skins and masks, hoping to keep the spirits from noticing them. It was believed that the veil between the living and the dead was thin on Oct. 31, and the spirits were out and about. Fast-forward a few centuries, throw in some Irish immigrants bringing their traditions to America, and here we are—still dressing up, still feeling that touch of magic (and maybe fear) in the air.

But there's something special about Halloween here in New England. Maybe it's the old houses, some of which seem to creak with secrets of their own. Maybe it's the fog that rolls in just right, making everything feel like the opening scene of a ghost story. New England has been the setting for some of the most chilling tales—stories that seem to hang in the cool, still air this time of year.

Take the eerie tale of the "Lady in White" of Union Cemetery in Connecticut. Picture it: a moonlit night, and a woman in a flowing white dress wandering the cemetery's edge. She's been spotted by countless people over the years, always disappearing into the mist just as quickly as she appears. Then there's "Emily's Bridge" in Vermont, where the ghost of a heartbroken young woman is said to linger; her presence felt by those brave enough to walk the bridge at night. And in New Hampshire, we have the haunting of the Mount Washington Hotel, where guests still report seeing the ghost of Carolyn Stickney, the original owner's wife. She's often spotted in Room 314, brushing her hair; or simply strolling the halls as if still watching over the grand hotel she loved.

But Halloween isn't just about the ghosts; it's about that cozy feeling that comes with the bright foliage and chilly air. There's something magical about this time of year: The world feels like it's slowing down, wrapping itself in the warm colors of fall—heavy sweaters, mugs of hot cider, the crackle of a fire. And yet, even as we snuggle in, we can't quite shake the feeling that we're sharing this season with something...otherworldly.

As you settle into the comforts of fall, don't forget to indulge in a few good ghost stories. Whether it's huddling around a bonfire or sitting by the fire with friends, these tales are as much a part of the season as the turning leaves. Maybe it's because they remind us that even in the coziest of moments, there's always a little bit of mystery in the air.

Enjoy your cider, carve your Jack O'Lanterns, and pull your sweater a little tighter, remember that you're part of something much bigger and older. And if you happen to catch a shadow out of the corner of your eye or feel a chilly breeze sneak in through the window, well, maybe that's just New England reminding you it's not just the living who love this time of year.

OPINION *Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Theatre of the absurd

To the Editor:

While holding a Harris/Walz sign at Plummers Corner last weekend, several cars drove by, and screamed "North Carolina!" out the window. Those were the polite ones. Others indicated the numerical value of their IQ by holding up their middle finger. As if it weren't obvious.

I had no idea what "North Carolina!" signified until later in the day, when I read that Trump and Fox 'opinionists' were promoting the lie that FEMA money was being used to shelter undocumented immigrants, instead of being used to aid Florida residents after hurricane Helene. At the same time, Fox News obtained a fact sheet from the House Appropriations Committee stating that FEMA "has enough funding in the short-term to address immediate needs for both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton." It also declared there is "no funding connection between" the migrant shelter program and the Disaster Relief Fund, and added there is "no intermingling of funding between these two programs. The only connection is that both programs are administered by FEMA." Fox chose to run with the lie, and the locals who saw it, then taunted me. See how that works? Bev, a.k.a. the Holy Hypocrite, even repeated the lie in last week's BVT. (Project 2025, by the way, calls for the elimination of FEMA.)

President Biden asked Congress to immediately approve additional FEMA funds, but Republican Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, refused, suggesting that this should wait until after the election. He added: "The cost of damages has to be tabulated before a supplemental can be considered, and we are a long way from that." Since when does Congress refuse to fund emergencies? It does have a familiar ring though - remember all the

screams about the border, before Trump made the House refuse to pass the bipartisan Border Reform bill? Now it, and hurricane relief funds, have to wait until after the election. A perfect example of Republican governance.

If you don't like grocery prices now, wait until Trump deports the people who pick it, process it, and package it. Add in the cost of the new tariffs he wants to impose, and you will be lucky to afford stale bread and water for dinner. But you will still be able to hate, and fear, and be the useful idiots of the Republican party... at no extra cost!

From the new book by acclaimed journalist Bob Woodward: When Trump was president in 2020, he sent coveted COVID testing machines to Russian President Vladimir Putin during a crippling shortage of the machines in the United States and around the world.

As the book explains, Putin was petrified of contracting the deadly illness. He accepted the equipment, but cautioned Trump not to reveal that he had provided them, concerned for the political fallout that the U.S. president would suffer. Trump's reply was: "I don't care. Fine." Trump, as usual, vehemently denied that any of this was true, but the Kremlin confirmed that they did receive the machines. Ouch! Since Trump left office in 2020, he's had as many as seven private phone calls with the Kremlin leader. Makes you wonder which of these conversations precipitated the full-scale invasion of Ukraine? Or how many of the top-secret documents that Trump hid at Mar-a-Lago, ended up in Putin's hands? Or what plans were concocted to interfere and help Trump win re-election?

Trump's lies are so prolific that he backs out of any engagement that includes fact-checking, as he just did with

the traditional "60 Minutes" presidential candidate interview. He tried to do the same with the National Association of Black Journalists, before they embarrassed him into a brief appearance. His lies about COVID cost tens of thousands of American lives. His lies about the election cost Americans their lives, their careers, their reputations, and their families. His lies are now getting more desperate and bizarre - immigrants are eating our pets... kids are having sex change operations in schools... emergency disaster funds are being used to house undocumented immigrants... Psychiatrists and psychologists will spend decades studying his behavior. To me, he's just the latest incarnation of carnival barker P.T. Barnum, only far more malevolent. Millions of propagandized Americans are his "suckers born every minute". Like most authoritarians, Trump uses his lying to bend reality and bamboozle the public. He lies to conceal his own abject failures, criminality, incompetence, disloyalty, misogyny and ignorance - and the lies become more pernicious when the right-wing media echoes them endlessly. Trump would rather be known as a liar, and rely on the public's acceptance, that "all politicians lie" - (see 'Overton Window') - than acknowledge his manifest faults and failures. Unfortunately, the consequences of his lies - the broken lives, the stoking of fear, hatred and distrust of democratic institutions - are disastrous for our republic. Democracy requires a shared understanding and acceptance of reality - the polar opposite of Trump's theatre of the absurd. If you want democracy... if you want freedom, vote Democrat.

*Rick Bevilacqua
Whitinsville*

We could lose a lot by not spending a little

To the Editor:

I am asking the voters of the Town of Douglas to vote for the Community Preservation Act on the upcoming election ballot. Vote "yes on 6."

Think of it as a trust fund for the town. Each year, funds are collected from a surcharge and a yearly distribution from the CPA trust fund. This

money can be saved or used for open space, historic preservation, affordable housing and recreation. The CPA trust funds are collected through deed transfers and the town's allotment is based on what we raise locally. If we vote No on this the money goes to the towns that have adopted the CPA. We lose ours. See communitypreservation.org/trustfund.

You chose how the money is used. You vote on the projects that are presented to the town. Voting No, you also lose your choice to make this town a little better and I think this town deserves a little better. X is not a decoration.

By not spending a little, we lose a lot.
*Betsy D. Youngsma
Douglas*

Am I really that far off the mark?

To the Editor:

Man, oh man, how obvious does the misandry of our most beloved Christian nationalist "columnist" have to be for her to catch on to her own totally disingenuous con games?

Here within the black and white print of this publication's March 22 edition, she totally bungled the scientific application of the Illusory Truth Effect due to her own dearth of legitimate researching skills.

Only to then complete her anti-male, Jack and Bobby Kennedy bashing, Christian nationalist ramblings with a veritable quartet of Fidel Castro fidelity that we all, as her reader/victims, bore witness to in the June 28 through the July 19 editions.

In the latter of which, her "Beautiful Message" was that she had unequivocally, openly and without reservation given herself over to a highly specific, left-wing branch of Christian Nationalism

that devotes itself to the LGBTQ+ community's political exclusions of straight individuals along with their heterosexual lifestyles.

Doing so after, in her opening paragraph of the July 5 edition, quite rigorously explaining how we too can spot and deduce that we are "...looking down the maw of Christian Nationalism (CN)" to better rid our republican system of governance of "all" such duplicitous CN scoundrels.

We all know, do we not, that the LGBTQ+ community used the US Supreme Court to better subjugate their fellow Christians by forcing them against their religious beliefs to bake wedding cakes? Does that not rather precisely fit within the parameters of her 7/5/24 warning to us all? Is it not also true that our Gov. Maura Healey is one of "their" elected leaders working for "their" exclusive benefit?

Upon proper investigation by the read-

ers of her own most recent words, taking into account the letter writer's own words of the recent past as expressed here, in the black and white of print of this publication, hasn't she now proven beyond any doubt whatsoever that I was unconditionally and unerringly correct in my assessments?

And what of the three deceased Kennedys... Joe, Jack and Bobby? Did they not sacrifice their very lives in service to this nation? Who among the letter writers made a reasonable and proper attempt to correct those totally deplorable inaccuracies to better present the real history of those exceptionally dangerous times that most definitely included the Missiles of October of 1962?

Am I really and truly as far off the mark on these things as some on the political left have repeatedly claimed?

*Stephen Gambone
Northbridge*

FEMA, and the Biden administration, have failed North Carolina

To the Editor:

Here is an early Christmas present from the Biden-Kamala government:

In 2021, Old Joe assigned Kamala the specific job of expanding Broadband services to rural, unserved communities like western Georgia and North Carolina. To date, the \$42 billion Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program has not provided Internet service for a single person. Not one.

But Elon Musk connected the Hurricane Helene victims in North Carolina, East Tennessee and western Georgia to StarLink Internet in two seconds. Two seconds.

It took FEMA nine days after Helene to get medical oxygen to western North Carolina for citizens with medical needs. The true heroes are Operation Helo, former military pilot volunteers equipped with privately owned helicopters.

Matt McSwain, co-founder of Operation Helo, based out of Hickory Regional Airport in western North Carolina, has

been deploying helicopters into remote locations. "He told CNN on October 6 that when Operation Helo launched following the heavy rains and floods 'there was no military presence, there was no military help, there was no FEMA. There was nothing.' As of Sunday [Oct. 6], more than a week later, there was 'still no FEMA, still no military, still no nothing. We're begging - this is Day Eight, Nine now,' McSwain said." — The Federalist.

When Haiti was hit by a catastrophic hurricane during the Obama administration, he deployed National Guard rescue helicopters in two days. Two Days.

Out of curiosity, I went to the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) website home page. First, the page does not even state what FEMA stands for: It required a Google search to find the agency's actual title.

FEMA's top priorities? 1. "Instill Equity as a foundation of emergency management." Where do you find equity in the definition of emergency?

In Biden-Kamala Woke world, equity is the first step in an emergency. I have news for Woke World. Equity is not the first step. Getting help to American citi-

zens is the first step in an emergency.

FEMA priority 2. "Lead whole community in climate resilience."

The Biden-Kamala FEMA failed spectacularly in not preparing western North Carolina, western Georgia and East Tennessee to prepare for "climate resilience." The same towns that suffered several tropical storm damage three years ago suffered again from Hurricane Helene, only worse this time. Complete mission failure.

FEMA priority 3. "Promote and sustain a ready FEMA and prepared nation."

FEMA was not ready or prepared for Hurricane Helene. In fact, FEMA and the national weather service assured western North Carolina three years ago that the terrible tropical storm that washed away homes was a "once in a lifetime occurrence," and they did not have to worry about it going forward, according to the mayor of Canton, N.C.

The same homes just washed away in Hurricane Helene. FEMA and the national weather service cannot predict whether or not severe storms will hit North Carolina again, in just three years. They did not help these areas build back with

flood and rain preparation and readiness.

Majorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security and FEMA, recently said that FEMA will not make it through the hurricane season as it is running out of money. The brilliant Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives, stated that they had voted \$20 billion recently to FEMA, and Majorkas has only spent 1 percent.

Kamala announced \$750 to Hurricane Helene victims when they have no cell-phone, no roads, no Internet service, no stores. I watched her announce it. She did not follow that statement with an explanation that more FEMA money would be available to ruined citizens.

Oh, the joy of \$750 from FEMA. God only knows when that check would get mailed. And to which post office, when the post office has washed away.

As they say now in North Carolina, "Rednecks with chainsaws have saved more lives than the federal government." Need I say more?

*Bev Gudanowski
Uxbridge*

Nobody knows it better than me

To the Editor:

Nobody knows it better than me. I know better than anybody.

I know more about weapons than anyone. I know more about infrastructure than anyone. I know more about trade than anyone. I know more about steelworkers than anyone. I know more about technology than anyone. There's nobody bigger or better on the military than I am. I know more about offense and defense than the generals will ever understand, believe me. Nobody's ever done a better job than I'm doing as president. Nobody

knows the system better than me, which is why I alone can fix it.

Does this sound familiar, or more importantly, believable? If so, I have alarming news for you! Besides being subjected to a steady diet of the 'gobble attention' technique, Trump may be using this to prime your brain to believe everything he says. I know that for you who love him, this will be very hard to hear. His way of 'gobbling attention' is simply capturing your focus by being outrageous - truth/facts aren't relevant - only outrageousness.

"I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created. I will build a great wall - and nobody builds walls better than me, believe me - and I'll build them very inexpensively. I will build a great, great wall on our southern border, and I will make Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words. I have been the best president for the Black population since Abraham Lincoln. I'm the most successful person ever to run for the presidency, by far. Nobody's ever been more successful than me. I have the best words. I'm intelligent.

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.

Fall Lawn and Garden: What to Do & When to Do It

As the chill in the air and falling leaves signify the autumn season is well underway, mid October gardens still require care and upkeep. As many a backyard gardener will attest, chores don't end at harvest time. From planting to pruning, efforts now will be celebrated next year. It is the anticipation of these future crops that sustains weary gardeners through the roster of fall chores.

Fall Garden Chore Roster

OCTOBER
 October Stats: Average temperature (Worcester, MA): 54°; Possibility of Sunshine: 58%; Precipitation: 4.7".

- October is the month to:
- Plant spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, crocuses and daffodils.
 - Prune roses to prepare for winter. Cut non-blooming roses back half way.
 - Rake leaves from lawn; add to compost pile.
 - Make sure evergreens have a good deep watering before the ground freezes. They should receive at least an inch of water a week, preferably more.
 - If you test your soil and add any needed amendments now, the soil will be ready for planting in spring.
 - Cut back and mulch fall chrysanthemums after blooming.
 - Christmas cactus should rest in a cool, dim room with little water. Bring it out November 15 for holiday bloom.
 - Protect pumpkins from frost.
 - As leaves begin to fall, remove them long before snow arrives. They not only shade the grass during late fall, but become wet and mat down to smother

the grass over winter.
 Raked leaves make an excellent mulch on the bare, winter garden. They can prevent weeds next year, and as they decompose add organic matter to the soil.

Continue to mow your lawn until growth ceases. Make the last mowing a notch or two lower, in order to remove much top growth. This will avoid the need to rake off dead growth in the spring, and will help prevent snow mold disease.

Other Fall Garden Chores and Pleasures

Stowing the Stash: Proper storage of your bountiful harvest will ensure your family the fruits of your labor throughout the New England winter. Generations ago, a root cellar was a basement staple. Today, the temperature can be achieved via a little creativity. Whether you are growing your own root vegetables or are buying in bulk from a local farm or farmers market, proper storage is imperative to its flavor and quality.

Here's the rundown on proper temps to keep your harvest safe and flavorful: Potatoes, beets, carrots, parsnips, turnips, cabbage and celery should be kept in a humid atmosphere at about 35 to 40 degrees. Squash and pumpkins should be stored in a dry area at 40 to 60 degrees. Onions and dry beans should be kept at 33 degrees in a dry area.

Generations ago, a root cellar was a



TAKE THE HINT
 KAREN TRAINOR

basement staple; today some improvising is in order. As noted in a previous column, those with unheated basements report success creating a substitute root cellar by partitioning off one corner, installing insulation and a heavy, solid door. Keep in mind the temperature inside the root cellar will be coolest near the floor, so place roots there atop an old door or boards.

Another strategy shared in a past column is to create a root box by filling a large, sturdy cardboard box with a few inches of sawdust or sand. Place a layer of roots such as carrots, leaving two inches along the sides. Cover lightly with sawdust and alternate layers, adding a final three inches of sawdust on top. Store in a cool basement or in the cellar bulkhead area. Roots can touch each other in storage, just don't pack them in tightly, as some moist air must be able to circulate.

Lawn Care: New England lawns can be a challenge, but there are some shortcuts to ensure a lush lawn come spring. Raked leaves make an excellent mulch on the bare, winter garden as they can prevent weeds next year, and as they decompose add organic matter to the soil. Or add them to the compost pile. Some people prefer to run over the leaves with a rotary mower, shredding them into fine pieces.

Continue to mow your lawn until

growth ceases, often sometime in October. Make the last mowing a notch or two lower, in order to remove much top growth. This will avoid the need to rake off dead growth in the spring, and will help prevent snowmold disease.

**
 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 (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) 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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Missing 411

Well, if you read my column last week, you'll know that for this Halloween season, I decided to venture into the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious—a bit of a departure from my usual focus on the positive. But I have to admit, I've always been intrigued by mysteries. And what better time than spooky season to dive into the things that freak me out?

Many of you will start looking for a logical explanation as soon as I bring up this topic. Our brains want to rationalize the strange and unusual. But sometimes, things defy explanation, and that's what drew me back to 2015 when I first heard David Paulides on "Coast to Coast AM" with George Noory.

Paulides, a former police officer turned researcher after his retirement. His focus? Missing person cases, often in the middle of nowhere and in our National Parks. As an avid hiker, I've been to many remote areas and forests, and I've only ever experienced their beauty. But according to Paulides, something else lurks in these wildernesses—a series of cases that are as baffling as they are unsettling.

Now, I know what you're thinking—people get lost, wander off the trail, or are attacked by wildlife. And while these situations happen, a subset of missing person cases don't fit those typical explanations.

In his "Missing 411" series, Paulides doesn't speculate or offer wild theories. He presents the facts—just like a detective—and leaves the conclusions up to the reader. His work is compelling because he doesn't rush to label any disappearance as a "Missing 411" case. A specific set of criteria must be met before a case qualifies.

These are the disappearances where people seem to vanish without a trace—no signs of a struggle, no evidence of an attack, no clues. Search and rescue teams comb the area, and dogs are brought in—but in some of these cases, the dogs refuse to track the scent.

One case that stands out for its oddness is the story of Keith Parkins, a two-year-old boy who disappeared on April 10th, 1952, near his grandfather's cattle ranch in Ritter, Ore. Keith was playing outside with his older brothers near a barn when he suddenly vanished. A frantic search began when his mother realized Keith hadn't returned for lunch with his broth-

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 SPEAKING
 TOBY
 MOORE

ers. The conditions were cold, with snow patches still on the ground.

Initially, locals and family members searched, quickly spreading out in a line, covering as much ground as possible. As the day wore on, the search grew larger; and by nightfall, more than 200 people were involved, combing the area in hopes of finding the boy. Despite the cold and rough terrain, they were confident they'd see him nearby. But the search dragged on through the night, with no sign of Keith.

Then, at around 7 a.m. the next morning, searchers found footprints three miles away, walking through a herd of cattle—one set of footprints. Hours later, a searcher found Keith 12 miles away in Skull Canyon, lying face down in the snow, his hat and coat beside him. Remarkably, he was alive but suffering from exposure, unable to move because his body was stiff from the cold. His face was covered in scratches, and his clothing was torn. Keith made a full recovery, but his case left many unanswered questions. How did a two-year-old travel 12 miles in freezing temperatures overnight without shoes, food, or water? Yet, against all odds, he survived. I have a hard time believing he could do this without help from someone or something.

This case has a happy ending—Keith was found alive—but he was two years old, and two-year-olds don't walk 12 miles, especially barefoot in the snow.

Parkins' case isn't an isolated incident. There are hundreds of cases that are even stranger and far more terrifying.

Mysteriously, these cases often occur in clusters—specific locations where disappearances appear more frequently. The patterns suggest that something strange is at play in these regions, though no one has been able to pinpoint a solid explanation.

The forests, mountains, and wilderness may hold more mysteries than we care to admit. So, as you carve pumpkins, watch scary movies, and enjoy Halloween, understand that real-life mysteries can be far more frightening than any old ghost story.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc

Saving for college? Or retirement?

If you're a parent, you want to do everything you can to help your children succeed in life. Therefore, you might think that one of the best things you can do is to save for your children's college education. And this is certainly admirable, but could it conflict with your ability to prepare for another key goal—your own retirement?

Of course, this would not be a problem if you had unlimited means, but most of us don't fall into that category. So, given the financial resources and income you do have, how should you approach the college-versus-retirement issue?

Fortunately, it's not necessarily an "either-or" scenario. However, it may make sense to prioritize saving for retirement over college, for two reasons.

First, your children have a lot more time to pay for college than you have to save for retirement. In addition to any grants or scholarships your children may receive, they might need to take out loans. While it's a good idea to keep this debt load as manageable as possible, it's also true that most student loans can be repaid over a long period of time.

And here's the second point: One of the best gifts you can give your children is to be self-sufficient in your retirement. You could easily spend two, or even three, decades as a retiree, so you will need to build considerable financial resources to pay for all those years. Your adult children will have their own financial needs to address, so you'll be doing them a great favor by relieving them of any financial responsibilities on your behalf.

Taking these factors into account, you may want to direct most of your saving and investing efforts toward achieving a comfortable retirement. Consequently,



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think about putting away as much as you can afford into your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Even with this focus on retirement, though, you may

find opportunities to save and invest for your children's education. For example, if you receive bonuses or income tax refunds, or your salary goes up, or you're able to free up money from your budget by reducing your debts, you could use these funds to invest in an education savings vehicle, such as a 529 plan. When you invest in a 529 plan, your earnings and withdrawals are federally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified education expenses such as tuition, room and board, books, and computers. Depending on where you live, you may also get some state tax benefits from your 529 plan. And a 529 plan isn't just for college—it can be used for K-12 private school tuition costs, plus expenses from qualified apprenticeship programs, such as those found at trade schools eligible for Title IV federal student aid.

It might not be easy to save and invest consistently for your retirement and your children's education. But both goals are worthy—after all, retirement can last a long time and college is expensive. So, try to develop a financial strategy that can allow you to make progress in both areas—your efforts may well be rewarded.

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.

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jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President
508-868-3765
jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

Millbury church to host annual turkey raffle

MILLBURY — The Millbury First Congregational Church will be holding our Turkey Raffle on Friday, Nov. 22 at 6:30 p.m. It will take place at the Charles F. Minney VFW Post at 16 South Main St., Millbury.

- The Top four Prizes Will include:
- *First Prize: \$500 in cash
 - *Second Prize: \$250 Amazon Gift Card
 - *Third Prize: Case of Assorted Wines
 - *Fourth Prize: Thanksgiving Dinner

Basket with Turkey
*In Addition, numerous items on display will be raffled off during the evening. Refreshments will be sold during the event, including hot dogs and other delicious surprises. Please come early and enjoy the fun on Nov. 22. Please don't bring in any food or drinks.
Raffle tickets will be sold at Gorette's in Millbury on Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, and Nov. 8.

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NORTH BROOKFIELD
St. Joseph's Food Pantry
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the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12
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Any questions should be directed to the
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St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community
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Distribution: Tuesday 3 PM-5 PM,
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Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy welcomes new adjunct faculty

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is pleased to welcome newly appointed adjunct faculty Megan Redkey, BSN, RN, CCRN of Gardner.

Professor Redkey is an experienced RN with a specialty in critical care. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science at University of Massachusetts Boston

(December 2019) and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at MCPHS University, Worcester, MA (May 2021) where she was inducted to the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Her academic honors include Magna Cum Laude and Dean's List. She is expected to complete his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (Family

Nurse Practitioner Track) in 2027 at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing. Her certifications include AACN CCRN, AHA BLS, AHA ACLS, and AHA PALS. Her work experience includes Critical Care Float Pool at UMass Memorial Medical Center University Campus where she provides care



Courtesy

Megan Redkey

and management of patients to all ICU and specialty inpatient settings including surgical, transplant, trauma, neuro, cardiovascular, pulmonary, pediatric/PICU, PACU/SACU, cardiac step-down, and cardiac short-stay including maintenance of specialty education associated with each unit. She was previously connected with the Heart and Vascular Critical Care Unit at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, where she precepted and was a back-up/trainee, shadow experience partner for new grads/students, dayshift. Professor Redkey volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps, Wachusett Unit.

"We are excited to have Professor Redkey join the Practical Nursing Academy," stated Gethelene Bolandrina DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. "She brings with her expertise and experience that would greatly benefit the PN students and our Bay Path community."

Get the most out of your pumpkin



GARDEN MOMENTS
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It's pumpkin season and time to select and decorate pumpkins for your fall display. Keep pumpkins and Jack-o'-lanterns looking their best longer with proper selection and care.

Harvest or purchase pumpkins free of holes, cuts, and soft spots for decorating. Damaged fruit tends to rot faster, ruining your fall display. And always carry the fruit cradled in your arms, not by the stem. Once the stem breaks away from the fruit, the pumpkin is more susceptible to rot and its beauty fades.

Store carving pumpkins in a cool location until you are ready to start cutting. Extend the beauty of carved pumpkins by washing them with warm water and letting them dry before making the first cut. Try leaving the top intact and scooping the insides out through a hole in the back. This limits water entering the carved cavity and helps extend the life of your Jack-o'-lantern.

Coat the cuts with petroleum jelly or vegetable oil to seal in the moisture and prolong your display. Take it one step further and use a commercial preservative or peppermint oil to keep your Jack-o'-lantern looking its best for as long as possible.

Don't give up when your Jack-o'-lantern begins shriveling. Instead, give it a cold bath to freshen up its appearance.

Or put away the knives and break out the paint, beads, decorations, crayons, and your imagination to further extend your pumpkin's beauty. Turn your pumpkin into a creature, movie character, pet, or fun object. You'll find lots of creative inspiration in magazines and online.

Don't worry if you have limited artistic ability. Create a multicolored crayon-dripped pumpkin. Wipe the pump-

Extend the life of pumpkins by creating crayon-dripped pumpkins rather than carving.

kin's surface clean and allow it to dry before you start decorating. Remove the labels from the crayons and break them in half if needed.

Glue the crayons to the top of the pumpkin to prevent them from rolling off while you work. Place one end of the crayon against the stem and the other end pointed away from the center of the pumpkin.

Cover your work surface and use your hair dryer to melt the crayons so they drip down the sides of the pumpkin, creating a colorful waxy covering. A high heat setting will speed up the

process but may make a bigger mess by splashing the melted wax all over the table.

To further dress up your landscape consider converting a few pumpkins into fall planters. Remove the top. Cut a hole large enough to accommodate the pot you'll be inserting. Remove the seeds and flesh, cut a few drainage holes in the bottom, and then set a pot of pansies, asters, mums, or ornamental peppers inside.

Or plant the flowers directly in the pumpkin planter filled with potting soil. When your pumpkins start to rot, move them, plants and all, to the compost pile. They will break down into a wonderful soil amendment for next year's garden.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *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* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

LETTER

FROM PAGE A4

Some people would say I'm very, very, very intelligent. My IQ is one of the highest – and you all know it. Here he is using "The firehose of lies or firehose of falsehood or flooding the zone with [waste]." Richardson notes this "is designed to make it impossible for voters to figure out the truth. The technique is designed so that eventually, voters give up trying to engage, conclude everyone is lying, throw up their hands, and stop voting. Only holding on to facts combats the effects of the storm of lies." The worst part of this is any sharing of the same

disinformation continues to support the malignant narcissism of the cult leader.

The same lie shows up on multiple channels and platforms simultaneously, everywhere, at a rate that no one can keep up with, let alone fact-check.

Additionally, cognitive linguistics 'examines the relationship between language and the mind.' A prime technique Trump employs in his speeches is to use: "dehumanizing metaphors to instill and propagate hatred of others. Once someone is tuned into these metaphors, their brain actually changes in ways that make them more likely to believe bigger lies, even conspiracy theories." (Danesi)

The researcher established a prerequisite state of mind for potential cult members. If people listening are in an

emotional state that triggers fear, they will be more susceptible to strong men's messages. If the fear is caused by 'pre-existing cultural prejudices' (for instance), dehumanizing metaphors are more believable because fear activates its own built-in defense mechanism, which may bypass "our logical brains" and rely only on "our fight-or-flight reactions" and make the statements made seem believable. This state bypasses higher level cognitive reasoning centers which may keep the listener from perceiving the lies because "it feels right." "This pattern becomes more effective the more it is used." The end result is that someone who has been triggered repeatedly to believe dehumanizing metaphors or new conspiracy theories "is more likely to continue to believe it." And this may lead folks to "end up (actually) acting in ways that they might not have before." Trump, Putin, and Orban(Hungary) use these same techniques. They use similar words for migrants: poison, poisoning the blood of our country, invaders, vermin, animals, monsters, stone-cold killers, etc. They invoke the great replacement theory. Their rhetoric is similar to Nazi propaganda. Through cognitive linguistics, Trump uses his speech to have you buy in and then betray your better angels. "Once the brain has carved out a well-worn

path of believing deceit, it is even harder to step out of that path – which is how fanatics are born."

But the good news is that intervention is possible, and you can do it in the privacy of your home. Follow others who have left and know it is possible to leave the cult and 'transition' back to sane citizens. A former Maga suggests, "Broaden your information sources." This can be done gradually; perhaps a bit less Fox and a bit more anything else. When you hear something Trumpian, check with other sources to validate – a fact-checking website. Try to engage with others that are not MAGA – other viewpoints might be interesting to consider. Find other MAGA members who left the movement, as they may be able to offer support. Give your-

self grace and kindness to change these deeply-held views. This part could take time. Professional help may be required if you find you can't take small steps toward change on your own. Reevaluate your own personal values and religious beliefs. Do your deepest held beliefs really support the meanness and crudeness of this bully's movement?

In the end, if this is just about you hating what the cult leader hates, then likely nothing can be done to save your soul. Or, as Father Gierlach suggests, you 'love' Trump because he gives you permission to be awful to people simply because you see them as less than" new information probably won't help either. At a recent sign-holding event in Northbridge, Trump's version of toxic masculinity was on full display. Self-selected 'Beta' men of multiple age groups who chose to 'diss' citizens with signs could have just passed by, but no, they made sure they gave the finger – and it wasn't a thumbs up. The rude and crude behavior of these white males over a two-hour period was a cult leader salute. In any of these cases, your participation is letting 'dark maga' win! What you will get in return is no policy beyond Project 2025 and 'a fascist to his core.'(Gierlach) No matter what color or

stripe you are, think about this: "If Donald Trump gets dementia, how would we even know?" based on the amount of disinformation/lies he constantly spouts. Ask yourself - Can you really watch, our government place 12 million human beings put into detention camps? Will you watch a civil war if Trump loses because his followers can't stand his loss? Where does it stop and the truth win? Do you want our country to be run by Trump/Putin, Trump/Musk, or J.D. Vance, who was bought for 15 million by Theil? This is one of those times when "No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path!" (Buddha)

Vote with the absolute best of who you are.

Linda Lacki
Northbridge

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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. WO24P3469EACITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
David Phillip Hayes
Date of Death:04/26/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kathleen E Haran of Worcester 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:
Kathleen E Haran of Worcester MA and **Mary Ellen Keough of Worcester MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to

this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/29/2024**

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: October109, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 18, 2024

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. WO24P3094EACITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Edward W Pokornicki, Sr.
Date of Death:08/07/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Linda Barrows of Northbridge 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 Barrows of Northbridge 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 11/05/2024**

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: October 09, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 18, 2024

Ben Fuller to appear at Valley Chapel Sunday Nov. 17

UXBRIDGE — Valley Chapel welcomes Ben Fuller in concert Nov. 17 at 6 p.m.

Music has taken Ben Fuller's life and made it into something he never would have dreamed. He grew up in Southern Vermont on his family dairy farm working along-side his father. He'd pass the time by singing to old classic country tunes as he witnessed first-hand the hard work and dedication it took to run a farm. The songs never stopped and somewhere between the farm and college, he picked up a guitar and never looked back.

Due to generations of hurt in his family, Fuller struggled with certain aspects of growing up and turned to cocaine and alcohol at a young age. In 2015, he got involved in a devastating drug-fueled relationship which led him to understand better, the other side of addiction. In addition, come 2017, he abruptly lost his best friend to a heroin overdose and

his entire outlook on life shifted.

Motivated to change, he moved to Nashville to pursue a career as a country singer in late 2018. A family Ben was close with invited him to church one Sunday and as he walked the halls into the auditorium filled with 3,000 people,

he knew one day he would sing "that kind of music" for the rest of his life. Falling face first into his new-found relationship with Jesus, he began writing with a burning desire to share what God did to turn his life around. Today, Ben lives completely sober, while sharing his

story filled with hope, mercy and grace. By turning his testimony into songs, he has been rejuvenated with a new passion and mission; to share his story with the world and all who are ready to listen.

Rickets for Fuller's performance are available at www.fuseconcerts.org.

Hometown Mortgage to host virtual first-time homebuyer seminar

REGION — Hometown Mortgage is hosting a three-day virtual first-time homebuyer seminar Oct. 22, 23 and 24 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join our experienced lending professional Shauna Roberts (NMLS# 303800) in partnership with NewVue Communities. This seminar will help you qualify for special mortgage products, provide tips to improve your credit, and prepare you as you approach this important life decision.

This three-day virtual seminar is \$50 per household. To register, visit <https://ow.ly/4Xeu50THXEW>.

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At Hometown Mortgage, we help potential borrowers unlock the right home financing solution for their unique needs. As a division of bankESB, a Hometown Financial Group company that also includes bankHometown, North Shore Bank and Abington Bank — a division of North Shore Bank, we

leverage our combined strength coupled with shared services and technology to work with homebuyers across Massachusetts, Connecticut, and neighboring states to make homebuying simple and stress-free. At the same time, our commitment to community banking and local roots mean we can focus on the unique needs of those who live and work in the communities we serve. For more information, visit HFGmortgage.com.



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DA hosts event to help survivors deal with overdose deaths



Courtesy

Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., left, hosted several panelists at a community program last week.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Continuing his mission to support all families experiencing the loss of a loved one to an overdose, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., hosted an event last week focused on dealing with grief.

The program was highlighted by a panel discussion featuring several specialists. These include Deb Dowd-Foley, a long-time peer grief support group facilitator; Cheryl Juaire, founder and president of Team Sharing, Inc., a parental support nonprofit organization; and Dennis Bates, CEO of Washburn House.

“Each life lost to overdose creates a void of grief felt by the family, friends, and loved ones left behind,” Early said. “We want all those experiencing this grief to know they are not alone, and we want to help them find the support they need through the grieving process.”

The panelists discussed their own personal stories of loss and grief, then shared various resources enabling guests to find support locally.

Juaire lost her son, Corey, 23, to overdose. The grieving process inspired her to meet with a small group of six mothers who had also lost children to addiction.

“I finally realized I am normal. I finally realized I am going to be okay. It was lifechanging,” Juaire said. “This community is how I survived the loss.”

Dowd-Foley shared how participating in support groups helped her work through her grief after losing her 27-year-old son Brian to an overdose.

“I can’t emphasize enough the importance of finding the support of people who understand what you are going through,” Dowd-Foley said.

Panelists discussed multiple options for receiving support during the grieving process, whether it’s provided by a counselor, social media groups,

or peer support groups. Additionally, residents can benefit from self-care practices, including journaling, meditation, or finding new activities.

“The courage of these parents who come here and say this is what’s really going on, I commend them. That is how we’re going to end the stigma,” said Bates. “The beauty of what we have here is community. The people here who’ve been hurt the most are also the ones who can help the most.”

Grief support services referenced at the meeting include the following programs and agencies: Support After a Death by Overdose (saddod.org); The Sun Will Rise Foundation (thesunwillrise.org); and Team Sharing, Inc. (team-sharinginc.org).

Looking ahead, the District Attorney will continue hosting several programs that connect residents with the services they need.

“Mr. Early has been passionately committed

to addressing the polysubstance use crisis, as well as trauma and mental health,” read a statement released by the DA’s Office. “In 2015, he formed the Central Mass. Opioid Task Force, which he renamed last year the Prevention and Support Network. There are more than 700 members in the network.”

To learn more about programs offered or supported by the DA’s Office, visit www.WorcesterDA.com.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy staff learn about simulation and moulage

SPRINGFIELD — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol, (formerly of Dudley) and Executive Assistant to the Academy Director, Donna Pope, LPN of Southbridge represented Bay Path at the recently concluded Springfield College Mini-Sun Event sponsored by Laerdal. The event was held at the Health Sciences Center of Springfield College, Springfield, Friday, Oct. 4.

Maxey-Brock discussed debriefing with video while Dr. Doherty of the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions discussed advancing interprofessional collaboration through simulation-based learning. Other speakers included Dr. Gladys Fernandez of Baystate Medical Center on using quality and patient safety data to develop simulation programming, and Dr. Chris Scott of Springfield Technical Community College on integration simulation, lessons learned from accreditation. Participants had the opportunity to work with moulage firsthand led by Jorge Yarzelski of UMass Chan Medical School Icelis Program.

Bolandrina completed her Doctor of Health Administration degree at the University of Phoenix. The curriculum for the Doctor of Health Administration builds on master’s programs by providing education and training in management theories and methods applicable with a variety of healthcare organizations.



Courtesy

Dr. Bolandrina with Katie Maxey-Brock SimCapture Education Specialist of Laerdal Medical.

Focusing on the development of decision-making, communication, and critical thinking skills, topics covered in the course work include health care resource management, health care marketing techniques, global and U.S. health care systems, economics of health care services, federal regulation processes, and care management. In 2001, she completed CREA Journalism at Harvard Extension School, one of the university’s 12 degree-granting institutions. She previously earned her Master of Science in Nursing Education also from University of Phoenix and Bachelor of Science in Nursing at University of Santo Tomas, Manila Philippines. She is a registered nurse and a certified rehabilitation registered nurse (CRRN) with 37 years of nursing experience in the classroom as full-time faculty, managerial as charge nurse and nursing supervisor as well as Director of Quality

Improvement, and as an adjunct at Massachusetts Bay Community College. As the Academy Director, she worked with students, faculty, and staff in implementing various initiatives such as the establishment of the Community Service Award, the creation of the Mock Code Team, implementation of Mock Code scenarios per term culminating in Mock Code Day during Nurses’ Week celebration, establishment of the National Technical Honor Society Chapter (NTHS), the NTHS annual induction and alumni homecoming, creative funding for SkillsUSA, the UNICEF Club, participation in the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), class certification in Mental Health First Aid Training and Stop The Bleed, Alumni Mentorship and Peer tutoring, Nurses Art Therapy, initiatives for Food Insecurity, recognition of Kindness Acts, and the annual participation in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

Nursing students earn 100 percent on medication calculation test

CHARLTON — Julie Peloquin of Southbridge and Bobbiejo Smith of North Brookfield practical nursing students at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2024 earned a perfect score on their Medication Calculation test.

According to the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Student Handbook, under Clinical Policies, “Students must demonstrate a level of medication calculation competence before administering medications to patients in the clinical setting. Students must pass the Medication Calculation Test (MCT) with a 90 PERCENT or higher before passing medication in the clinical setting. Students will have three opportunities to pass the MCT.”

Both Peloquin and Smith passed the MCT with a score of 100 percent on their first attempt.

Further, as stated in the Student Handbook, “Students will receive a different version of the test each time they take it. After each unsuccessful attempt, the student MUST see an instructor for remediation before attempting to take the MCT again. If a student does not pass the MCT after the second attempt, a performance notification will be issued. Students who do not pass the MCT after the third (3rd) attempt will be unable to pass medications and therefore be unable to meet the clinical objectives and ultimately



Courtesy

Julie Peloquin and Bobbiejo Smith holding certificates of recognition for their successful hurdling of the MCT.

unable to continue in the PN Academy.”

Peloquin, of Southbridge, is with the Department of Developmental Services as DSW II, providing direct care in a group residential setting for individuals with developmental, physical, and mental disabilities. As DSW II she acts as shift supervisor and guide staff in care and operation of the shift. She mediates issues and manages scheduling/house duties as necessary. Peloquin is a graduate of Southbridge High School (2004) where she was active in Show Choir; Drama Club, Chess Club (Vice President), and School to Career Program. Her project was with Dystopia Rising Massachusetts setting guide. From 2015-2020 she studied at Worcester State University majoring in Psychology. She took four semesters of French (fluent in conversational French) and various visual/fine arts courses. Smith of North Brookfield is with the Commonwealth

of Massachusetts DMR in Springfield as a developmental service worker caring for individuals with their daily needs in their homes. She was a residential counselor and a senior childcare specialist. Smith is a graduate of Tantasqua Regional Senior High School (1989). She took courses at Mount Wachusett Community College (medical 2004-2005). Both Peloquin and Smith have a valid Health Care Provider/ Basic Life Support Provider CPR, Dementia Care Certified, and Mental Health First Aid Certified.

According to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director, “I congratulate Jules and Bobbiejo on their success! Student engagement and collaboration is a huge part of student success. Thank you to Dr. Ana Olivar who teaches Pharmacology and is intentional in making sure our PN students are successful in doing what they love to do.”

QCC’s Chief elevates responsiveness of public safety communications

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College’s Chief of Police, Stephen DiGiovanni, and Karen Hutner, executive director of Strategic Communications and Public Relations have successfully completed the FBI-LEEDA Master Public Information Officer (PIO) course. Hutner also acts as the Public Information Officer for QCC Police. This advanced, week-long program was held in Columbus, Ohio, and was designed to build on the foundational skills taught in FBI-LEEDA’s Media and Public Relations course, which both Hutner and DiGiovanni completed last year.

“This Master PIO course provides critical tools and

knowledge that is a vital component in effectively communicating to our college community, particularly in times of crisis,” said QCC Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni. “By adopting these advanced strategies, we’re better equipped to support our college’s communications and crisis management initiatives.”

The Master PIO course is crafted to guide participants from tactical to strategic approaches in media and brand management. This four-and-a-half-day intensive curriculum covers a comprehensive approach to advanced media engagement, internal and external communications strategies, and story pitching. Additionally, attendees

learned high-quality video production for social media, developed strategic messaging calendars and participated in scenario-based tabletop exercises aimed at creating a framework for crisis communication manuals.

“Our ability to connect effectively with our community hinges on a strong, proactive media engagement strategy, in addition to communicating effectively to our community,” Hutner said.

FBI-LEEDA is a non-profit organization that provides leadership education for law enforcement professionals. The Master PIO course represents one of the organization’s highest levels of training, advancing the skills and impact of participants nationwide.

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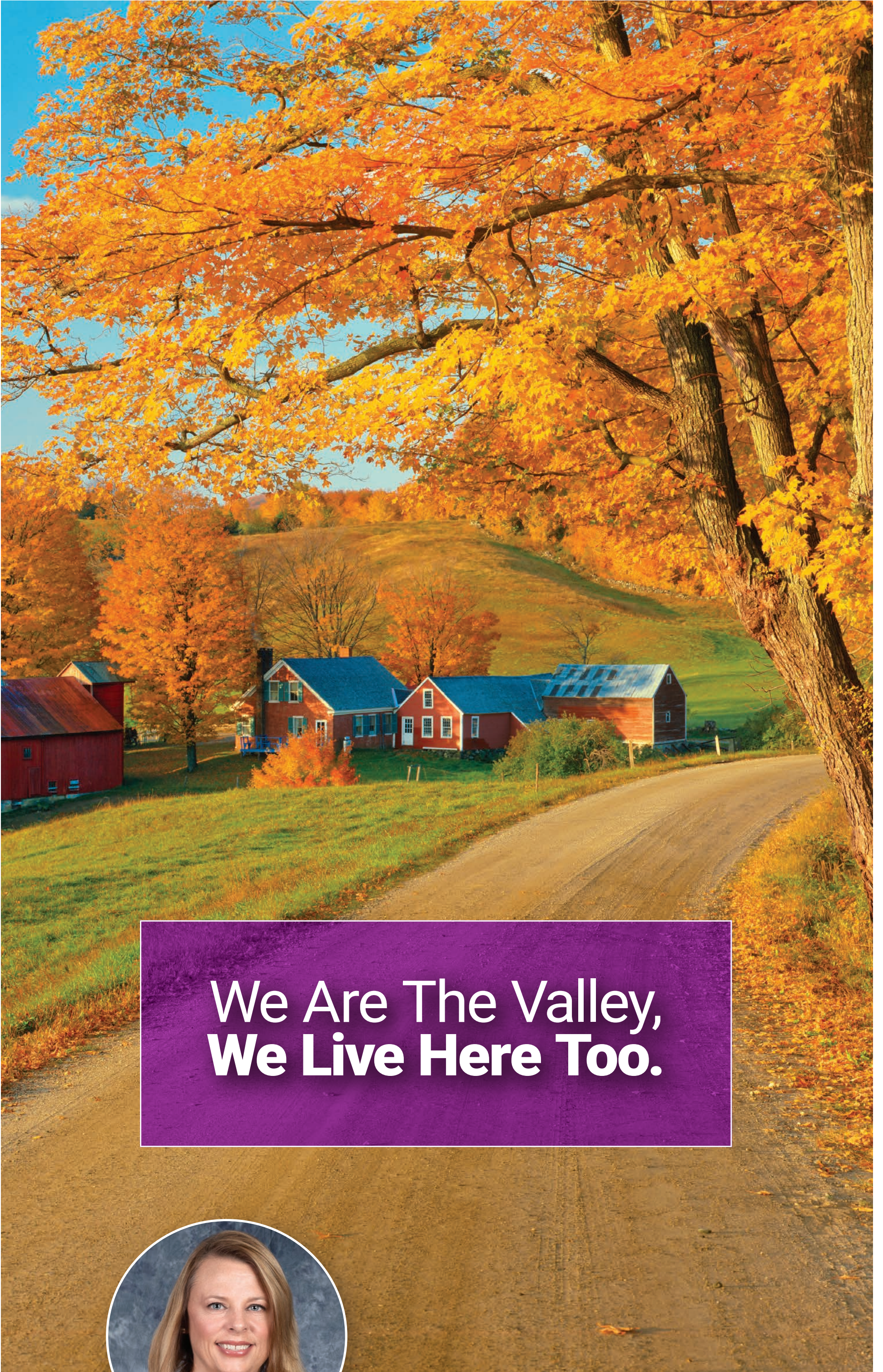
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