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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, January 2, 2026

Northbridge Elementary School celebrates diverse community with first International Night



NORTHBRIDGE — Northbridge Elementary School (NES) proudly hosted its first International Night on Monday, Dec. 15—a vibrant and engaging community event that drew more than 100 families to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures represented within the school. The evening marked the beginning of what NES hopes will become a cherished annual tradition.

Designed to showcase the beautiful “melting pot” of families that make up the NES community, International Night invited students and caregivers to share and explore the customs, languages, foods, and traditions of their native countries. Students worked proudly alongside parents, grandparents,



aunts, and uncles to highlight elements of their heritage, creating meaningful intergenerational moments and demonstrating the pride families hold in their cultural roots.

Upon arrival, students were greeted warmly and received a special goodie bag containing a miniature globe squish ball and a keychain decorated with flags from around the world. In addition, a “passport” was given and stamped for each of the “countries” they visited during the evening. One of the most popular stations allowed students to color their own flag from any of the represented countries; an activity that blended creativity with cultural exploration.

A dedicated team of teachers (Ms. Liz Alexander, Mrs. Karen Demeritt, Mrs. Clarissa

Flannery, Mrs. Shellie Goldman, Mr. Andrew Harmon, Mrs. Caterina Kennedy, Ms. Jen Lesiak, Mrs. Cherice Lowe, Mrs. Melissa Malone, and Mrs. Kim Seitzinger) worked tirelessly to bring the evening to life. Spearheaded by Mrs. Stacy Lomonaco, the committee transformed the school cafeteria into a lively global marketplace. The space was festooned with international flags, and welcome signs in multiple languages set a celebratory tone the moment families stepped inside.

Throughout the night, students visited tables representing various countries, such as England, Ireland, Poland, Italy, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Brazil, and Colombia, discovering fascinating cultural facts and learning new phrases such as “Witam” (“hello” in Polish) and the Arabic



expression “Yalla Habibi” (“Let’s go, my love”). They delighted in seeing their classmates and family members wearing traditional dress or sports attire representing their countries. Music, dancing, and national symbols filled the room as families eagerly shared stories of their heritage.

A highlight of the evening was a lively performance by the Irish Step dancers from the McNerney School of Dance, which captivated the audience and added to the festive atmosphere.

Food was another central feature, offering families a chance to sample beloved dishes from around the

world, like Italian pizzas — delicate, crisp waffle cookies with a hint of anise or vanilla; brigadeiros from Brazil; arroz con leche from Colombia; Irish soda bread; namoura from Lebanon; English muffins from England; and, plantain chips from Nicaragua.

School Principal Lorinda Allen shared her enthusiasm for the event’s success, stating,

“In a time when division often dominates the headlines, this event stood as a celebration of unity, curiosity, and belonging. Families connected

with one another in meaningful ways,

building relationships that extended far beyond the walls of our school. Seeing our students joyfully and confidently share their cultures and traditions was a powerful reminder of what makes our community so special.”

Asa Waters
Mansion
presents “A
Toast to Two
Centuries:
A Candlelit
Inaugural
Dinner”

MILLBURY — The Historic Asa Waters Mansion is delighted to announce A Toast To Two Centuries: A Candlelit Inaugural Dinner, an exclusive evening of refined dining, live music, and intimate historic charm. The celebration will take place on Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Mansion located at 123 Elm St., Millbury. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Guests are invited to step inside one of Millbury’s most treasured landmarks for an unforgettable candlelit dinner prepared by award-winning Johnny Burke Catering. The evening will feature exquisite cuisine, atmospheric lighting, a beautifully curated musical performance by renowned cellist Skip VonKuske, and a refined selection of refreshments at the cash bar.

This candlelit dinner includes, winter greens with sliced apples, candied walnuts and crumbled goat cheese, rosemary-garlic roasted chicken breast, Spanish garlic shrimp; herb gnocchi with roasted Winter squash & Tuscan kale cranberry-sage brown butter, coriander and olive oil roasted heirloom carrots, roasted broccolini, Yukon potatoes with garlic and herbs, and assorted

Turn To DINNER page A8

Town of Uxbridge announces winners of snowplow naming contest

UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge is brimming with incredibly creative kids! We were delighted by the flood of imaginative suggestions, mak-

ing the task of selecting winners both challenging and inspiring.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took the time to submit entries

to our contest. Your creativity shines brightly in our community. We look forward to seeing more amazing ideas next year. Huge congratulations to our outstanding winners!

Sonna Pereira, a first grader at Our Lady of the Valley School, provided the winning name for our truck formerly known as H-2, which will now

proudly roll out as Scoop Doggy Dog!

Evelyn Munged, a Kindergartener at Taft School, provided the winning name for H-5. H-5’s new name will send a thrilling wave through the galaxy. Look for Snowbi-Wan Kenobi to use the Force clearing our streets of snow!

Julie, a creative sev-

enth grader at Whitin School, takes a victory lap for her submission. H-9 will now boldly cruise the streets as Fast and the Flurryous!

Our newly named trucks made their debut during Uxbridge’s First Night Holiday Parade on Dec. 6, and are already hard at work keeping the roads clear of snow!

Join Northbridge High School’s Freedom Day celebration!

NORTHBRIDGE — Northbridge High School is recruiting volunteers and participants for a celebration of what it means to be a Ram. Come join us on Feb. 5 from 6-8 pm. We will have trivia, movies, games and lots of food and prizes, all for free.

We are also opening up to anyone who would like to have a booth/table at this event. Our goal is to celebrate the people of Northbridge and enjoy all that our town has to offer. Would you like to show off your grandmother’s recipe for your favorite meal? How about a traditional Italian dessert, or Brazilian bread? Maybe you’d like to show off your traditional Dutch klompen and hull.

Let’s get together and enjoy what makes Northbridge amazing...the people who live here.

If you have any questions or want to put up a display or booth, please reach out the the principal at sconnery@nps.org.

More information will be shared as we go along. Until then, mark it on your calendars and Let’s Go Rams!



Courtesy

The Department of Public Works brought its newly named plow truck Snowbi-Wan Kenobi to Taft School for a special visit last week with Evelyn Munged, the student who named it, and Ms. Dragsbaek’s Kindergarten class. Students got to see the newly named snowplow H-5 up close in our bus loop and meet with Ben Sherman, Director of the DPW and Town Engineer. Mr. Sherman presented Evelyn with her official certificate for winning the naming contest.

Webster Five Foundation sets new annual giving record with \$286,000 in grants to community nonprofits

AUBURN — Capping off a year of meaningful community support, the Webster Five Foundation is proud to announce it has broken its annual record for charitable giving. In 2025, the Foundation awarded a total of \$286,334 through 82 grants to support nonprofit organizations and community-based initiatives throughout the Central Massachusetts region, surpassing last year’s total by more than \$21,000.

The Foundation awards grants on a quarterly basis to nonprofit organizations and programs that expand or improve access to education, culture and the arts, social services, charitable activities and community development.

In the fourth and final grant cycle of 2025, the Webster Five Foundation awarded \$50,500 to the following 17 nonprofit organizations:

Abby Kelley Foster House, Inc. – \$2,500 for the Shelter Services Program.

Ascentria Care Alliance – \$2,000 to sup-

port its Lighthouse Capital Campaign.

Auburn Youth and Family Services – \$10,000 for operational support.

Care Central VNA & Hospice, Inc. – \$5,000 to purchase a communication platform called Storiicare.

Edward Street – \$10,000 over 4 years to support the Master Teacher Coaching Program.

Entrepreneurship for All (EforAll) – \$1,500 to support EforAll EparaTodos in Greater Worcester.

Fresh Start Furniture Bank – \$1,000 and a match of up to \$1,000 toward its Sweet Dreams Mattress Program.

Horizons for Homeless Children – \$1,000 and a match of up to \$1,000 for the Central Massachusetts Playspace Program.

NEADS, Inc. – \$1,500 toward its Breeding, Raising, Training, Placing and Supporting Service Dogs with Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities programming.

New England Botanic Garden (Worcester County Horticultural Society) – \$2,500 for Project Bloom.

Open Door Arts – \$1,000 to support the Open Door Gallery at the Worcester Art Museum.

Rachel’s Table – \$5,000 for its Children’s Milk Fund.

VNA Care Network – \$1,000 toward its Community Liaison Nurses - Supporting Patients with Accessing Home-based Health Care programming.

WCDSA Charitable Foundation – \$1,000 toward WCDSA’s Annual Winter Coat Drive.

Worcester Community Housing Resources (WCHR) – \$8,000 for the organization’s Resident Services and Support programming.

Worcester Historical Museum dba Museum of Worcester – \$1,500 to support the organization’s 2025 Harvey Ball.

YOU, Inc. – \$10,000 to support the Dynamy John S. Laws Youth Academy.

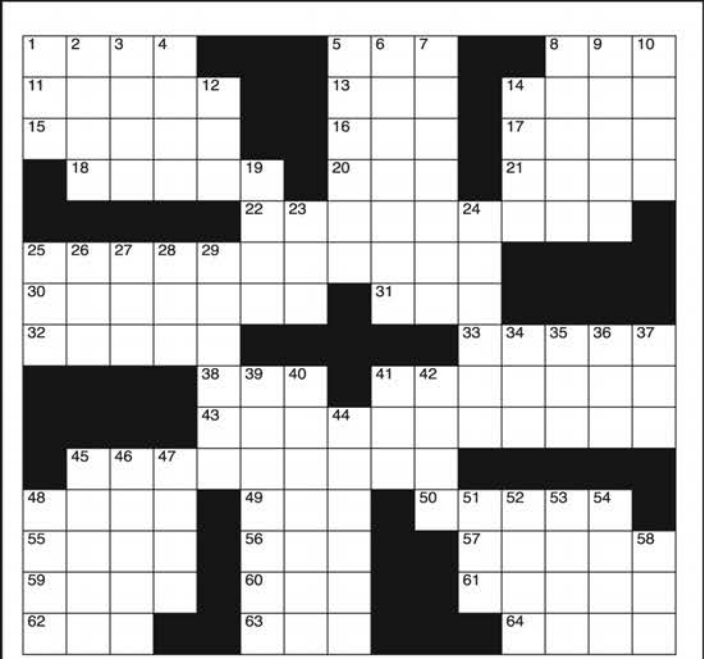
“Central Massachusetts is home to extraordinary nonprofits doing transformative work every day,” said Brian Westerlind, President/CEO, Webster Five. “The Webster Five Foundation’s record giving in 2025 reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting programs that strengthen our communities and improve quality of life across the region.”

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- ### CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Paddles
 - 5. Sunscreen rating
 - 8. Very fast airplane
 - 11. Immune responses
 - 13. “Partner” to feather
 - 14. New England river
 - 15. Longest river in New Guinea
 - 16. Midway between east and southeast
 - 17. Israeli politician
 - 18. Back bones
 - 20. Consumed
 - 21. One you can rely on
 - 22. Dressed up gaudily
 - 25. Representatives
 - 30. Dog breed
 - 31. Pitching statistic
 - 32. Manpower
 - 33. S. Korean entertainer
- 38. Outsourcing firm
 - 41. Viceroy of Egypt under Turkish rule
 - 43. One who removes antlers from a flower
 - 45. Potluck dish
 - 48. Discount
 - 49. Airborne (abbr.)
 - 50. Cavalry sword
 - 55. Basics
 - 56. Hollywood director Howard
 - 57. Afflicted in mind or body
 - 59. Horsley and Majors are two
 - 60. Midway between northeast and east
 - 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - 62. Malaysian isthmus
 - 63. Fall back
 - 64. Check

- ### CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Former CIA
 - 2. Baseball’s best pitchers
 - 3. ___ Nui, Easter Island
 - 4. Invests in little enterprises
 - 5. Constant
 - 6. Hobby
 - 7. A place to store food
 - 8. Short-tail marten
 - 9. Burn with a hot liquid
 - 10. Left his heart in San Francisco
 - 12. Swedish krona
 - 14. Legendary actor Connery
 - 19. French cleric
 - 23. Former measure of length for textiles
 - 24. Opaque glassy substance
 - 25. Residue of burned item
 - 26. A place to unwind
 - 27. Japanese honorific
 - 28. Terminus
- 29. Fails to make a shot
 - 34. Journalist Tarbell
 - 35. College hoops tournament
 - 36. Monetary unit of Macao
 - 37. Of she
 - 39. Spoke ill of
 - 40. Elements
 - 41. Kilocalorie (abbr.)
 - 42. Shades
 - 44. Poem of fourteen lines
 - 45. Pole used in Scottish sport
 - 46. Hollyhocks genus
 - 47. Street name for marijuana
 - 48. Polio vaccine developer
 - 51. Swiss river
 - 52. Prejudice
 - 53. Actor Idris
 - 54. Confederate soldiers
 - 58. Criticize

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Blackstone Valley Chamber hosts “Coffee &” with Massport CEO Richard Davey

WHITINSVILLE — The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) is pleased to announce its January “Coffee &” Series event featuring Richard Davey, Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), on Wednesday, Jan. 21 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Hebert Hall, the BV Hub for Workforce Development in Whitinsville.

As CEO of Massport, Davey leads an organization with more than \$1.2 billion in annual revenue and a mission to connect Massachusetts and New England to the world. His presentation, “Massport: Driving Growth and Connectivity,” will explore how Massport supports economic development, strengthens transportation infrastructure, and advances statewide connectivity while remaining committed to neighboring communities.

Massport’s portfolio includes Boston Logan International Airport, Worcester Regional Airport, Hanscom Field, and the

public maritime facilities in the Port of Boston, including Conley Container Terminal and Flynn Cruiseport Boston. Davey brings extensive experience in transportation and infrastructure, having previously served as President of New York City Transit, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation, and General Manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).

The “Coffee &” Series offers Chamber members and guests the opportunity to engage with influential leaders, gain valuable insight into regional and statewide issues, and connect with fellow professionals over coffee and conversation.

Members of the Chamber can register for \$25 per person, and guests \$40. While pre-registration is preferred, walk-ins are welcome. To register, please visit www.blackstonevalley.org/events.

The Mission of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the Blackstone Valley by addressing the needs and concerns of businesses and providing leadership, support and resources in connection with issues which impact commerce and the quality of life in the Valley.

TRIBUNE ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BLACKSTONE

\$785,000, 16 Glenside Dr, Lavallee, Jennifer J, and Denham, James A, to Brunelle, Karen E.

DOUGLAS

\$867,750, 19 Laurel Glades, Gianakis, Jessica R, to Mchale, Timothy P, and Mchale, Jeanne D. \$708,000, 45 Douglas Hill Way, Mchale, Timothy P, and Mchale, Jeanne D, to Randor, Jason, and Randor, Alice.

\$705,000, 14 Whitin Hts, Pytka, Alex S, and Farias, Brittany L, to Mann Ft, and Mann, Peter J.

\$565,000, 103 Uxbridge St, Ashworth, Michael, and Ashworth, Jennifer L, to Lamountain, Amelia, and Beaudoin, Chandler.

\$45,000, 300 Main St #2, Colonero Douglas Rt, and Colonero, Christopher J, to 300 Main Street Rt, and Leino, A E.

NORTHBRIDGE

\$800,000, 731 Samuel Dr, Crabtree, Thomas, and Crabtree, Kathleen, to Basil, Arvind, and Basil, Anita.

\$749,900, 90 Nathaniel Dr, Fleming, Scott L, and Fleming, Brooke L, to Nulty, Ryan, and Nulty, Annie.

\$640,585, 157 Rolling Ridge Dr #157, Stone Hill Partners LLC, to Jean D Kaiser Lt, and Kaiser, Jean D. \$500,000, 18 Arthur Dr #18, Paul R Gardner RET, and Gardner, Paul R, to Riordan, Matthew G.

\$452,000, 1052 Providence Rd, Jandru, Robyn, and Jandru, Matthew, to McLaughlin, Kyle C.

\$390,000, 1 Elm St, Premier Rc Properties LLC, to Morgan, Bechoy.

UXBRIDGE

\$729,382, 134 Mantell Rd, 47 Dodge Deco LLC, to Sundararaman, Kala, and Kalyanaraman, Sundararman.

\$562,500, 214 East St, Levins, Gregory, and Levins, Rene, to Benoit, Stephanie M, and Benoit, Julia A.

\$532,000, 113 Rogerson Xing #113, Smith, Constance B, to Boyes, Barbara J.

\$530,000, 239 Aldrich St, Desjardin, Ronald P, and Desjardin, Donna J, to McMahon, Nicholas V, and McMahon, Vickie L

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BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE
PUBLISHED BY
STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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The Blackstone Valley Tribune (USPS 024-873) (ISSN 0745-8673) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Blackstone Valley Tribune, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.



Courtesy

At last week's "Holiday Pop Up" event, Uxbridge High School's Pathway students and staff were able to highlight some of the awesome technology we have, giving students from Taft and Whitin an opportunity to play with some of our toys, like graphic design software, manufacturing tools, laser engravers, and t-shirt presses. We hope to host more of these events later this year! Photo courtesy of the Uxbridge Public Schools Facebook page.

Pickleball instructional program open for Uxbridge seniors

U X B R I D G E — Pickleball is a fun and social sport that's appropriate for players of all ages and skill levels. It's been around since the 1960s, but interest has really picked up in recent years.

Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. Players use paddles that are larger than ping-pong paddles and hit plastic balls with holes in them. The court is about one-quarter the size of a tennis court and can be played indoors or outdoors. The net is similar to a tennis net, but a little shorter and narrower. Players hit the ball across the net to try and win points. The game can be played in singles or doubles, with most people playing doubles.

Benefits of playing pickleball include improving your balance, hand-eye coordination and flexibility. It also includes improving your heart health, preventing osteoporosis, boosting mood and mental

health and increasing your social connections.

The Uxbridge Senior Center is proud to offer an 8-week instructional pickleball class at the McCloskey School Gym located at 62 Capron Street in Uxbridge. Classes will be starting on Thursday, Jan. 29 for eight weeks. The back-to-back classes will be held from 9-10:15 a.m. & 10:30-11:45 a.m., class sizes are limited, so sign up early. The cost of the program is \$25 per person. All equipment will be provided to play. There is also an optional recreational play day for enrolled students to be held on Tuesdays from 9-11:30 a.m. with RSVP required.

Our Lead Instructors are Leon Droby and Orlando Corona, both local residents. Leon is certified by USA Pickleball and is also in the Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR). He is a Level 1 Certified Associate Coach. Orlando Corona brings with him

more than 25 years' experience as a tennis coach and instructor. Both instructors are avid, passionate pickleball players and have extensive knowledge of the game. Please consider learning to play this fun, exciting, and active sport.

The Uxbridge Senior Center is located at 36 South Main St., and is open Monday – Friday

from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Please stop by the center to pick up your enrollment and release forms prior to the start of the classes. For more information, please contact Lisa Bernard, Director, at 508-278-8622 or lbernard@uxbridge-ma.gov.

Douglas now issuing dog licenses

DOUGLAS — The town of Douglas is now licensing dogs for 2026. This can be done in the office, online or by placing a check in the drop box. We must have a current rabies certificate on file in order to license your dog. If you are unsure if we have a current rabies certificate, you can check on your 2025 license or call the office at 508-476-4000, ext. 255.

All kennels must be inspected by the Animal Control Officer and licensed before the end of February. The Animal Control number is 508-883-2822. A reminder letter was sent to all kennels in October.

When licensing online, do not put anything in the white box that says DOG ID. Please click above that to search by your last name. Put in only your last name and hit enter to search. Your dog name will pop up at the bottom of the screen. Click on your dog and that will populate the dog ID box so that you can continue. If you cannot find your dog, it may mean that the rabies certificate that we have on file is expired. Please call the office for assistance.

Please call the Town Clerk's Office if you have any issues using the Web site to license your dog or have questions about your kennel license or inspections.

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PET of the WEEK

MEET Tommy & Zoey

Meet Tommy & Zoey — the sweetest pair looking for a home together! Tommy is a friendly, well-mannered gentleman who listens beautifully, loves affection, and enjoys relaxing on his bed after a nice walk. Zoey is his equally loving sidekick — playful, people-oriented, and happiest hanging out with her humans or exploring the yard with her best buddy by her side.

Together, they make the perfect team: Tommy brings a calm, steady vibe, while Zoey sprinkles in fun and silliness. They're house trained, good with visitors, and have lived with children in the past — but given how overwhelmed they've been settling into the shelter, a quieter home with teens or older kids would help them feel safe and succeed. Tommy leans into every pet, and Zoey lights up when someone offers gentle attention — they truly thrive on companionship.

Both dogs walk nicely on leash, enjoy chew toys, and settle well when left alone. Both are talkative in the cutest way and are described as "really good dogs" who listen wonderfully. If you're looking for a loving duo who are already familiar with home life — ready to snuggle, stroll, and grow more confident with their forever family — Tommy & Zoey are waiting to start their next chapter with you! ☐

500 Legacy Farms North • Hopkinton, MA 01748

BAYPATH HUMANE SOCIETY OF HOPKINTON

Small Shelter Big Heart

Welcome the new year with Douglas Sunshine Club

DOUGLAS — The Douglas Sunshine Club is having a New Year's Party with lunch and entertainment on Jan. 9 at the Douglas Adult Social Center. The fun begins at noon with our famous mac-n-cheese luncheon, raffles to start the New Year off right, and then followed by the one and only Gary Landgren's "Honky Tonk Piano" program! We are very pleased to have Gary perform here again. So come tap your toes, dance, clap and sing-along to memorable songs as Gary entertains and interacts with us.

Tickets are \$5 per person, paid at time of signing up, reservations are required. Sign up at the Douglas Adult Social Center, located at 331 Main St., Douglas. Call 508-476-2278 for more info at the center.

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EDITORIAL

A new year brings small resolutions that add up

As the calendar turns and a new year begins, the tradition of New Year’s resolutions returns with familiar optimism and, often, familiar disappointment. We pledge to exercise more, spend less, eat better, be kinder, stress less. By mid-January, many of those promises have already slipped away, crowded out by work, weather, family obligations, and the simple pull of old habits.

Perhaps this year calls for a different approach.

Instead of grand resolutions that demand sweeping change, the new year might be better served by smaller, steadier commitments, ones that fit into everyday life in the Blackstone Valley and reflect how real change actually happens in communities like ours.

In towns such as Uxbridge, Northbridge, and Douglas, progress rarely arrives all at once. It comes through incremental effort: a sidewalk repaired one season at a time, a budget balanced line by line, a volunteer board meeting held month after month by residents who simply show up. The same principle applies to personal resolutions.

Rather than vowing to “get in shape,” maybe the goal is to walk the Blackstone Canal path twice a week, even in winter. Instead of promising to “be more involved,” perhaps it means attending one town meeting, school concert, or library program each month. These smaller commitments are not flashy, but they are achievable, and achievement builds momentum.

There is also value in resolutions that extend beyond the individual. A new year offers an opportunity to recommit to the shared responsibilities that hold small towns together. That might mean checking in on an elderly neighbor after a snowstorm, supporting a local business instead of clicking a national website, or volunteering a few hours with a civic group that could use fresh energy.

These are not the kinds of resolutions that show up on social media feeds, but they are the ones that quietly strengthen a community.

The past few years have reminded us how quickly circumstances can change. Economic uncertainty, rising costs, and shifting routines have made daily life more complicated for many families. In that context, the pressure to reinvent oneself on Jan. 1 can feel unrealistic, even unfair. A more forgiving approach recognizes that stability itself can be a worthy goal.

Sometimes a resolution is simply to maintain: to keep showing up for work, family, and community; to stay engaged rather than withdraw; to listen more than argue; to choose patience in moments when frustration would be easier.

New Year’s resolutions also benefit from honesty. It is worth acknowledging what did not work last year, not with guilt, but with clarity. If a goal was abandoned, why? Was it too big, too vague, too disconnected from daily life? Adjusting expectations is not failure. It is learning.

For families, the new year can be a chance to reset routines together. Shared meals, regular check-ins, or a commitment to spend time without screens are modest goals that can have lasting impact. For young people, resolutions modeled by adults, especially ones rooted in responsibility and consistency, often matter more than words alone.

In the end, the promise of a new year is not about perfection. It is about direction. Even small steps, taken steadily, can lead to meaningful change over time.

As the Blackstone Valley moves into another year, perhaps the most important resolution is this: to remain invested, in ourselves, in our neighbors, and in the places we call home. If we can manage that, the rest has a way of following.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All the king’s horses...

To the Editor:
All the King’s horses and all the King’s men...

...could not solve the murders at Brown University and Brookline. It took a homeless man, paying attention on the street and in the University building, to observe and confront the killer.

In addition to the police, FBI, and feckless President of Brown University, John the homeless guy should have been at the podium on the night of Dec. 18 when the case was cracked, brought to completion, and announced to the press.

Without him, the FBI, the Providence Police, state police, the Rhode Island Attorney General, the Brown University alleged Department of Public Safety, ATF, and law enforcement, could not have found the Portuguese Green Card alien.

John, the homeless guy, did the work that the Brown University campus police should have done. Patrolling. Observing. Employing situational awareness.

The Lord uses the lowly and unlikely to accomplish great things.

The homeless guy outwitted the “too-smart for school” former Physics student at Brown. Think about it. A homeless guy outwits the person who took Physics classes at Brown University and thought they were too easy.

John is right out of Sherlock Holmes, similar to the Baker Street Irregulars. They served as the detective’s eyes and ears on the streets of London.

Had there been a campus security guard at the door, the killer would have been turned away. Had there been closed circuit cameras in the Economics building, police would have had a view of the killer. Had Brown required “active shooter safety drills,” lives might have been saved. They had no drills. Had university ID cards been required in order to enter the building, well, you know the rest...

Brown University policies and lax safety made students unsafe.

Useless President of Brown University Christina Paxson has video cameras all over her office building and her home. Of course she does. She hired the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion [DEI] Vice President of Safety Rodney Chapman – now on administrative leave. Who do the Lefties blame? The DEI hire.

For this, they pay Claxson \$3 million a year. She is the second-highest paid president of all Ivy League colleges. For this, parents pay \$95,000 a year in tuition. For a complete

failure of easily-accomplished safety measures. Brown University should award the homeless guy a professorial contract in the Lifestyles Department. He could teach “how to live on the streets, sleep in a warm university basement, wash in the clean university restroom, and eat hand-outs from fancy restaurants in a safe neighborhood.” Thank God, he figured out how to live there.

Without him, they would still be searching...

Notice how Claxson and the other failed Ivy League College women presidents are not responsible for anything. Time for Paxson to resign or be fired.

Brown has an endowment of \$8 billion. Brown borrowed \$800 million to fight Trump, defending its diversity program. Brown employs 3,800 administrators for 7,200 students. This does not count teaching staff. One administrator per every two students. \$95,000 a year in tuition.

When pressed by a reporter whether she should resign because she failed to install cameras, Claxson smirked and laughed. Beautiful young people died and were wounded, but she thinks it’s amusing.

Everyone else at the podium was grim. As they say in Portuguese: Meu Deus! Como isso é possível? It means “Oh my God! How is this possible?”

Somehow, dolts like Claxson never suffer the consequences of their stupid actions. Only innocent young people suffer the consequences of DEI, non-policing, non-safety, non-awareness, and non-video surveillance buildings.

As soon as President Trump heard the circumstances, he cancelled the Green card lottery system in the U.S. Homeland Security and Immigration department. The “lottery” system was developed by the Dark Swamp who believe the U.S. is too white and needs more people “of color” from poor countries in our nation.

President Trump should award John the homeless guy a medal. Medal of Safety Protocols? Medal of living on the street and unofficial law enforcement?

The Lord welcomed home Miss Ella Cook. “Well done, good and faithful servant.” She witnessed her Christian faith to Brown University students, the citizens of Providence, and all of us in New England. God rest her soul.

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

Closing out 2025

As we enter the new year, let’s close out the latest 2025 auction news, beginning with a rare baseball card heading to auction.

T206 cards were produced by tobacco companies from 1909 to 1911 and given away as premiums. Honus Wagner played during that time and was a first ballot Hall of Famer who “hit .300-or-better for 15 straight seasons from 1899-1913,” according to the Hall of Fame. In that span, Wagner won eight National League batting titles, led the NL in doubles seven times, stolen bases five times and RBI four times,” according to the Hall of Fame’s website. His baseball card is the rarest in the set and PSA (a card grading company) has graded only 36 Wagner cards, according to Sports Collectors Daily. Some have speculated that Wagner didn’t want his likeness associated with tobacco products and that he wanted production of his card halted. However, Hall of Fame research showed that Wagner actively promoted other tobacco products. The card that was recently found came from a collection that had been handed down through a family after a collector passed away in 1974. The collector would have been 11 around the time when the cards were being placed in cigarette packages. Even though the card graded at only a 1 out of 10, it has a \$1,000,000 starting bid. The last PSA Honus Wagner graded 1 card sold for \$3.1 million in 2022 and this most recent card is expected to bring more.

In the rock and roll world, a rare photo went on the auction block recently. David Bowie’s “Aladdin Sane” album cover is “one of pop music’s most iconic images,” according to an Antique Trader article. The photo depicts Bowie with the lightning bolt design on his face that appeared on the album cover. Brian Duffy took the photo. His archive website says his “cutting-edge photography documents the vibrancy of ‘the Swinging ‘60’s’ London scene when the city was at the height of cool.” The photo sold for £381,400 (about \$515,481 USD).

As you are probably aware, the government stopped minting pennies in November. The U.S. Mint partnered with the government to auction some of the last pennies minted. The pennies had an “Ω” (Omega) mark designating them as being some of the last that were made. Benjamin Franklin is credited with designing our country’s

first penny, the Fugio Cent. Fugio means “I flee” in Latin. The reverse had a 13-link chain that symbolized the 13 original colonies. The front had the words “Mind your business” below a sundial. They were struck in different locations in New Haven, Conn. The U.S. Mint produced its first penny in 1793. The coin is called the “Flowing Hair Cent” because of the image of the woman on the front. The reverse has a wreath design with the words “One Cent.” The most expensive set in the auction contained the last 3 pennies that were struck. Two pennies were made with the typical zinc and copper composition from the Philadelphia and Denver Mints along with a .9999 fine 24-karat gold penny. It brought \$800,000. Along with the other Omega pennies in the auction, the sale brought in \$16.76 million. Meanwhile, a local grocery store recently offered two cents for every penny with pennies getting harder to find. Hopefully no one turned in an Omega penny.

Our single-collector Civil War auction will be starting soon. Our following sale will include fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. We’ll be running a major sale with sports cards and memorabilia in the summer. We are accepting consignments for our two next sales. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/ Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE
TUISKULA

Lanterns Along Main Street

There was a time when winter felt like something to be endured.

You shoveled, you complained, you waited for it to be over. Spring was the reward,

and winter was simply the price you paid to get there. Somewhere along the way, that changed for me.

I do not know exactly when it happened, but at some point, I stopped wishing the season away. Maybe it came with age, or maybe it came from realizing how many winters I had already watched pass by. Either way, I have learned that winter is not an obstacle. It is a pause.

And pauses, I have found, are underrated.

This part of the year does not demand much from us beyond patience. It asks us to move a little slower, to plan a little better, to pay attention to the small discomforts so they do not become big problems. Put the boots by the door. Keep the flashlight handy. Leave early.

Those habits spill over into other parts of life.

Winter teaches you to prepare quietly instead of reacting loudly. You learn to anticipate rather than rush. You notice things you might otherwise miss because you are not charging ahead at full speed.

I see it in how people interact, too.

Conversations tend to be shorter, but often more sincere. There is less time for small talk and more appreciation for getting straight to the point. You ask how someone is doing and actually wait for the answer. You hold the door because you know what cold feels like. You nod to a stranger because it feels wrong not to.

These are not dramatic shifts, just subtle ones. But subtle changes shape the tone of a community more than any big announcement ever could.

I have also noticed that winter has a way of leveling things out. It does not care who you are or what you do. Everyone slips a little. Everyone misjudges the ice at least once. Everyone learns humility the hard way, usually in their own driveway.

There is something oddly comforting about that shared experience.

We talk a lot about resilience these days, usually as something to aspire to. Winter reminds us that resilience is mostly practical. It is checking the weather. It is calling to make sure someone got home safely. It is accepting help without making a production out of it.

It is knowing when to stay put.

I think that is why small towns handle winter as well as they do. Not perfectly, but together. Plows run. Neighbors check in. Life continues, just at a slightly quieter volume.

And when the snow finally melts, we will pretend we did not appreciate any of it. We will complain about the mud and the potholes and the long wait. But deep down, we will know that winter gave us something we did not realize we needed.

A pause. A reset. A reminder that slowing down is not the same as falling behind.

Sometimes, it is exactly how you keep your footing.

DOUGLAS ADULT
SOCIAL CENTER

331 Main St.
(508) 476-2283
Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-noon

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.
Monday: Painting class 9:45am to 11:45am, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat yoga 2pm
Tuesday: Walking club 9am, Cribbage 9:00am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line dancing 2pm
Wednesday: Balance & strength 10am, Darts 11:30am, MahJong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm
Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:00am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm
Friday: Balance & strength 10am, Zumba 11:30am

The Adult Social Center Food Pantry is open to any resident/ family in town. We have a large variety of food, personal care items, household cleaners, and fresh bread from Panera. We are open Monday – Thursday from 9 to 3, and Friday from 9 to 11:30. This is a confidential pantry, come in and take what you need no questions asked. We are located below the post office.
We will accept non-perishable items during our regular business hours. Monday- Thursday 9-3 & Fridays 9-12. Please DO NOT leave anything on our ramp after hours.

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend we offer free rides to and from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee is necessary.
January Lunch Menu:
Tuesday 1/6: bbq chicken mashed potatoes, corn & pudding
Thursday 1/8: Free lunch & learn with Attorney Azza. Please sign up by 1/1/26.
Tuesday 1/13: Chili, salad, Italian bread & cookies
Thursday 1/15: Mac & cheese, broccoli, garlic bread & Jell-O
Tuesday 1/20: Chicken soup, ham salad sandwich & apple pie
Thursday 1/22: Salad bar & fruit
Tuesday 1/27: Broccoli & cheese quiche, fruit & banana bread

Friday Shopping Schedule: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.
Hannaford: 1/2
Walmart: 1/9 & 1/23
Big Y: 1/16
Rider’s choice: 1/30

JANUARY EVENTS: The center will be closed January 1st & January 19th.
Wellness Clinic Dates: Monday January 5th & Tuesday January 20th from 10 am to 12 pm. The nurse is happy to check your blood pressure, can do a finger stick blood sugar. You can read the nurse’s page in our bi-monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop in and see the nurse.
Hearing Aid Cleanings: Thursday January 8th from 10:00 to 11:00. Please call the office to schedule your appointment with Darci. There is no charge for this service.
Azza Law Firm: Thursday January 8th @ 12:00pm. Amy will be here presenting her Protect Your Family with our Estate Planning seminar. FREE lunch will be provided. Please sign up by 1/1/26.
Sunshine Club New Year Celebration: Friday January 9th @ 12 pm. Annual mac & cheese luncheon & dessert. Lunch is \$5.00 per person. Come ring in the New Year with fun, friends, & laughs. Please sign up by 1/3.
Lunch & a Series: Thursday January 15th @ 11:30. Mac & cheese, broccoli, garlic bread & Jell-O, \$4.00 per person. We will be watching Season 1 Episode 1 & 2 of Man on the Inside starring Ted Danson. Please sign up by 1/9. Come back on Thursday January 22nd @ 11:30 to finish season 1. Lunch is salad bar & fruit, \$4.00 per person. Please sign up by 1/16.
Free Valentine Craft: Wednesday January 21st @ 1:00 pm. We will be making a coffee filter Valentine wreath. Refreshments will be served. Please sign up by 1/15.

PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES
Check our website for events that may not be listed here
<https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>

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.

Uxbridge Planning Board
seeks volunteers to help
draft Master Plan

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Planning Board is excited to announce that they are starting the process of developing a Master Plan for Uxbridge, which has not been done since 1993.
In collaboration with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Agency (CMRPC), the board is looking for up to three residents to help guide the process and join our Steering Committee. This Master Plan will help guide the Town in how it is developed, protected, and guided over the next 10 to 20 years. We anticipate no more than one meeting a month, most of which will be remote with times to be determined once the committee is formed.
If interested, please call the Planning office at 508-278-8600, ext. 2013 or email Jack Hunter, Town Planner, at jhunter@uxbridge-ma.gov.

PLUMMER PLACE
Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

Happy New Year from Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center! We are located at 20 Highland Street in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events.

Regular Programs:
Mindful Meditation with Kelly
Every Thursday at 9:30am
The Brew Crew
Wednesday, January 7th at 9:30am
Guest Speaker: Northbridge Board of Health Administrator, Jeanne Gniadek
Facials with Nancy
Thursday, January 8th
Schedule your individual appointment with Nancy and get pampered at Plummer Place. Treatments include cleansing, exfoliating, hand and arm massage with heated mitts, extractions, toner and moisturizer. \$40 plus gratuity. Please call Nancy to book your time with her: 508-868-5525.
Women’s Group
Thursday, January 8th at 10:00am
Writing Your Way with Lori
Thursday, January 8th and January 22nd at 2:00pm
Scrabble
Monday, January 12th at 9:30am
Book Club
Wednesday, January 21st at 10:30am
Dull Men’s Club
Tuesday, January 27th at 9:30am

Special Events and Programs:
Looking for a New Health/Wellness Perspective for the New Year?
Are you interested in beginning a journey to better health, happiness, and a longer life? Learn where and how centenarians are living across the world in this exciting three-week program exploring the Blue Zones with Amy Cowen, our program and volunteer coordinator. This program will include a book, a guest speaker, light refreshments, some healthy challenges, and more fun surprises! Sign up in the main office. \$20 per person payable in cash the day of the first class.
Thursdays:
February 19th, 26th, and March 5th
All classes will meet from 10:00am-11:00am

State Representative David Muradian’s Office Hours
Tuesday, January 27th at 10:30am

Students named
to Dean’s Honor
List at Cedarville
University

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — Students at Cedarville University have been named to the Dean’s Honor List for the Fall 2025 semester. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.
Daniel Bourguignon of Whitinsville
Hannah Bourguignon of Whitinsville
Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online programs across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio’s largest private universities and is ranked among the nation’s top five evangelical universities in the Wall Street Journal’s 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S. Cedarville is also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates. Learn more at cedarville.edu.

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Music, drama, and faith highlight Saint Joseph School Christmas Pageant



The nativity comes to life as Saint Joseph School eighth graders Lukas Barbosa and Tenleigh Dowd portray Joseph and Mary in one of the closing scenes of the Christmas Pageant.

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School celebrated its annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 14, with more than 550 parents, grandparents, and guests filling the Daniel & Catherine Ivascyn Performing Arts Center. The program opened with a Tree Lighting Ceremony featuring Student Council President Mychael Jones, who recited Sue Pagnanella's poem "Christmas," followed by the Blessing of the Trees by Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster. This reflective opening set the tone for an afternoon filled with music, drama, and community spirit.

The school's Drama Club brought the stage to life with a vibrant production of "In A Galilee Far, Far Away," directed by Brighid Campbell with assistance from Susan Gallivan. This interstellar Christmas musical from Little Big Stuff Music took the audience on an imaginative journey across the universe to witness the glory of God, ultimately guiding them back to Bethlehem and the

Savior's birth. Leading the cast were Kalleia Agosto as Captain Magellan, Amadeusz Gacek as Polo, Alexis Archambault as Otto, Amelia Potem as the Robot, Evelyn Macko as Info, Mia Reed as Sparky, and Bella Kicilinski as Zip. They were joined by Samuel Brunnett as Kenny, Sophia Bengtson as Betty, Julia Biela as Sandy, and Mathieu Prunier, who portrayed Abraham Lincoln. The roles of Shepherds were performed by Johnny Marcuccio, Stella Andreotta, and James Miranda, while Michael Kamangu handled the character of Damage Control.

The production was further elevated by an ensemble featuring all students in Grades 5 through 8, whose participation added vocal strength and dynamic stage presence to several musical numbers. Their work, combined with energetic choreography and memorable songs—including "Away We Go," "Home for Christmas," "In a Galilee Far, Far Away," "All in The Book," "Our Savior Is Born Tonight," "The Star Will Shine," and "Seek Him"—brought the

story's cosmic theme to life. The visual impact of the musical was made possible thanks to parent volunteer Antonio Marcuccio and a dedicated team of student set and prop designers.

Following intermission, the pageant transitioned into a showcase of musical performances by students in Pre-K through Grade 8. The second act opened with the middle school's "A Merry Christmas Dribble – 2025," a basketball skills exhibition uniquely choreographed to selections from "The Nutcracker Suite." This creative fusion of athletics and classical music delighted the audience and demonstrated exceptional coordination and teamwork.

A series of musical selections followed, with each grade presenting a traditional or contemporary Christmas piece. Grade 8 performed "The Christmas Song," followed by: Grade 7's rendition of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," Grade 6's "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and Grade 5's "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas." These selec-

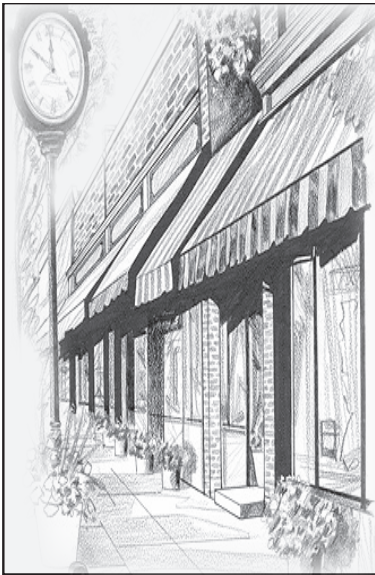
tions were followed by: Grade 4 singing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," Grade 3 performing "Jingle Bells" on recorders, Grade 2's joyful "Children Run Joyfully," Grade 1's lively "I'm the Happiest Christmas Tree," Kindergarten's spirited "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," Pre-K 4's "Oh, What a Wonderful Day," and Pre-K 3's sweet performance of "Baby Jesus (Are You Sleeping, Brother John)." Students in Grades 5 through 8 also added a multicultural element through their performance of "Campana Sobre Campana" as part of the school's Spanish program.

A particularly notable moment of the afternoon was the debut of the new Saint Joseph School Show Choir under the direction of Ms. Connie Galli. She was joined by Shepherd Hill Regional High School students Tommy Dolan and Zoraiya Burgos, whose mentorship and musical support helped guide the ensemble in a stunning first performance of "O Come All Ye Faithful." Following this debut,

the Saint Joseph Church Choir delivered powerful, profoundly moving performances of "What Child Is This" and "Child of the Poor," harmonizing the refrains and bringing the audience into a reverent, reflective close to the pageant.

Behind the scenes, the production was supported by the musical direction of Mrs. Brenda Lau Anderson and accompaniment by Maria Helena Czarnecka-Cieslak. Physical Education instructor Ms. Lisa Szpila coordinated the basketball exhibition, while Mr. Joey Boudreau and Mr. Mariusz Macko expertly managed sound and lighting.

The annual Christmas Pageant remains one of Saint Joseph School's most cherished traditions, uniting families, students, and parishioners in a joyful celebration of faith and community. Through drama, music, and prayer, the event reflected the school's mission of "Religion, Respect, and Responsibility" and invited all present to share in the joyful anticipation of Christmas.



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All Saints Academy’s Living Nativity concert brings the Christmas story to life

WEBSTER — Students, staff, and families gathered for the annual Christmas concert. The concert retold the Christmas story through music, drama and narration.

The eighth grade class brought the Nativity to life. The performance followed the story of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, the visit of the shepherds, all presented in a way that was engaging for the audience.

Songs formed the heart of the concert, with students in Preschool through Grade 7 and the ASA choir performing a mix of Christmas music. The songs allowed the students of all ages to take part and showcase their talents and class teamwork. Eighth grade narrators helped guide the audience through the story, clearly explaining each scene and its meaning.

Mrs. Shanna Keegan, ASA music teacher, worked closely with students in the weeks leading up to the performance, rehearsing songs, preparing costumes, and encourag-



ing pupils to understand the message behind the Nativity. For many students, it was an opportunity to develop public speaking skills, musical ability, and self-confidence, while also learning about an important part of Catholic tradition.

Mrs. Matys, ASA Head of School, praised the effort of everyone involved, saying the concert reflected the school’s strong sense of community and that watching the students work so hard and support one another to share the Nativity story of kindness, hope and togetherness was a wonderful thing to see.

Families filled the gym, applauding enthusiastically after each performance. Many commented on the warm and joyful atmosphere, noting how the concert marked the start of the Christmas season. The Nativity Concert proved to be a highlight bringing the ASA community together and reminding everyone of the values at the heart of Christmas.

Small Stones Festival of the Arts opens Jan. 24



“Flip Flops” by Tory Kohn.

GRAFTON — Small Stones Festival of the Arts opens its eighth annual juried exhibit of fine art painting and photography on Saturday, Jan. 24, at Noon at the Community Harvest Project barn at 37 Wheeler Rd. in N. Grafton. The opening reception and awards ceremony follows at 2 p.m. The free festival runs until Feb. 1.

The two-week exhibit presents 144 pieces of artwork from the region’s finest fine art painters, watercolorists, fine art photographers and other two-dimensional artists in a gallery setting as well as artist and juror talks. The festival is sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Art Association and the

Worcester County Camera Club.

Accomplished fine art artist Lissa Banks and photographer Dimitry Papkov will discuss their approach to art and work experience

at our artist talks on Jan. 24 at 2:30 p.m. Banks works primarily in acrylics, creating expressive florals, intimate portraits, still life paintings and landscapes. An award-winning land-

scape and travel photographer, Papkov’s work has been featured in many juried exhibits throughout New England.

The Worcester County Camera Club invites the public to join them Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Festival via a remote connection for an inspiring evening with black and white landscape photographer Huibo Huo, who is based in San Diego, Calif. Huo will explain the timeless appeal of black and white photography, how to develop a personal vision and the techniques she uses to create art.

First, second and third cash prize winners and jurors’ choice awards are chosen in fine art painting and photography by a panel of six jurors who have distinguished careers as practicing artists or in curatorial capacities at local fine art institutions, galleries and colleges. A popular choice award for each category is voted on by attendees.

Festival fine art jurors include Jim Welu, director emeritus of Worcester Art Museum; Jo Ellen Reinhardt, a classically-trained fine artist and co-founder, director and instructor of New England School of Fine Art and Janet Montecalvo, a commercial and fine art award-winning artist with a diverse background in children’s book publishing; print, TV and film production graphic design and fine art painting.

Fine art photography jurors include photographer and lecturer Ron Rosenstock whose work is featured in world class museums and private collections; Nancy Kathryn Burns, the Stoddard Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs at Worcester Art Museum and Pip Shepley, a lens-based artist, whose photography is exhibited at many museums and galleries.

The mission of the Small Stones Festival of the Arts is to elevate the practice and appreciation of fine art and photography in the Blackstone Valley and beyond. Grafton Arts Inc., a 501 (c)(3) organization is the financial sponsor of the Festival.

The festival organizers appreciate the support of these organizations: Brigham Hill Foundation, Grafton Cultural Council, Homefield Credit Union, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Millbury Cultural Council, Millbury Federal Credit Union and Yesod Foundation and businesses: Central One Federal Credit Union, Dance It Up, EverRise, Gastonart & Frame, Gaudette Insurance, New England School of Fine Art, Pepperoni Express, Savers Bank, Uncommon Cow and Grafton Grill & Crust and UniBank.

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COURT
Case No. 25 SM 003923
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Eric Lowrey
and all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. §501 et seq:
Milford Federal Bank
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Uxbridge, numbered 379 Chestnut Street, given by **Eric Lowrey to Milford Federal Bank, dated October 8, 2021**, and recorded at Worcester County Registry of Deeds on October 15, 2021, in Book No. 66302, at Page 159, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now, or recently have been, in the **active** military service of the United States of America, then you are entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis. then you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 02/02/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on 12/16/2025
Attest:
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
January 2, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P4256EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Roy Magnus Johnson, Jr.
Date of Death:02/21/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy** has been filed by **Paul M Johnson of Uxbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
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 01/06/2025.** 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 UNDER THE 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: December 10, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
January 2, 2026

Saint Joseph School
announces honor roll

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 4
High Honors: Patryk Deptula, Kenneth Maruer, Keziah Anobah, Callum Bergman, Maria Berry, Maksymilian Bujala, Logan Derry, Olivia Guinto, Maya Jackson, Nella Copeland, Oliver Delgaudio, Addison Goulet, Olivia Perry, Oliver Smith, Joanna Thrun, Reese Shepard, Kelsey Cormier, Paulina Piascik, Jackson Lovett, Tamara Giteru, Avery Benson, Jamarion Pierre
Honors: Amalina Khozami, Quincy Middleton

Grade 5
High Honors: Stella Andreotta, Julian Gibbons, Rylan Shemansky, Ariel Corbin, Mia Reed, Carson Krajcik, Julia Biela, Cecilia Coan, Christopher Bourgeois, Anna Wozniak, Aaliyah Andersen, Samuel Brunnett, Persefoni Sgouritsas, Michael Kamangu, Sophia Bengston, Charlie Cyr, Cameron Blodgett, Julie-Ann McCracken, Faye Derry, Luke Zegle

Grade 6
High Honors: Giorgios Sgouritsas,

Johnny Marcuccio, Allen Oliver Jean-Paul, Charles Smith, Amadeusz Gacek, Charlotte Dollar, Kirollos Ibrahim, Marina Szydlík, Severyn Kuznecki
Honors: Sylvia Cyr, Cameron Tremblay, Jon Belanger, Mathiew Prunier, Armani Cedeno, Claudia Vezeau, Charlotte Rumsay, Maddox Clair
Credit: Andrew Hachigian, Liam Dvoryaninov, Connor Kippax

Grade 7
High Honors: Bella Kicilinski, Abigail Rubin, Sophia Surowanic, Lily Martin, Amelia Potem, Lukas Stock, Quinn Meehan, Sydney Caissie-Desautels, Ariana Benson, Evelyn Macko, Jacob Manzi
Honors: Grayson Dollar
Credit: Nico Meijas, Gabriel Ketnouvong-Ung, James Miranda

Grade 8
High Honors: Axel Kapitulik, Lukas Barbosa, Kalleia Agosto, Neli Kuznecki, Tosin Akindele, Tenleigh Dowd, Mychael Jones, Ivonka Waranajitys, Jacob Marcuccio, Hayley Benes
Honors: Avery Archambault, Alexis Archambault, Jacob Lopez

DINNER

continued from page A1

mini desserts and cookies to delight your palette.
In addition to dinner, attendees will enjoy exclusive mini-tours of the Mansion, offering a rare opportunity to experience its rich, two-century history and architectural beauty up close. Experience the Mansion in a new light!
“We are honored to welcome guests back through the doors of the Mansion for an evening that blends history, elegance, and community,” said Traci Parath, Executive Director of Asa Waters Mansion. “This dinner is a beautiful way to celebrate the season and the legacy of this home that has stood as a pillar in Millbury for two centuries. It’s the perfect way to kick-start the celebration for our 200th Anniversary!”
Register online at <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx-?TID=35274> or scan the QR code on our flyer. The cost to attend is \$65 per person, seating is limited, and advanced ticket purchase is required. For more information, please contact Traci Parath at 508-865-0855 or email Traci at, tparath@millburyma.gov.



The month of January has been home to many historical events over the years. Here’s a look at some that helped to shape the world in January 1926.

- The first radio station in Ireland, 2RN, begins broadcasting on January 1.
- The worst flooding in the German city of Köln occurs on January 1. A torrent of water rises 35 feet, forcing roughly 50,000 people to evacuate their homes.
- General Theodoros Pangalos declares a state of emergency in Greece and assumes dictatorial powers on January 3. General Pangalos had become Prime Minister of Greece in June 1925 after orchestrating a coup d’état.
- Great War cemeteries in France are submerged on January 7 due to ongoing downpours affecting various areas throughout Europe. The same rains flood the London subway system as well.
- Gracie Allen and George Burns are married by a justice of the peace in Cleveland on January 7. The newlyweds ultimately gain renown as the comedy duo Burns and Allen.
- Twelve-year-old Prince Nguyen Phúc Thuy is crowned Emperor of Vietnam on January 8. The prince’s father, Emperor Khai Dinh, died two months earlier on November 6.
- Herman, Henry and Hillel Hassenfeld incorporate the Hassenfeld Brothers company on January 8. The company initially manufactures school supplies but eventually begins to make toys under the name “Hasbro.”
- Twenty Mexican rebels open fire aboard a train traveling from Guadalupe to Mexico City on January 9. The bandits escape with the equivalent of \$150,000 USD.
- The four-masted schooner Prinz Valdemar capsizes on January 10, blocking all ship traffic in and out of Biscayne Bay and the harbor of Miami, Florida. All aboard are rescued unharmed, but two ocean liners are prevented from leaving the harbor.


- United States Representative John W. Langley of Kentucky resigns from Congress on January 11. Langley’s resignation comes after the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed his jail sentence for violating prohibition laws by illegally selling alcohol to New York-based bootleggers with ties to organized crime.
- Michael Bond is born in Newbury, Berkshire, England, on January 13. Bond would survive a 1943 air raid in Reading during World War Two before authoring his first book, A Bear Called Paddington, in 1958.
- Twenty-year-old Ayn Rand departs Russia by train on January 17. Rand’s early life in Communist Russia heavily influenced the philosophy reflected in many of her more notable works.
- Voting rights activist Indiana Little leads several hundred Black men and women on a march to the Jefferson County registrar’s office in Birmingham, Alabama, on January 18. Little is arrested for disturbing the peace and would not be registered to vote for another 30 years.
- Multiple ships near New York City are threatened by a gale on January 20. The U.S. luxury liner SS President Roosevelt completes a rescue of the British freighter SS Antiope on January 28 after initial reports indicating the latter ship sank in the storm.
- Chaplin Court Treatt and Stella Court Treatt complete the first successful journey across Africa by motorcar on January 24. The duo began their journey one year, four months and 11 days before completing the trip in Cairo, Egypt.
- Speaking on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Campaign during a luncheon on January 25, British surgeon Sir Berkeley Moynihan says that cancer of the tongue is traceable to two things, including smoking.
- Thousands of mourners line the streets of Brussels to watch the funeral procession of Belgian national hero and cleric Cardinal Désiré-Joseph Mercier on January 28. Cardinal Mercier was known for his staunch opposition to the German occupation of Belgium during World War I.
- Violette Neatley Anderson becomes the first African American woman to be admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court on January 29.
- The Chamber of Deputies passes “Law Number 100” on January 31. The law grants Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini the right to issue judicial norms without prior consultation with the Italian parliament.



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Friday's Child



Keegan
Age 10
Registration # 7501

Keegan has a wide variety of hobbies that highlight both his curiosity and his active nature. He loves exploring new places virtually through Google Maps and has a growing passion for automobiles—he enjoys learning about different car makes and models and watching YouTube videos about them. Keegan is also drawn to numbers and enjoys solving math problems for fun. In social settings, he’s playful and enjoys spending time with his peers. Physically active and full of energy, Keegan especially looks forward to gym class, where he can run, walk, and participate in a range of physical activities.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22533765945>

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

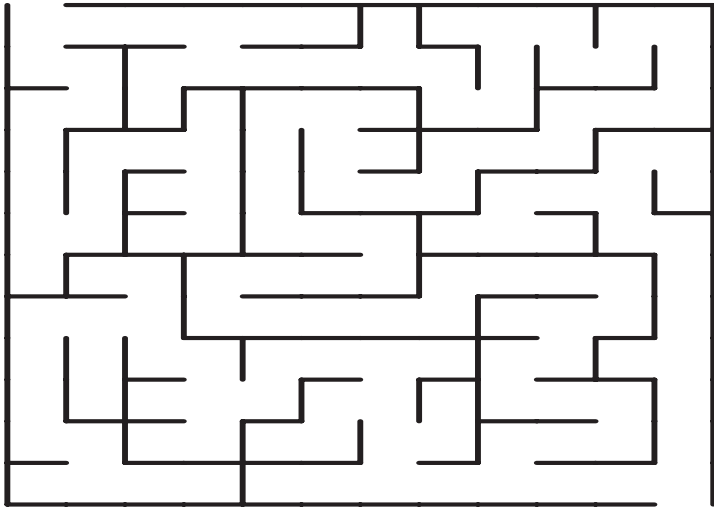
The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org.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



Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the maze?

START



FINISH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1607: Pocahontas pleads for John Smith's life when tribal leaders attempt to execute him.

1845: The United States annexes the Republic of Texas.

1913: Cecil B. DeMille begins filming Hollywood's first feature film.

NEW WORD
COCOA

a hot drink made from cocoa powder mixed with sugar and milk

Food FACT:

This sweetened beverage was once a bitter drink made from roasted cocoa beans.

Answer: Hot chocolate

How they say that in...

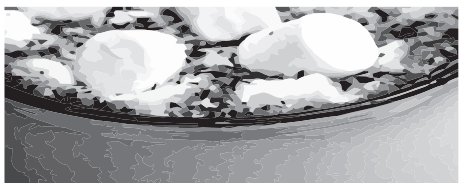
- English: Mug
- Spanish: Taza
- Italian: Tazza
- French: Mug
- German: Tasse

Did You Know?

A mug of hot cocoa can be made more delicious with the addition of whipped cream and miniature marshmallows.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Hot chocolate

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LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

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

CHARLTON

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

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

LEICESTER

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

NORTH BROOKFIELD

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

OXFORD

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

ROCHDALE

The Lord’s Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 -
2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE

St. John Paul II Parish Food Pantry
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Tuesday 3-5 p.m., Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
(508) 765-0245

Southbridge Food Share
Located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,
lower level
446 Hamilton St,
Southbridge, MA 01550
Email:
Southbridgefoodshare.org@gmail.com
Phone: 508-764-6583
Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday,
from 10:00 am to 11:15 am.

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY

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

STURBRIDGE

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

WEBSTER

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

WEST BROOKFIELD

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry
First Congregational Church
36 North Main Street,
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AM Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM





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*Cheers to 2026!
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*God Bless
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Cornerstone Bank’s annual Toy Drive spreads holiday cheer across community

W O R C E S T E R

— Cornerstone Bank is proud to announce the success of its annual holiday toy drive, which collected new, unwrapped toys for local children and families this season. Thanks to the generosity of customers, employees and community members, the effort once again brought joy to those who need it most.

Since its founding in 2017, Cornerstone has proudly partnered with local charities to brighten the holidays for families throughout its community. This year, all branches except the Southbridge location donated collected toys to the Planting the Seed Foundation, a Worcester-based nonprofit that supports underprivileged children and families. The Southbridge Branch continued its long-standing tradition of supporting the Cops ‘N’ Kids Toy Drive, a local program that has received donations

from Cornerstone Bank for more than five years.

“This year’s toy drive truly shows the power of community,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “Seeing so many people come together to support children and families in need is inspiring, and it reminds us why giving back is such an important part of what we do.”

Cornerstone Bank extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who participated and helped make this year’s toy drive a success.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding

service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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