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Thursday-Friday, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2023

New solar trainer unit installed at Tantasqua

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
S T U R B R I D G E
— Students from several classes of Tantasqua Regional High School’s technical division have teamed up to install a unit that augments safety and education.

Overseen by Mark Wood, Principal-Director of Tantasqua Regional Vocational High School, students and staff members are completing the installation of a solar trainer.

The support structure for the unit was built by carpentry students last year, and the installation will be finished this year by electrical students.

The project was made possible by a \$60,000 grant from the All Points North Foundation.

“They have been amazing to work with,” Wood said of the foundation. “Everyone is very excited about the project.”

School officials thank the Ted Foundation (Tantasqua Education



Courtesy

TRHS students are hard at work during the construction phase.

Foundation) for serving as the applicant for the grant. The final materials needed for the project have been ordered. Upon arrival, they will be installed by students.

Last school year, CAD students helped design the installation.

Upperclassmen then worked with TRHS carpentry teacher Tim Seguin to build a shed to be used for storage on site.

Once complete, the solar trainer unit will allow students to safely learn how to install solar equipment.

“The number of jobs out there for solar keeps growing. We want to give our students the best training opportunities for this aspect of the industry,” Wood said.

The project has also benefited Chapter 74 students from Leicester,

East Brookfield, and West Brookfield who participate in TRHS coursework.

“The project has come along well, and the students have really enjoyed working on it,” said TRHS electrical teacher David Bachand. “It’s a great way for kids to get some fresh air while learning.”

TRHS carpentry students also built memorial benches outside the storage shed. The benches honor former TRHS students Vinnie Ardizzoni and Dom Gardner, who lost their lives in a 2022 car accident.

The next step in the installation process is for the solar trainer unit to be connected to the school’s power system. Students look forward to the new opportunities that will be introduced once the device goes live.

“It has been a good experience to work on different projects with a team,” said TRHS student Ethan Langevin.

The new unit will also allow students to discover how various items of safety gear operate while they’re working, including harnesses.

To learn more about the All Points North Foundation, visit www.allpointsnorthfoundation.org.

Council makes Dean department head

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE
— Revamping economic development in various ways was key to the Town Council’s most recent agenda Nov. 20.

Specifically, they unanimously approved Town Manager Jack Jovan’s reorganization of that department to elevate Peg Dean formally to department head, a job she’s essentially been doing for some time now. Jovan noted the last person to do it was Rosemary Scrivens, but when she left, the then-manager split her job duties between Dean and then-Planner Eric Rumsey. This change restores the job description the council approved back in 2017.

“I see some real changes on the horizon of people that want to invest to move this community forward,” he said, noting Dean has helped find them and hoping to take advantage of that.

Dean has worked for the town five years, starting formally as CDBG Coordinator. Several councilors praised her work.

Many of the agenda’s other items are things Dean has been working

on. The board accepted a \$2 million MassWorks grant to extend the already-approved paving and infrastructure project on River/Crane Street to Pleasant Street. The fact it originally stopped at the bridge was a technicality of the fact it was heavily being funded by CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) money, which is restricted to the town’s two low/moderate-income census tracts.

Speaking of CDBG, the board voted to extend and repurpose the remnants from two years of funding (fiscal 2020 and 2021) to rebuild the burned Rotary Club playground on Main Street. Jovan noted parks within 1000 feet of a town building are covered on that building’s insurance policy, but that playground and the one on Walcott St are outside that distance, so weren’t listed on the policy.

He also discussed the ongoing effort to secure a \$10 million federal RAISE grant to rebuild Hamilton Street. It was rejected a few months ago, but federal officials urged Southbridge to resubmit with more information, and Jovan noted the town is talking to both Reps Neal and McGovern for

help. He noted the town was subject to a \$13,800 fine from the IRS over the fact the town’s health insurance didn’t meet certain percentages regarding “affordable” plans, a figure the council voted to pay. That fine was reduced from \$63,000, and Jovan said “some communities say it’s cheaper to pay the fine than to offer this insurance.”

The one issue that sparked a little discussion was one that usually gets none – approval of the annual winter parking ban. George Chenier rased concern over the fact West Street is still under construction. It already has just one-side parking, with a snow emergency ban and a restriction during school hours. He wondered what residents there would do.

Jovan admitted he didn’t know, and said he wished that had been brought to his attention before the meeting. Instead, he said he’d work out something with the police, but asked the board to approve the overall list because it needs to start Dec. 1. (They did.)

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

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

C H A R L T O N
— Another year, another tax rate hearing, but the same result for Charlton, as town officials decided once again to stay with a single tax rate rather than imposing increased tax burden on local businesses.

Charlton held its annual tax rate hearing on Nov. 14, where Town Assessor Kathleen Stanley presented the usual two options

to selectmen, either remaining with a single tax rate or shifting to a split rate that taxes businesses more than residents. Stanley started her presentation by exploring the idea of splitting the rate, as is usual practice during the hearing to provide town leaders with options. She explained that even a shift of 10 percent would lower single family assessment by \$170 a year, however it would dramatically affect local businesses with the med-

ical commercial property seeing an increase of \$443 a year.

The concept was once again balked at by selectmen who have traditionally presented themselves as business friendly. Selectman Bill Borowski, a staunch advocate for a single tax rate, made his case noting how splitting the rate would only hinder Charlton’s economic growth.

“I remain adamantly opposed to a split rate. I Turn To **CHARLTON** page **A16**

Charlton hires new Deputy Police Chief

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON
— The Charlton Police Department has promoted a longtime staple of local law enforcement to the position of Deputy Chief.

Gary Mason, a lifelong resident of Charlton who joined the department in 1995, was officially appointed to the position on Nov. 14 at the recommendation of Chief Dan Dowd, who spoke highly of Mason’s longstanding commitment to the community and his endless leadership of department staff both new and old.

“Gary is just one of those rare people that bleeds Charlton, both in the Police Department and in the community. He’s so well versed in town and I’m sure everybody knows Gary. He’s just everywhere. He’s an all-around great guy. He’s been there since I started, and he’s always been helpful to the person that walks in the door from day one of their career. He’s always taking time to talk to people. He’s a



Courtesy — Bud Harris Photography

Gary Mason was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Charlton Police Department last month. He is shown here hugging a loved one after being pinned as a Lieutenant in 2021.

perfect example of what we’re trying to emulate at the police department,” said the chief.

Mason’s promotion was heavily supported by selectmen who praised the approach of hiring from within. For his part, Mason was humbled to be considered for the post.

“I appreciate the support from everybody, family, friends, especially my coworkers, the town. I’m just looking to keep it moving at Charlton PD. Our mission is to keep that team approach

going,” said Mason.

The new Deputy Chief was one of eight candidates who applied for the job, with two being invited for interviews. Mason has served numerous previous posts in the departments including dispatcher, officer, detective, sergeant, and, most recently, lieutenant. He began his newest position on Nov. 19. The Charlton Police Department will now begin the hiring process to fill the vacant lieutenant position left by Mason’s promotion.

Holiday season brings early deadlines

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

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

The submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication in the Dec. 15 edition of the Sturbridge Villager will be Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.

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

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

The deadline for our first edition of 2024, Jan. 5, will be Friday, Dec. 22 at 4 p.m.

As always, submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at news@stonebridgepress.news.

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

Shawn Tinsley inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Shawn Tinsley of Charlton was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Tinsley was initiated at University of South Florida.

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

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

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

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Celebrate the season with Christmas by Candlelight at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — If you are longing for a traditional, less hurried Christmas season, you won't want to miss Christmas by Candlelight at Old Sturbridge Village. This popular holiday event began on Black Friday, Nov. 24, and is open select Fridays, Saturday, and Sundays through Dec. 30.

The malls aren't the only place you can shop for gifts. Unique, Village-made holiday items are available at the Miner Grant Store during the event and the Ox & Yoke Mercantile which opens daily at 10 a.m., and does not require admission to the Village.

Visitors who would like to give the gift of something handmade, can learn about crafts made throughout the Village, purchase craft kits for gift giving, or try their

skill at hand dipping candles.

Your family, friends and out-of-town visitors will find themselves enchanted as they step back in time to celebrate Christmas in New England in the 19th Century. Enter Village households to watch traditional craft making demonstrations, stroll through The Christmas Tree Trail featuring over 80 cut trees, and be astounded by over 4,000 candles and lanterns and more than 2,000 yards of garland dressing up the Village in its holiday finest. And don't miss the nightly lighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

And yes, Santa Claus himself makes a nightly appearance allowing the little ones to tell him their special Christmas wishes.

About Old Sturbridge Village

Old Sturbridge Village, first opened to the public in 1946, is one of the country's oldest and largest living history museums, celebrating life in early New England from 1790-1840. It is the largest living history museum in the Northeast. Each year, more than 250,000 visitors interact with costumed historians, experience up-close demonstrations of early American trades, and meet heritage breed farm animals. Situated on 200 scenic acres, the Village is a collection of more than 40 historic buildings - including homes, meetinghouses, trade shops, working farms, restaurants, shops and three water-powered mills.

Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes I-84 and 20 in Sturbridge, Mass.,



Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but days and hours vary seasonally. Daily admission is: \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors, \$15 for College Students, \$15 for children ages 4-17, children 3 and under admitted free. For details, visit <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.

Old Sturbridge Village is also the managing partner of Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol, R.I. Members at OSV receive reciprocal membership at Coggeshall Farm Museum.

Holland Church holds traditional Thanksgiving outreach meal



HOLLAND—Continuing a tradition that goes back nearly three decades, members of Holland Church recently held their annual Thanksgiving season outreach meal.

Held on Nov. 19 at Holland Elementary School, the community event was funded entirely through donations made by church members. All food, decorations, and services (including food prep, setup, servers, and cleanup) were donated as a way to give thanks to the community.

Meals were also delivered to home-bound citizens in Holland and surrounding towns.

The church has now served the meal for 28 years. This year, members served 350 meals to the community.

Courtesy

Community members enjoy an annual outreach dinner organized by Holland Church.

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Volunteers needed for St. Joseph's Holiday Bazaar

CHARLTON — The Mary Martha Guild of St. Joseph Catholic Church will hold a Holiday Bazaar Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Guild is seeking volunteers to assist with this event. Contact Joyce at (774) 262-0820 if you are able to lend a hand.

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

ALL BOARDS CLERK - The Town of Brookfield seeks an All Boards Clerk to fill a 15 hour a week position, Tuesday - Thursday. Applications accepted until the position is filled. Full job description at brookfieldma.us

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Friday's Child



Asa and Lilianna
Age 8 and 10

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

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

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

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

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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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Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale announces Holly Berry Fair vendors



Some of the many handcrafted items to be offered at this year's Holly Berry Fair on Dec. 3.

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale will hold its annual Holly Berry Fair on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall at 8 Maple St., Sturbridge.

Holly Berry Fair co-chairs, Nancy Castendyk and Janet-Rae Sinanian say this year's fair promises to deliver something for everyone on your holiday shopping list.

"We've assembled quite an assortment of really unique and interesting artists this year," says Castendyk. "This popular fair will

offer something for everyone, from hand-crafted pottery to folk art and hand-knitted items, and Koinonia, the Federated Church women's group will also be offering a variety of baked goods and other items for sale."

Featured local artisans include Collette Gage (Emma's Acres Alpaca products), Mary Bernstein (Big Bhang Tie-Dye Designs), Susan Freeland (Birch Design Co.), Susan Bundeiff (stained glass sun catchers), Leo Gregoire (beautiful woodwork furnishings), Linda McGourty (Genie In A Bottle), Mary Shaw (holiday ornaments), Colleen Maurais (Crochet Crafters), Dawna Savageau (Candle Wax Melts), Janet Rae-Sinianian (Iris folded designs), and Charles Battersby (leather wallets and belts).

The fair will also feature Bonnie Fancy (knits and crocheted items), Natasha Lester (handmade jewelry), Dee Wilson (decorated glass centerpieces), Cheryll Desorcy (shutter snowmen), Roger Hall (woodcraft jewelry), Catherine Rondeau (Christmas Bears), Dianne Bessette (watercolor cards), Barbara Karpowich (fabric snowmen), Cindy Parent (ceramics and ornaments), Sandra Bostrum (pocketbooks and purses), Kathy Krikorian (hand-

made wreaths), Michelle Lowell (wood-land decorations).

For additional information about the Holly Berry Fair or other upcoming events, please visit the Church website at sturfed.org, visit the Church's Facebook page @ FederatedChurchSturbridgeFiskdale, or contact the Church office at (774) 304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives. Members of the community are welcome and invited to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Services are also live-streamed on the church's Facebook page.

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

WALES: 413-245-9808

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

CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St.,
248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
www.fedchurchcharlton.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond
Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org,
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford
St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St.,
Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
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am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May)
5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am,
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- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext,
248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com,
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8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday
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Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty
Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England
District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771,
snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30
a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main
Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton,
MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**,
307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA,
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and
Fiskdale-** 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church-** 345 Main
Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone 508-347-7297
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:30 am
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Upcoming events at the Joshua Hyde Public Library

STURBRIDGE — There is a lot going on in the Joshua Hyde Public Library. Construction has begun to replace the HVAC system, however, the building is still open and staff is available to help you find whatever it is you might need. Stop in or call the library at 508-347-2512 with questions.

December Book Groups and Events:

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. - VIRTUAL ~ BAKING DEMO & DISCUSSION WITH CHEF ERIN JEANNE MCDOWELL. Join chef and cookbook author Erin Jeanne McDowell via zoom as she demonstrates how to make one of her favorite recipes and then there will be time for questions. Registration is required. Go to sturbridgelibrary.org. Thank you to the Ashland Public Library for sharing this program with us.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS BOOK GROUP - Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall - Veterans Hall. Challenging Boundaries - This month's book is "Sea of Tranquility" by Emily St. John Mandel.

Monday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. - VIRTUAL ~ HOLIDAY ROMANCE BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS with Booklist Reviewer, John Charles. John Charles will give us his "best of" list of 2023 that will have your TBR pile tipping over and your holidays spent cozying up to a good book. A list of titles will be sent out after the session. This program is sponsored and being shared by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library. Registration is required.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP - Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. at the Town Hall - Julian Room. Exploring the Importance of Place - This month's book is "Small Things Like These" by Claire Keegan.

You may also go to our website at sturbridgelibrary.org for more details about events and updates on the HVAC construction project.

Holy Trinity presents free concert with Blue Shades Clarinets

SOUTHBRIDGE — Holy Trinity Episcopal Church proudly presents a free holiday concert with the Blue Shades Clarinets Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. Free will offerings will be given to Rosilda's Kitchen at the First Methodist Church, and refreshments will follow the concert.

For more information, please contact holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com. The church is located at 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge.

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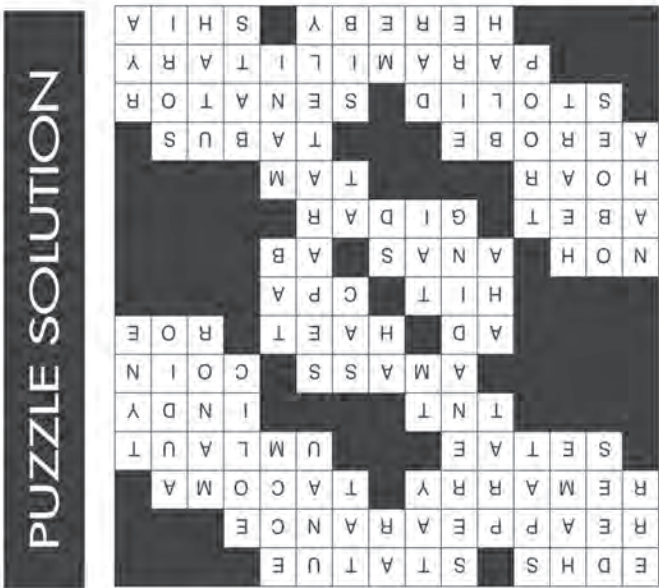
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Old English letters
5. Sculpture
11. Showing up again
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
19. Mark over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular race; ___500
24. Pile up
28. Mint
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Small Eurasian deer
33. Baseball stat
35. Numbers cruncher
36. Japanese masked drama
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Place under prohibition
56. Calm, dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. One of two main branches of Islam

CLUES DOWN

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



Southbridge kicks off the holiday season



Gus Steeves

The alpaca couple keep an eye on early arrivals.



Dad and son take a selfie with the alpacas.



Grandpa brings two grandsons to the craft table.

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge officially kicked off the holiday season Saturday with its annual Santa Parade and Tree Lighting on the Common. Hundreds of people turned out for Santa's arrival, photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, cocoa, popcorn, a little seasonal song karaoke, craft-making, visiting with alpacas and various other attractions. Events were partly funded by the Southbridge Cultural Council.



Santa has his hands full of kids.



ne of the several floats in a parade that also featured a few decked-out jeeps, a couple lowriders, and a lot of police and fire vehicles.



Aibhlin Hannigan, Maureen Doyle and Jasmin Rivas staff the book & craft table.



Santa and elves give the countdown to the tree lighting.



A local family enjoys the festivities.

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\$385,000, 60 Guelphwood Rd, Hudon, Paul R, and Hudon, Christine M, to Serpa, Jael A, and Serpa, Januir J.
\$147,000, 18 Glenview Ave, Filo, Christine D, to Filo, Shayne T.

- STURBRIDGE**
\$25,000, 81 Leadmine Ln, Walton, Jeffrey A, to Klages, Kurt.



Courtesy

RUTH WELLS CENTER HOSTING ORNAMENT MAKING WORKSHOP

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts is hosting an ornament making workshop for families on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9-11 a.m. This creative and fun workshop is free to paid family members. The family membership is \$25 for the year, and will include kids art workshops in February and August. What a great opportunity! The workshop will be led by very talented local artist Simone Germain. It will be held at the Ruth Wells Center, 111 Main St. in Southbridge. Prior registration is required so we can plan space and materials. To join, go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com, membership button. To register, call 508 764 3341. Don't miss this fun family time- and make ornaments to add to your holiday décor. For more information, call the Center, 508 764 3341.

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Darlene Renaud

Masonic Lodge AED/ CPR & 1st Aid Courses were a great success during recent OPEN House Weekend!

American Heart Association Certified classes to be given on specific Saturdays, November and December. We will be sponsoring and conducting reduced rate classes to support the surrounding community for an AED/CPR class is combined with the Basic First Aid class for Certification. There will also be a "Stop the Bleed" Certificate class. Classes will require sign-up in advance & pre-payment made to: JOEL H. PROUTY LODGE of Masons 780 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA. 01501

Dates are as follows:
12.09.2023 Stop the Bleed \$65.00 w/ Certificate
12.16.2023 AED/CPR & *** \$65.00 w/ AHA Certificate
Basic First Aid
Classes will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
*** Must be 10 people for the AED/CPR Basic First Aid Class to be held to justify the instructor. Fees will be returned if we don't get 10 students or the second date can be used.
Stop the Bleed class can accommodate up to 40 people

The strength to overcome obstacles lies within you

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Against all odds, Stephen's perceived

disadvantage also came with an advantage that gave him everything he needed to become a world-class artist.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Each of us has an untapped well of inner strength. More often than not, we

possess the tools necessary to navigate life's biggest challenges. Sometimes, the presence of a daunting obstacle reveals the actual depth of our ability. Next time you feel overwhelmed or insufficient, hold onto this truth: within you lies everything you need to overcome and succeed.

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Federated Church announces ordination service, celebration of David Wayne Cote



STURBRIDGE — On Sunday, Dec.

3 at 3 p.m., the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale, in association with The American Baptist Churches of America and The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, will ordain David W. Cote to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The public is welcome to attend.

The ordination will take place nearly three years to the day in 2020 when David first stepped into the Federated Church to serve as a pulpit supply minister. In April 2021, he was called to serve as their part-time pastor, and six months later, he was called as their full-time pastor and teacher. He will continue to serve as Pastor following his ordination.

David earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology at Worcester State College, and a Master of Divinity

degree at Andover Newton Theological School. Before entering parish ministry, David served as a pastoral minister with a local outdoor church, with a recovery unit, and as director of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Worcester.

A reception will follow the ordination ceremony at The Barn at Wight's Farm, Main Street, Sturbridge

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives. Members of the community are welcome to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. For additional information, please visit the Church Web site at sturfed.org or contact the Church office at (774) 304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.

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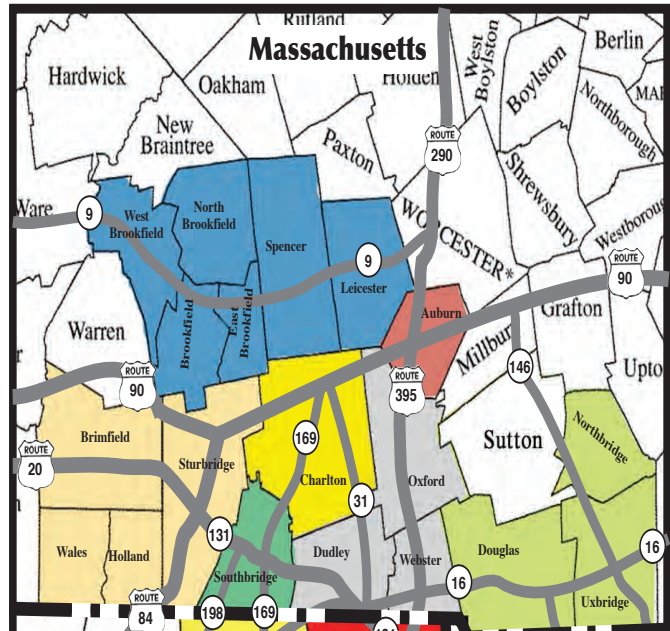
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The power of small changes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Helping the poor

BEYOND
THE
PEWS

• • • • •

BY REV. JOHN H.D. LUCY
CHARLTON CITY UMC

This year, my church, Charlton City UMC, collected gift cards to distribute to local families to help create Christmas miracles. I can't help but think of Tiny Tim. Still, we received a comment that we shouldn't hand out free money because parents probably won't spend the money on gifts and food and instead will spend it on drugs and unnecessary luxuries. The comment bothered me so much, I have to address it.

You've probably heard a similar comment about handing out cash to persons who are homeless on the side of the street. I'll come back to that. The comment we heard is particularly upsetting because it implies that anyone who is unable to provide gifts or a feast for their kids is a bad parent, makes bad choices, is a drug addict. That's unfair to the extreme. I work full-time, my wife works two part-time jobs, we're quite thrifty, and we're still on the edge of wondering whether Christmas will be what we hope. To assume those in need in our country are somehow lazy, indulgent, or plain bad, is, if I'm being politically correct, silly.

Next, I have put together little gift bags for those who are homeless so

that, when I come across a person in need, I can give them the bag rather than cash. The bag consisted of a water bottle, perishable food, socks, and other such items. But it did also include some money. That's a good idea and I'm thankful for my wife for first suggesting it. Too often, though, we simply refuse to give anything to those who are homeless because we've heard the argument that they'll just use it to buy drugs.

Who are we to judge, by the way? We don't know the person we're serving. What anyone does with a gift is between them and God. The job of those who have, as far as I'm concerned, is to give the gift. Each gift is an opportunity for new doors to open, including the door of grace.

So this year, this holiday season, I hope and pray that we'll give out of our abundance without rules or restrictions, trusting that each gift is an opportunity; I hope and pray that we'll give out of our abundance so that Christmas and other holidays can be for everyone what we hope it will be for ourselves.

Can life insurance provide retirement income?



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

If your children are grown and your mortgage is paid off, do you still need to carry life insurance? It depends on your situation, but for many people, a cash-value life insurance policy, such as whole life or universal life, can be a valuable, tax-efficient source of retirement income.

And by drawing on the cash value of your policy, you might be able to temporarily reduce the amount you take out from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k). This ability could be especially important when the financial markets are down — you'd probably like to avoid liquidating your assets when their prices have dropped.

Basically, you can use the cash in your policy in these ways:

Withdrawals – You can typically withdraw part of the cash value of your life insurance without losing coverage. You generally won't incur income taxes on these withdrawals, up to the amount you've put into the policy — that is, the premiums you've paid. Once your withdrawals exceed this amount, you would generally owe taxes. Also, keep in mind that any withdrawals will reduce your policy's death benefit and the available cash surrender value.

Policy loans – Rather than taking a withdrawal from your policy, you could take out a loan. You won't have to go through an approval process or income verification, and policy loans typically have lower interest rates than bank loans and don't assess closing costs. Plus, because your insurer will be lending you the money and using the cash in your policy as collateral, your policy's cash value can remain intact and still potentially grow. However, policy loans do carry some issues of which you should be aware. For one thing, while a loan usually isn't taxable, you could end up owing taxes on any unpaid loan balance, including interest. And if this balance exceeds the policy's cash value, it could cause your policy to lapse. Also, outstanding loans can reduce your death benefit.

Cashing out – If you cash out, or "surrender," your policy, you can receive the entire cash value, plus any accrued interest. You will have to subtract any money needed to pay policy loans, along with unpaid premiums and surrender fees, which can be significant. Also, any amount you receive over the policy's cash basis — the total of premiums you've paid — will be taxed as regular income.

1035 Exchange – Through what's known as a Section 1035 Exchange, you can transfer your life insurance policy to an annuity, which can be structured to pay you a lifetime income stream. The exchange won't be taxable but surrender charges may still apply.

Outdoor winter container gardens

GARDEN
MOMENTS

• • • • •

MELINDA
MYERS



Add a bit of greenery to your front steps, window box or patio with a winter container garden. You'll find all the ingredients you need at your local garden center, craft store, and maybe even a few in your backyard.

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

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

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

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

Consider using a mix of greens for a variety of textures and various shades of green.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Melinda Myers
Winter container gardens made of natural materials add beauty and color to the winter landscape.

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Email Us @

news@stonebridgepress.news



Given the potential tax implications of the above options, you may want to consult with your tax advisor before making any moves. Also, be sure you are comfortable with a reduced or eliminated death benefit. Specifically, you'll want to be confident that your spouse or other family members don't need the proceeds of your policy. This may require some discussions about your loved ones' plans and needs. And don't forget that life insurance can help your family pay for final expenses, such as funeral costs and unpaid medical bills.

Whether it's providing you with needed retirement income or helping your family meet future needs, your cash value life insurance policy is a valuable asset — so try to put it to the best use possible.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevornnielsen@edwardjones.com.

Be alert against CIRDC

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

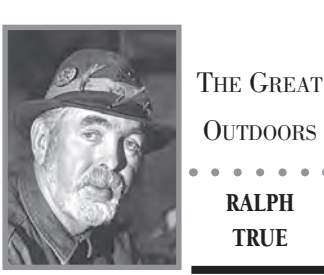
Deer have already started to become nocturnal (traveling and feeding only at night). Deer hunters often work in small groups, hoping to locate the deer, often pushing them from their beds. With the high population of deer in Mass., hunters should have no problem harvesting a couple for the family freezer.

A canine respiratory disease known as CIRDC, "Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease," is a disease that is highly contagious, and has been detected in numerous pets recently. People that frequent dog parks

are exposing their pets to this deadly disease. Taking your pets to the veterinarian to diagnose and treat the disease can be extremely expensive, as most visits to the Veterinarian are.

Getting an appointment to the veterinarian can often take days, as most are often booked up. Pet owners are often referred to Tufts medical clinic in Grafton, which is extremely expensive. Anyone that has had to take their pet to Tufts, often come out with a bill of \$500 or more, a thousand dollar bill is not unusual. Owning a dog that is healthy is great, and the companionship is most often a strong bond with the owners.

I have often mentioned the risks of taking your pets to a dog park, and with the recent outbreak of this disease, you should not do it! People take their dogs almost



everywhere they go, and the risks are very high that they could become infected. Don't do it!

Purchasing a dog as a Christmas present for someone is also a foolish thing to do! There is too much going on, and the pup could be injured during all of the commotion of opening other gifts. Also, when you decide to buy a new family member and/or hunting partner, be sure to buy a healthy dog directly from a breeder. Be sure to see both parents and spend a little bit of time with them. Labradors are still the no. one pet, but

if you do not do your homework before you purchase one, diseases like hip dysplasia could end up costing you hundreds, if not thousands of dollars, not to forget to mention a short life for your new family member. Choose wisely and good luck!

Christmas shopping for those special sportsmen is often a hard thing to do. It is best to give that special guy or gal a gift certificate at their favorite sporting goods store. Shopping at a Mom & Pop store is the best way to go, and will help keep the establishment in business. Many of these small shops have gone out of business over the last 20 years or so, and there are very few left.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Courtesy
This week's picture shows Aiden, Charlotte, & Holden Walker enjoying a day of pheasant hunting recently with their dad.

Holiday Crafts for Kids

As we count down to Christmas, a host of festive preparations take center stage in most families. This exciting time of year is hectic, and even more so for anxious children eager to be part of the pre-holiday activities. If you're searching for easy, creative ways to keep kids busy. Best of all, these imaginative projects make great gifts for the special loved one in a child's life.

Magic Snowflake Ornament/Suncatcher

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

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

Directions: Cut a white pipe cleaner into three equal sections. Twist the sections together in the



TAKE
THE
HINT
**KAREN
TRAINOR**

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

morning the snowflake will be covered with shiny crystals. Hang in a window as a sun-catcher or

Coal Stocking Bags

Children love to think they aren't the only ones who are "naughty" at times, and really enjoy bestowing this holiday teaser on family members and friends. This tried and true project is so simple, yet never fails to garner giggles and fun!

Materials: Small, coal sized rocks; black paint; ziplock bags or brown paper lunch bags; ribbon or twine.

Instructions: Have kids package painted rocks in zipper bags or brown paper bag pouches and tie with a ribbon for gift giving. They can hand print out the following message and tie it to the bag:

I heard you have been naughty not nice,
And Santa even checked his list twice.
So all the way from the cold North Pole,
All you're getting is a bag of coal!

Pinecone Trees

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

Materials: Pinecones, dried (see below)*; paints; glitter; beads; cinnamon candies, etc. and other adornments as desired; wine cork or a slice of tree trunk for base.

Instructions: Choose a pinecone that mimics the shape of a Christmas tree (short and stout tall and slender, etc.). Paint pinecones green and decorate with beads or tiny buttons; cookie decorations such as cinnamon candies and silver balls, etc.; dip tips in glue and glitter, if desired, etc. Glue bottom of pinecone to a wine cork or small tree trunk slice to form a base (trim bottom of pinecone to make it flat for gluing).

*To dry pinecones for crafting; Lay pinecones out flat on an old cookie sheet. Bake at 225 for two hours. This not only helps the pinecones to open, but eliminates moisture and any insects.

Note: a mix of short,

stout pinecones and long, slender ones can create a "forest" of varying heights for a tabletop display!

Garden Bows

The gardener on your child's gift list will truly appreciate this creative tree ornament. Perfect for a grandparent, teacher or special adult, the gift can be opened for use in the spring, or hung on the tree year after year.

Materials: Flower or vegetable seed packets; white glue; glitter; metallic tree garland; fishing line.

Instructions: Fold seed packet into pleats. Spread white glue along the outside edges of the pleats. Dip the pleated packets into glitter and let dry. Pinch the top of the packet to create a fan. Hang the ornaments by wrapping them at center point with metallic garland. Thread fishing line or ribbon through the garland and tie in a loop for hanging on tree.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic

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

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

2023 auction results

I hope that you had a Happy Thanksgiving! As we near 2024, I'll use today's column to share some results from our 2023 auctions.

In previous columns, I've discussed how comic books are classified. As a refresher, Golden Age comics were printed from 1938 to 1956. The Silver

Age of comics lasted from 1956 to 1970. The Bronze Age spanned from 1970 to 1985 and the Modern Age began in 1985 and continues today. A Golden Age superhero comic book in great condition could make you a millionaire. More recent ones can still be valuable, though. We sold a group of Bronze Age and Modern Age X-Men Comic Books that brought \$2,880 in November.

Old and newer collectible toys also brought strong prices this year, including two cast iron toys from our June auction. Kenton Toys of Kenton, Ohio began manufacturing toy trucks in 1903, according to the National Museum of American History. An early 1900s Kenton Toys Cast Iron Police Patrol Horse Drawn Carriage brought \$960. "Samuel



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

Fire Engine sold for \$1,020.

Some more modern toys also sold well in our 2023 auctions. "The Munsters" was the 18th highest-ranked TV show for the 1964-65 season. A 1964 Talking Herman Munster figure by Mattel with original box sold for \$900. The intro for "Six Million Dollar Man" became a 1970s catch phrase: "We can rebuild him; we have the technology." A 1970s The Six Million Dollar Man

F. Pratt, Pascal P. Pratt, and William P. Letchworth established the Buffalo Malleable Iron Works in 1836," according to worthpoint.com. They began toy production in 1889. A late 19th century Pratt & Letchworth Cast Iron Horse Drawn Steamer

Venus Space Probe in the box went for \$960. Even newer toys can be valuable. A 2016 Lego Ghostbusters Fire House MIB (mint in box) sold for \$780 earlier this year.

Baseball and other sports cards continue to be popular with collectors, especially graded cards of star players. Cards featuring two Hall of Famers brought strong prizes in our June auction. A 1954 Topps Hank (Henry) Aaron #128 PSA 5 (out of 10) Baseball Card fetched \$4,425. Mickey Mantle cards in good condition are highly desirable. A 1952 Bowman Mickey Mantle #101 PSA 6 (out of 10) Baseball Card knocked it out of the park, selling for \$5,000.

We are expecting more strong auction results at our major multi-estate online auction which starts soon and ends on January 10th. We will be offering fine art including paintings by list-

ed artists (those whose works have sold at auction), Pablo Picasso limited edition pottery, and bronze sculptures. We have gold, platinum, and diamond jewelry and a large amount of sterling silver. There's also a wide range of mid-century modern furniture and accessories. We will also offer aviation and Civil War memorabilia and much more, including a book from the 1600s. Our online estate auction of a Concord, Mass. home is also currently running and will end on Dec. 12. The Concord home has fine furnishings, oriental rugs, an antique tall case clock, and more. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111).



For Advertising Information

Call 774-200-7308

email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO23P4037PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER
PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT
TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Amelia Rose Beaudry
Of: Southbridge, MA
RESPONDENT

(Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Brian Beaudry of Chicopee, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Amelia Rose Beaudry** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Brian Beaudry of Chicopee, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/19/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the abovenamed person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
November 16, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 30, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 174 Hamilton Street, Southbridge, MA 01550

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Map Realty Group, LLC to DML Capital Mortgage Fund LLC, and now held by **Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee for Residential Mortgage Aggregation Trust**, said mortgage dated September 27, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66205, Page 4, said mortgage was assigned from DML Capital Mortgage Fund LLC to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for Residential Mortgage Aggregation Trust by assignment dated February 23, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68878, Page 48; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** January 9, 2024 at 04:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land, with all buildings and improvements thereon, situated in Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: The land in said Southbridge with the buildings thereon, situated on the easterly side of Hamilton Street, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof, at a drill hole in the stone curbing on the easterly line of Hamilton Street at land of Southbridge & Webster Plumbing Co., Inc., formerly of Elizabeth A. Bourdelais; THENCE easterly by land of said Southbridge Webster Plumbing Co., Inc., about 193 feet to an iron pin in the ground at the westerly line of the location of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad; THENCE southerly by said Railroad location about 80 feet to land of Tetreault, formerly of John J. O'Shaughnessy; THENCE westerly by said Tetreault land 200 feet more or less to the easterly line of Hamilton Street; THENCE northerly by the easterly line of Hamilton Street 80 feet to the point of beginning.

For my title, see deed recorded herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated September 30, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66205, Page 1.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)

Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
270 Farmington Ave, Suite 151
Farmington CT 06032
Attorney for Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee for Residential Mortgage Aggregation Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
November 16, 2023
November 23, 2023
November 30, 2023

Sturbridge Planning Board
Public Hearing
Application for Special Permit
Pickleball U

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 6:35 PM** in the **Town Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Viewpoint Sign & Awning (representing Pickleball U) for the property located at 178 Main Street.

The applicant requests a Special Permit pursuant to Article XVII §300-17.5E of the Zoning Bylaw regarding the erection and maintenance of signs in excess of what is specifically allowed in the Bylaw. The applicant is proposing an 80 sq.ft. building sign, where 30 sq.ft. is allowed under the sign bylaw at 178 Main Street Sturbridge, MA as shown on the plans and materials submitted.

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

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

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

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

Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
November 30, 2023
December 7, 2023

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
BOARD OF HEALTH
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
at 2:30 PM

Center Office Building Meeting Room, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA
In accordance with provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40. the Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 2:30 PM on the application of Blueberry Hill Estates, a 55+ Manufactured Housing Community. The applicant is requesting a permit to construct and operate a 55+ Manufactured Housing Community for the property located at 6 Berry Farms Road, Sturbridge MA 01566.

The Plan may be reviewed by contacting the Sturbridge Health Department at (508) 347-2504 or Justin Stelmok (508) 868-3996.
November 30, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO23C0588CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:
Nickanole Carabello Servera
A Petition to Change Name of Adult
has been filed by
Nickanole Carabello Servera of Southbridge MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Nickanole Carabello

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/12/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: November 10, 2023
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 30, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 775 Dennison Drive, Southbridge, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Susan L Bourdelais to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for One Reverse Mortgage, LLC its successors and assigns and now held by Longbridge Financial, LLC, said mortgage dated April 30, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 48949, Page 119, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 27, 2023, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 68899, Page 78, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 12, 2023, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 69658, Page 286, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on December 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Land Situated in the City of Southbridge in the County of Worcester in the State of MA. THE LAND IN SAID SOUTHBRIDGE WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON, SITUATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF DENNISON DRIVE, BEING ON A PORTION OF THE ROAD LEADING FROM THE HOUSE NOW OR FORMERLY OF JAMES MASON TO THE VILLAGE OF WESTVILLE, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED; BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF IRENE C. DAY; THENCE S. 81 DEGREES 18' E. BY LAND OF SAID DAY, 180 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N. 3 DEGREES 17' E. BY LAND OF SAID DAY, 157.1 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE ON WALL AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF GERARD LEMOINE; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG WALL BY SAID LEMOINE LAND, ABOUT 420 FEET TO A JUNCTION OF WALLS AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF VICTOR BEAUDREAU ET UX; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG WALL BY SAID BEAUDREAU LAND, ABOUT 223 FEET TO AN IRON PIN IN WALL; THENCE N. 82 DEGREES W. BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF WILLIAM W. POTTER ET UX ABOUT 8 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE IN STONE; THENCE STILL N. 82 DEGREES W. BY SAID LAND OF POTTER, 453.3 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE; THENCE N, 8 DEGREES E. BY THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE, 180 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING AN AREA OF ABOUT 2.87 ACRES OF LAND

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated October 20, 1986, and recorded in Book 9915, Page 152 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00)
Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five

(45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Longbridge Financial, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 23-00998
November 16, 2023
November 23, 2023
November 30, 2023

Sturbridge Planning Board
Public Hearing
Application for Special Permit & Site Plan Approval
Vertex Towers, LLC

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 7:05 PM** in the **Town Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Vertex Towers, LLC for the property located at 92 Stallion Hill Road **Tax Assessor Parcel** 605-0281-092.

The applicant requests a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XIX, Site Plan Review and Article IX, Wireless Communications Facilities, and a Waiver in accordance with § 300-9.3 (H) (average tree canopy waiver) of the Zoning Bylaw for the construction of a wireless communications facility consisting of a 130' monopole style tower with antennas and electronic equipment on mounting brackets, inside a 60'x60' fenced-in compound which will contain ground-based electronic equipment and a generator on a concrete pad and related site improvements at 92 Stallion Hill Road Sturbridge, MA as shown on the plans and materials submitted.

Additionally, the applicant will conduct a Visibility Demonstration to illustrate the location and height of the proposed Facility by means of a balloon raised at the proposed location to a height of 130 feet. **Said Visual Demonstration will be held SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm NOON**, weather and wind conditions permitting. In the event of inclement weather on December 2, 2023, the Visibility Demonstration will be rescheduled until SUNDAY, December 3, 2023 or the next successive weekend day until the weather and wind conditions permit a successful demonstration. If you have any questions concerning said Visibility Demonstration, please contact Francis D. Parisi, (401) 447-8500, info@visiwww.com. **Please check the website www.visidem.com after noon on the day before the scheduled date(s) to determine if the balloon will be up the following day.**

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

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

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

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

Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
November 23, 2023
November 30, 2023

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
PUBLIC HEARING
TAX CLASSIFICATION

A public hearing will be held by the Town Council on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, Town Hall.

This public hearing will be held pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 56 on the adoption of a residential factor for tax purposes and the adoption of percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property.

Any person wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard.

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
John D. Jovan Jr.
Town Manager
November 23, 2023
November 30, 2023

SPORTS

Late game interception secures Thanksgiving Day victory for Tantasqua over Rams



The Shepherd Hill offense begins a play as Tantasqua's defense attempts to rush in.

BY JASON BLEAU
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — The Shepherd Hill Rams and Tantasqua Warriors met for their 49th annual Thanksgiving Day game, this year played at The Reservation. The game proved to be a thrilling tale of two very different halves.

Both teams came out determined to keep each other from the end zone as the game remained scoreless at halftime, but the scoreboard would see plenty of work in the second half with points on every possession except the final drive, which ended with a game-clinching interception for the Warriors, as they edged the Rams, 17-14.

The second half provided a bit of everything from both teams as Shepherd Hill took the lead in the third quarter on the strength of a touchdown run by Aiden Tyler. The Rams would later secure the lead with a 75-yard kickoff return for a score by William Sirleaf.

In between those scores Tantasqua kept things close with a touchdown of their own courtesy of a 33-yard connection between quarterback Adam Howe and receiver Noah Wotton. Shepherd Hill took their 14-7 advantage into the final quarter of the game, but that lead wouldn't last.

Tantasqua took control in the fourth quarter thanks to scrappy play by Howe under center, who converted another touchdown — this time to Isaac Colon — to tie the game despite a strong showing by the Rams' defense. The Warriors then took their first lead of the day after successfully securing an onside kick complimented by a highlight scramble play later in the drive where Howe escaped a charging Rams defense to complete a first down pass. The effort eventually set up a 19-yard field goal by Luke Marvin to make the score 17-14 in favor of the Warriors.

Shepherd Hill never backed down and threatened to take the lead in the closing



Kyle LeBlanc of Shepherd Hill carries the ball and pushes forward while getting tackled.



Joshua Harrison of Shepherd Hill rushes the ball for a first down.



Tantasqua place kicker Luke Marvin watches the ball go through the uprights, as this score would be the difference in a 17-14 victory for the Warriors over Shepherd Hill.



Noah Wotton of Tantasqua runs the ball into the end zone for a touchdown.



Tantasqua quarterback Adam Howe scrambles away from a Shepherd Hill defender.

seconds, attempting a desperation pass play into the end zone. However, Tantasqua's Jack Rapose made the game-clinching interception with 18 seconds left on the clock securing the Warriors their 10th win in the annual holiday matchup.

Warriors' head coach Nate Orzech complimented Rapose on his game-winning play, calling it redemption for a mistake made at the very beginning of the season.

"Week one against Marlborough he got beat on a play like that and I've been on him about it for the rest of the year, so it makes up for week one. We were talking to the safeties to be aware of toss passes and they didn't get beat. They did a good job and made a play," Orzech said.

After a scoreless first half, Orzech said the Warriors made all the right adjustments to counteract the Rams coming into the closing quarters. "(Shepherd Hill) did a great job taking away what we were trying to do. We said we had to run at them and beat them at their own game and be a little bit more downhill," said Orzech. "That set up Adam (Howe) obviously making some tremendous plays in the second half. He was excellent in the second half and made a lot of big plays for us and those receivers coming down with those passes was pretty great, too."

Shepherd Hill head coach Steve Ide said the loss was tough, but he felt it was a hard-fought battle between two very capable football teams. "These were two good teams playing really hard football. The onside kick was obviously a huge play. The scramble play by the Tantasqua quarterback, he did an outstanding job because we had him a couple times and he still managed to get the ball loose and they caught it," Ide said. "That's the difference in the game. One big special team play by us, one by them. Good defense played by them, good defense played by us. They have an elite kicker, and he made a great kick."

Ide said he had no regrets going for it on the final play, although he wished the result was different for his team.

"We were out of timeouts, so it's tough for us because obviously we're a run first operation. We can throw the ball effectively, but we're run first, so in that situation and you're on the clock you need to take a couple of chances.

We put the ball in the hands of two of our best players and it looked like they got tangled up, Tantasqua caught it and those are the plays you've got to make if you want to win the game," said Ide.

Howe was named Offensive MVP while Shepherd Hill's Joshua Harrison earned Defensive MVP honors. The win now puts the Warriors — who finished the season at 5-6 — in double digits for the Thanksgiving matchup with the record at 39-10 in favor of the Rams — who also wound up 5-6 — as the game approaches its 50th anniversary next year.

LEGALS

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A
Notice is hereby given by Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after December 2, 2023 at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle

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------	------	--------

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154 Perry Ave ,Apt 2
Worcester Ma, 01610

2013 Honda Accord
Vin: 1HGCR2F56DA012561
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Steve Tchoutoua
8 Barclay St
Worcester Ma,01604

2005 Honda Accord
VIN:1HGCM56425AO62091
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Jerson Jacquez
16 Green ST Fl.1
Dudley Ma 01571

2000 Honda Civic
VIN:2HGEJ6671YH594939
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Tiffany Morales
14 Catherine St,Apt 6
Worcester Ma,01605

2017 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN:1G1ZH5SX8HFZ70800
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :
Gabrielle Dubois-Buzzell
620 New Dam Rd
Sanford,Maine 04073

2013 Acura ILX
VIN:19VDE1F76DE005951
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :
Tom Warren
463 E 147th St 4 E
Bronx Ny,10455
November 17, 2023
November 24, 2023
December 1, 2023

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SPORTS

Bay Path narrowly defeats Pirates in Battle for Buffums, evens series at 5-5



Jason Mckay photos

Bay Path's Aiden Fausek powers through the Oxford defensive line.

OXFORD — If you're a fan of offense and high numbers on the scoreboard, then this year's Battle for Buffums Thanksgiving Day football game between Bay

Path and Oxford was a treat. In the end it was the Minutemen who emerged victorious, 42-34, as they knotted up the battle in the 10th year of the rival-

ry, 5-5. The scoring started on the first offensive play as the Pirates' Kellen Clarkson found Connor Fantasia on a 41-yard pass, and Alexander

Perry booted the extra point to make it 7-0.

Bay Path's Brayden Downes countered with a 57-yard TD run, Kaiden Brochu tacked on the two-point rush, and the Minutemen led, 8-7. Downes then scored again, this time from 26 yards, and Brochu again got the two-point run, and it was 16-7 Bay Path.

Next it was Brochu's turn to find pay dirt, and he rushed one in from 18 yards as the Minutemen surged ahead, 22-7.

But Oxford tied the game at 22-22, the half-

time score, when Fantasia caught two TD passes from Clarkson, and Perry made one PAT and Clarkson hit Andruw Martinez with a two-point pass.

The Pirates then grabbed a 34-22 lead when Clarkson had a pair of rushing scores — from 3 and 4 yards out — before Brochu trimmed the deficit down to 34-28 at the end of the third quarter thanks to a 40-yard scoring run.

Brochu then tied the game at 34-34 with a 34-yard rushing TD and

then, with 5:36 to play, Bay Path won it when they blocked a punt at the 4-yard line. Bryan Pardee was there to catch the ball and scamper into the end zone, and Brochu added the two-point rush to account for the 42-34 final.

The Minutemen improved to 9-3 and then played Blackstone Valley Tech for the State Vocational Large School Championship, which was played after press time. The Pirates finished their season with a record of 5-6.



Brayden Downes of Bay Path attempts to find an opening on the field while the Oxford defense rushes behind him.



Quarterback Corey Scovil of Bay Path releases a pass before being tackled.



Bay Path's Jake Delvalle reaches in to tackle Oxford's Jordan Deleon.

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SPORTS

Bartlett narrowly gets by Southbridge in another Thanksgiving Day classic

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

WEBSTER — With the Bartlett and Southbridge varsity football teams having competed against one another on Thanksgiving Day over 100 times — this was the 103rd installment of the third longest rivalry in Central Mass. — anything can, and will, happen on the field.

“We talked a lot, ‘Don’t look at their record. Records don’t mean anything,’” said Dane Laboissonniere, head coach of the Indians, of the one-win Pioneers.

“Frank (Koumanelis, Southbridge’s former head coach) told me that crazy things happen on Thanksgiving,” added Nick Clark, Southbridge’s first-year head coach.

The Pioneers nearly pulled off the upset, but Bartlett — which finished 5-6 — scored the only points of the second half to rally for a 10-8 victory.

“We overcame a lot of self-inflicted mistakes today. We ended up costing ourselves a couple of scores, but the kids came out in the second half and found a way to win,” said Laboissonniere.

“Today, although we didn’t get the win, we proved that anything can happen on Thanksgiving,” added Clark. “We played to a caliber that I knew we could play all year, that we hadn’t gotten to all year until today.”

Points were at a premium throughout, and it was a safety — of all plays — for the Indians that staked them to a 2-0 first quarter lead. A poor pitch back on a sweep saw the ball fall in the end zone, resulting in the two points. But the Pioneers rallied later in the half as they grabbed an 8-2 half-time later. Southbridge’s Alexis Ramos scored the touchdown on a 9-yard run, and Steven Santos tackled on the two-point conversion rush.

The Pioneers opened the second half with possession of the ball, but a turnover on downs gave it to Bartlett. The ensuing drive started on their

own 13-yard line, but the Indians drove 87 yards to pay dirt, Joshua Ramirez eventually finding the end zone from 3 yards out in the final minute of the third quarter. Nay’Jean Holley then tacked on the all-important two-point conversion rush by extending the nose of the football over the goal line, and Bartlett led again, 10-8.

“Can you give me 3 yards?” Holley remembered Laboissonniere asking him before the two-point conversion. “And I said, ‘Of course, Coach, I can do it.’”

The Pioneers’ next drive was stalled, and the Indians gave Southbridge a big dose of Holley carrying the football as Bartlett held possession from 9:36 remaining until there was only 1:29 to go. Holley had many chunk runs that continued to move the chains, bleeding the clock in the process.

“We put the ball in our senior captain’s hands and said, ‘Go win us the game,’ and there were a couple long, less than ideal down and distances, and picking up runs on third-and-7 and third-and-8,” Laboissonniere said.

Southbridge had its final chance, though, starting at their own 25 yard-line. They grabbed a couple of first downs, but Bartlett’s Caiden Steeves eventually secured an interception — his second pick of the day — to all but seal the deal with 29 seconds to go.

“It was going to take a stop at the end to win the ballgame and Caiden coming up with two picks, he’s top five in Central Mass,” Laboissonniere said of Steeves, who finished the season with six INT’s. “He’s turning into a ballhawk back there. He’s really blossomed in his sophomore year as a receiver and a safety.”

For his rushing yards and game-winning two-point conversion, Holley won the Captain Vincent Sabatinelli Trophy for Game MVP.

“Nay’Jean wasn’t here as a freshman and as a sophomore I watched



Nick Ethier photos

Southbridge’s Alexis Ramos turns the corner while carrying the football.

from afar when I was in my (one-year) retirement phase. He came out as a junior and we tried to find a home for him. By the end of the year, it was pretty clearly established that he was going to be our feature back,” said Laboissonniere. “We fed him the rock today. The game was on the line, and we put the ball in his hands.”

“It feels great,” Holley said while clutching the trophy. “I put in a lot of work in the offseason. I’m in the gym every day. I set the tone for my team.”

Holly was perhaps happier with the team victory, though.

“It’s a big tradition in the entire town. It’s one of the biggest rivalries in the state. It means a lot to us especially because we haven’t won much in the last two years,” he explained. “We did everything we could to turn it around. I can go home happy, everyone can go home happy.”

Clark, meanwhile, who was the Pioneers’ JV coach and varsity assistant last year, was proud of the way his team battled, regardless of the outcome.

“I knew they had heart all year, but they played with another kind of intensity that I haven’t seen, I’ve got to be honest with you,” said Clark. “The rivalry, they know what it is, and we make a good point to let them know the tradition of the rivalry. That extra intensity definitely comes from this Thanksgiving game and the tradition of it.



With Steven Santos (31) looking to block, Southbridge’s Luis Gonzalez runs the ball down the field.



A gang of Southbridge defenders combine to bring down Bartlett’s ball carrier.

“I can’t say enough about these guys, especially these seniors, they really, really battled right until the last whistle, right until the last play,” added Clark.

Clark noted that although Koumanelis is

no longer the head coach, he started this season as a consultant before being promoted to assistant to the head coach.

“All season, Frank has been such a great mentor. I have a question and call him, he answers immedi-

ately. He’s calling me and we’re game planning. I don’t know where we’d be at without Frank because he’s been a great presence with the team,” said Clark.



Edwin Melendez of Southbridge tries to break free from a tackle during a catch and run.

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REAL ESTATE



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please contact Mikaela Victor 774-200-7308*

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE AT PUBLIC AUCTION

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 Book 37463, Page 127

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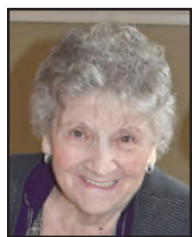
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OBITUARIES

Frances S. Bond, 86



DUDLEY – Frances S. (Stone) Bond, 86, of Alton Drive, died Saturday, November 25, 2023, in her home. She was predeceased by her husband, Stanley E. Bond of Dudley who died in 1993. She is survived

by eight children, Debra A. Dauphin of Charlton, Alan L. Bond and his wife Maryann of Thompson, CT, Gary W. Bond of Dudley, Glen S. Bond and his wife Joann of Webster, Tammy J. Mancuso and her husband Mark of Oxford, Sandra L. Wilga and her husband Gary of Thompson, CT, Penny L. Buffone and her husband Ronald of Oxford, and James E. Bond and his wife Kim of Charlton; her sister, Bettyann Ellis and her husband Milton of Sun City, FL; her sisters-in-law, Jean Stone and Lila Towle, both of Charlton; 19 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a brother, Donald Stone; and two sisters, Nancy Prunier and Elda Langway. She also leaves her cockatiel who was with her for 30 years, Woody. She was born in Oxford, daughter of the late Everett and Cora (Davis) Stone, and lived in Charlton and Oxford before moving to Dudley 69 years ago. She graduated from Charlton High

School.

Mrs. Bond worked as an upholsterer at Ethan Allen in Dudley for over 25 years, retiring in 2001. Previously, she worked at Empire Laundry in Dudley for 15 years. She enjoyed caring for her home and family as a stay-at-home mom for many years. She played in a women's pitch league and was an accomplished seamstress. She enjoyed reading the newspaper, sudoku, knitting, puzzles, and watching soap operas. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy, and she loved attending all of their sporting events. Most of all, she enjoyed Sunday dinners and spending time with her family members who would visit.

The family would like to thank Kayla, Donna, and Kathy, for their exceptional care over the past several weeks. It takes a special person to do their job – they are angels among us.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Burial will follow at West Ridge Cemetery in Charlton. Calling hours are Wednesday, November 29, 2023, from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Friends of John Paire Inc., P.O. Box 1505, Dudley, MA 01571.

Marie Mercure, 89



Sturbridge- Marie Mercure, 89, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 22nd, in her home after a brief illness.

She leaves her sister, Claire Thiebault and her husband Raymond A. of Zellwood, FL; her five nieces and nephews, Cynthia Murren, Raymond L. Thiebault, Louis Mercure, Marion Anderson, and Patricia Loven; and several grandnieces and grandnephews. She was predeceased by her close friend, Anne D. Pasquino in 2011. She was also predeceased by her four brothers, Ernest Mercure, Roger Mercure, Louis Mercure and Richard Mercure and her two sisters, Rita Racicot Rascoe and Louise Alix. Marie was born in Holyoke the daughter of Louis W. and Clara (Fannie) Mercure.

Marie attended St. Paul's Catholic School in Blackstone, Ma; she received her Associates Degree from Quinsigamond Community College in 1971 and went on to receive her Bachelor of Science Degree from Worcester State College in 1977.

Marie worked as a Computer Programmer for Worcester Poly

Technical Institute for 32 years before retiring. She considered herself a life-long learner, always seeking knowledge wherever she went. She was an extensive traveler, traveling all over the world and to all 50 states. Most times she would do volunteer work at the places she visited. Marie was a longtime member of St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish in Sturbridge.

Marie had a big heart and would often help her family achieve their life goals. She especially loved to spend time with her family and often took her nieces and nephews on trips.

Calling hours will be held at Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge Ma on Sunday, Dec. 3rd, from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Her funeral will be held on Monday, Dec. 4th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, with a Mass at 10:00am in St. Anne Church, 16 Church St., Sturbridge. Burial will be in St. Anne's Cemetery, Sturbridge.

In lieu of flowers donations in Marie's memory may be made to Society of the Little Flower, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls, ON L2G 7B7, Canada or the Mass Audubon Society, 208 S. Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773 or online at massaudubon.org

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Victor James Matherly, 44



STURBRIDGE: Victor James Matherly, 44, of Sturbridge, died Tuesday, Nov. 7 as the result of an accident at work. He leaves his wife of 19 years, Kathryn Matherly, his daughters; Lucy

Matherly and Hayley Worthington both of Sturbridge, his parents; Christopher and Amy Matherly of Sturbridge, brothers; Thomas Matherly of Putney, VT, and Christopher Matherly II of Warwick, RI, and his sisters; Anna D'Agostino, Natasha Cortijo-Brown, Stacy Gutierrez - together with his aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, as well as many others who loved him.

A skilled computer programmer, network designer, and webmaster, Victor graduated from Quinsigamond Community College in 2003 and began working at Wave Communications Inc. of Warwick, RI, as Operations Manager. He was a caring father, husband, brother, and son, who always put the needs of his family before his own.

Victor had many interests, which he would explore with curiosity and energy. He was a music lover and guitarist who enjoyed a wide variety of genres.

He loved to attend concerts with his daughter Lucy, also a musician and was the #1 fan at her band's performances. Victor and his dad spent many hours discussing their favorite recordings and concerts. He was a talented photographer and his beautiful art fills our homes. Victor enjoyed working on his house; creating an enormous garden, building retaining walls, fixing anything that needed fixing, and remodeling. His latest obsessions included 3-D printing. For refuge from his busy life, he and Kate would head up to the Vermont cabin to kayak, ride his ATV, sit around the fire pit, and take in the mountain views.

We are heartbroken that he was taken from us so suddenly and at such a young age. A celebration of life will be held in the spring of 2024. To leave thoughts and remembrances visit his memorial website: <https://www.victor-matherly.org/>

The J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME at 23 Maple Terrace in Spencer is assisting the family with arrangements. The family requests that those who wish to express sympathy consider making a donation to their favorite charity in Victor's name.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

CHARLTON

continued from page A1

think a single tax rate is much more economically favorable for our future development and I think the moment you split it, even though you do get some residual relief, I think there are longer term negative impacts," Borowski said.

Board Chair Barbara Zurawski agreed saying she felt changing the rate format would undo years of effort to help Charlton grow.

"What we are trying to accomplish in this town and everything we're working so hard on is to try and bring in businesses and not discourage them from coming in, so I think that's very important to keep it, for now anyways, the way that it is," she said.

The decision was an easy one for the board as selectmen voted unanimously to maintain the single tax rate for another year. They thanked Stanley, her staff and the Board of Assessors for another year of hard work and helping Charlton explore every option available.

Tantasqua Show Choirs celebrate the holiday season

FISKDALE — Tantasqua Regional High School's Show Choirs invite the community to their Snow Day Cabaret Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2 and 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Join us on Saturday at 12:30 p.m., before the show, and visit our Winter Wonderland, where our elves will host an exciting hour of interactive fun for the whole family! There will be cozy crafts, reindeer games, holiday hot cocoa, snowman songs, and much more! There will also be visits from Santa at all three shows.

Tickets for the cabaret are available at the school Web site, and will also be sold at the door.

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Cornerstone Bank provides \$5,000 for Winter Wonderland Masquerade Gala



is sponsoring the Winter Wonderland Masquerade Gala with a \$5,000 donation. The event, which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. at 55 Pearl St. in Worcester; benefits The WellStorm (TWS) in Southbridge and the For One Child Foundation in Auburn.

“Not only are we proud to support these two deserving organizations, but also to raise awareness for the valuable work they do,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO, Todd Tallman. “We hope others will join by attending and sponsoring this fun and creative opportunity to ‘glam up’ for a great cause.”

TWS aims to bridge the gap of poverty and engage the community in building connections and support for individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health struggles and food insecurity. One way TWS does this is by supporting the community with the Bridge Fridge, which allows anyone in the community to access healthy food. The mission of the For One Child Foundation is to empower children by providing learning materials, educational technology and other classroom necessities to deprived schoolchildren, in order to holistically enhance their lives and allow for a better future.

The Winter Wonderland Masquerade Gala will include awards highlighting the work of each organization’s staff, volunteers and supporters, as well as raffles, silent auctions, food, drinks, music and dancing. Tickets are \$75 each and can be purchased online at bit.ly/3S8biEg.

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

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