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BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE

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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Friday, February 13, 2026

Winterräden 2026: Grit, gravity, and New England's premier winter biking challenge

UXBRIDGE — On Feb. 22, the Blackstone Valley's quiet winter landscape at 175 Henry St. will transform into a theater of high-stakes athleticism and camaraderie. Winterräden 2026 is set to return, bringing its signature blend of «chaos and community» back to the New England mountain biking scene.

Organized by the Urban Assault Build Crew and hosted by trail visionary Chris Nichols, the 18+ event aims to redefine winter racing by moving away from traditional cross-country loops and toward a high-intensity, feature-rich format.

The course: A test of "Sendy" strategy

Winterräden (German for "winter bike") is built for those who thrive in unpredictable conditions. The 1.5-to-2-mile lap-based course is designed to test both technical skill and strategic "risk vs. reward" decision-making.

Turn To WINTERRÄDEN page A8



Courtesy

Thank you to Michael Wilkes, Chair of the Northbridge Select Board, for stopping by the Northbridge Senior Center to join our Brew Crew! We truly appreciated his willingness to spend time with us and share insights on current issues affecting our town. Great conversation and community connection! Our next Brew Crew will be on Wednesday, March 4 at 9:30 a.m., and we will be hosting our own director, Kelly Bol, with updates on the new senior center! Please join us!

Blackstone Valley Chamber hosts gubernatorial forum "Policy & Perspective: A Conversation with Brian Shortsleeve"

WHITINSVILLE — The

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) will host a Gubernatorial Forum: Policy & Perspective, A Conversation with Brian Shortsleeve on Wednesday, Feb. 18 from 9 to 10:30 a.m., held in the BVCC's Conference Room, located at 670 Linwood Ave., Suite 5, Whitinsville.

Join us for an open dialogue regarding the future of Massachusetts. The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce invites all members and residents to a listening session with Gubernatorial candidate Brian Shortsleeve. Our goal is to provide a

neutral platform where the business community can engage with candidates on the issues that matter most to the Valley. Providing equal access to all candidates is a cornerstone of our mission to remain a non-partisan advocate for our region.

"Providing opportunities for open, respectful dialogue is central to the Chamber's role in our region," said Liz, Executive Director of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce. "These forums are designed to inform and engage our members while upholding our responsibility to remain neutral and nonpartisan."

Brian Shortsleeve is a Harvard graduate, Marine veteran, business leader, and government reformer. As founder of M33 Growth, he supports entrepreneurs and drives economic innovation. In 2015, he led a major turnaround at the MBTA, cutting waste, balancing budgets, and modernizing transit systems—earning praise for effective conservative reform. Brian Shortsleeve is currently running for Governor of Massachusetts, promising disciplined leadership, fiscal responsibility, and policies focused on affordability for families and businesses.

Turn To SHORTSLEEVE page A8

Veteran takes on new mission — serving as "Eyes and Ears" for Constitutional rights



ATHOL — Joseph Bolandrina, a retired U.S. Army Sergeant and decorated community leader, has added a new chapter to his history of service: serving as a National Lawyers Guild (NLG) Legal Observer®.

Bolandrina, formerly of Douglas, Milford, and Holliston, recently announced his completion of specialized training through the Massachusetts Chapter of the NLG, a role that places him on the front lines of political rallies and demonstrations to monitor law enforcement behavior and protect First Amendment rights.

His first assignments have brought him to the Burlington ICE Detention Facility, a site that has become a flashpoint for weekly protests and "bearing witness" events. As federal immigration enforcement ramps up across the state, so has the presence of trained observers.

The "Eyes and Ears" of the legal team

Legal observers are distinct from protesters; they do not participate in the chants or signs but serve as objective documentarians. Their presence is designed to serve as a deterrent to unconstitutional police behavior and to provide a factual record of arrests or use of force.

"Legal Observers® are the 'eyes and ears' of the legal team," Bolandrina explained in a statement.

"They create documentation during events which can later be used in defense cases, public statements, and litigation which aims to hold law enforcement agencies accountable for the actions of their officers."

helping to ensure that the "official" police version of events is balanced by an independent account.

From military duty to community vigilance

Bolandrina, who was previously honored with the Officer Richard J. McLaughlin Community Service Award in 2021, sees this new role as a natural extension of his military background. A retired Sergeant who served as an armor crew member, he brings a unique perspective to the high-tension environment of a protest line.

"It's a duty that I am proud to volunteer for and use my military training in the spirit of teamwork and discipline," Bolandrina said.

Despite the often adversarial nature of monitoring law enforcement, he maintains that his motivations are rooted in a positive philosophy: "Kindness shall always be the guiding light."

A growing presence in Burlington

The Burlington ICE facility on District Avenue has seen a dramatic increase in activity. Groups like "Bearing Witness @ Burlington" have organized hundreds of residents to stand in solidarity with those detained inside the windowless office building.

As these actions grow and frequency, the demand for NLG-trained observers has spiked. These volunteers are tasked with tracking which officers are present, whether they are following proper protocols, and ensuring that any individuals taken into custody are accounted for in a "Mass Defense" database.

For Bolandrina and his fellow volunteers, the mission is simple: ensuring that even in the most contentious political climates, the law remains visible to everyone.

What should you do in the new year? Get your "estate needs in order". No one likes to talk about death, that is why you should have everything done in advance. Make sure your hard-earned money and investments are left to those you want. Call me for a free consultation. Also, handling all types of real estate matters.



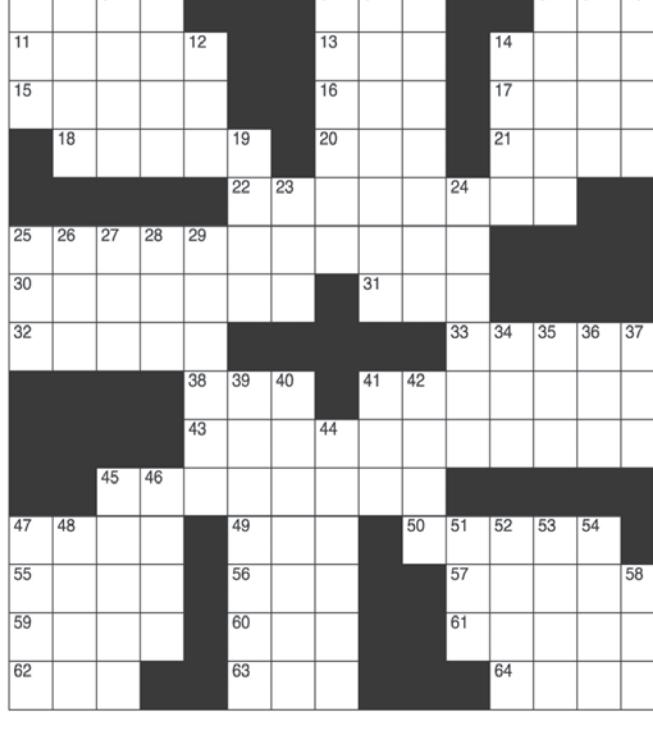
Cournoyer & Cournoyer, P.C.
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Cell: 508-868-7943
don@cournoyerlaw.net



Several homeowners from the Northbridge town meeting regarding the water treatment and well contamination that some of us on church street extension and quaker street are going through right now would like to thank you for your efforts and fast resolutions.

Congratulations to the town employees and employees of R.H. White.

We greatly appreciate you!



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Breezed through
- 5. Consumer protection agency
- 8. Criminal syndicate
- 11. Moves back from
- 13. Satisfaction
- 14. Feel concern or interest
- 15. Monetary units
- 16. Congressman (abbr.)
- 17. Israeli city
- 18. Restaurants
- 20. 2,000 lbs.
- 21. Grandmother
- 22. North, South and Central
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Social networking platform
- 32. Early term for basketball player
- 33. Another name for sesame plant
- 38. Disallow
- 41. Provide greater detail
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Evoke emotions
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Celtic punk rockers
- 50. A fencing sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted in mind or body
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Social media hand gesture
- 62. Hong Kong food stall — *pai dong*
- 63. Opposite of beginning
- 64. Email function

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sign language
- 2. Fashionable
- 3. Borough in Helsinki
- 4. Inability to hear
- 5. More quickly
- 6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
- 7. Shrewdly
- 8. Rooney and Kate are two
- 9. Mediterranean port
- 10. Benedictine monk
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Town in Galilee
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Mice genus
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Chest muscle (slang)
- 26. Transmits genetic information from DNA
- 27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Short route aircraft
- 34. Pitching statistic
- 35. Pointed end of a pen
- 36. Popular sports league
- 37. Body part
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Feline
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Seduced
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair
- 48. Olive genus
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. C. European river
- 54. Keep under control
- 58. Father

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Whitin Community Center announces Children's Benefit celebrating more than 50 years of impact

SUTTON — The Whitin Community Center (WCC) is proud to announce its upcoming Children's Benefit, taking place on Wednesday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the beautiful Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton.

This special evening will celebrate more than 50 years of memories, milestones, and meaningful impact made through WCC's children's programs. Designed as a fun event to celebrate the successes of our youth, the event will bring together alumni, families, community members, and supporters for a night of connection, celebration, and giving.

Guests will enjoy a cocktail hour with passed hors d'oeuvres, followed by a light buffet. The evening will also feature alumni recognition and community spotlights, highlighting individuals and stories that exemplify the positive

influence of the WCC's children's programs. A special Youth Theatre performance will showcase the talent and confidence fostered through the Outreach program.

In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to support WCC's mission through a Fund-A-Need, directly benefiting children's programs that continue to enrich and empower youth throughout our community.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and individuals looking to make a meaningful impact while gaining visibility within the community. Those interested in sponsoring the event are encouraged to contact Development Director, Victoria Waterman at Victoria.Waterman@OurGym.org.

Tickets for the WCC Children's Benefit will be available online soon. For updates and addition-

al information, please visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com or call 508-234-8184.

The Whitin Community Center is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of individuals and families and building a strong community in the Blackstone Valley. We offer social, recreational, educational, and outreach programs that bring community members of all ages and backgrounds together. The Whitin Community Center is the Blackstone Valley's most complete family and recreation center with two swimming pools, a gym, fitness center, early learning programs, summer camps and a seven and a half acre park. For more information, call 508-234-8184 or visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com.

New England Legends presents Valentine's Day Freak Formal to benefit Project Just Because

MILFORD — New England Legends, the creators of the popular New England Legends podcast, are thrilled to announce the return of their much-anticipated annual charity ball on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.

The "Freak Formal" is a ghoulishly delightful event that will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, Massachusetts, promising attendees an unforgettable night of monsters, ghosts, zombies, dancing, games, raffle prizes, and a pizza party—all in the spirit of raising funds for Project Just Because, a 501(c)3 charity based in Hopkinton that provides for struggling families in their times of greatest need by supplying basic necessities including warm clothing, food, and school supplies.

Hosted by Jeff Belanger and Ray Auger, the minds behind the New England Legends podcast, the Freak Formal has become a

cherished alternative celebration

for those looking to escape the clichés of Valentine's Day.

"We look forward to this parade of the macabre all year long," said Jeff Belanger, author and co-host of the New England Legends podcast. "Formerly called 'Zombie Prom,' we decided to rename it to the Freak Formal to cast the horror net a little wider."

"People can dress up as any weird character they like, or just attend to watch the spectacle—all for a great local cause," added Ray Auger, co-host of the New England Legends podcast. "Best costumes will be crowned King and Queen of the Freaks!"

Uniting horror enthusiasts and those with a taste for the macabre, this event offers a unique, entertaining, and light-hearted experience for attendees to revel in the delight of the unconventional.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, Feb. 14

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: DoubleTree Hotel, Milford

Ages: 18 and up

Entertainment Highlights:

- Dance the night away to the beats of DJ Neto Neto.
- Engage in games and activities throughout the evening.
- A chance to win exciting raffle prizes.
- Indulge in a delicious pizza party to satisfy your undead appetite.
- A cash bar, and food available from Legends Restaurant inside the hotel.

Ticket Information:

Ticket information for Freak Formal 2026 can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/freak-formal-event-presented-by-new-england-legends-tickets-1980103869978>.

Join the New England Legends Facebook Group for more information and updates.

Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild to hold biennial show March 14 & 15

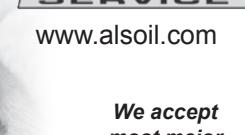
UPTON — Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild will hold their biennial quilt show on Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15, at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visitors to the show will have the opportunity to view the TPQG Raffle Quilt and to purchase raffle tickets to win this beautiful quilt.

The quilt measures 74.5 by 74.5 inches, and is named Dresden Bloom. The quilt was created by TPQG members Karen Pierce, Glory Torres, and Rita Partridge. Their focus in creating this quilt was to find a pattern that showcased both applique and piecing techniques. Once the pattern was determined fabrics were selected that were bright and cheerful. The quilt was custom quilted by Kimberly Cloutier of Blooming Quilts.

You are invited to attend the quilt show and view this quilt in person and purchase raffle tickets. Tickets are also available from quilt members before the show and are \$2 each or six for \$10.

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

Mark's Storage & Moving opens in Grafton

GRAFTON — Have surplus construction equipment? Heavy inventory? Or a fleet of vehicles? A new 8.04 acres "quiet" storage center has opened at 18 Donahue Lane, Grafton. The new facility is conveniently located one mile from the Mass Pike (I-90).

The new location is an additional location for Mark's Moving & Storage, who also maintain headquarters in Westborough, Massachusetts. The Grafton site expands Mark's footprint with additional indoor and outdoor commercial storage space, plus expanded trailer parking to support continued customer demand.

"Quiet storage" refers to storing items and inventory for long periods, not for immediate or regular use. The quiet status of the stored items reduces traffic impact in the area.

"The new quiet storage center provides ample space for outdoor and indoor storage for construction companies, utility companies and other commercial clients looking for a secure, highway accessible location in the Grafton area," noted Mark Silverman, founder and president of Mark's Moving & Storage.

In addition to open space, the site includes a 2,400 square feet warehouse and garage.

About Mark's Moving & Storage

Nominations welcome for Uxbridge High School Athletic Hall of Fame

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge High School Athletic Hall of Fame will be accepting nominations for its next induction class. Nominations can be submitted on an ongoing basis, and the review of nominations for this class will be taking place in April and May of 2026. The ninth induction is being planned for November of 2026. Nominations can be submitted online using a form available on the Uxbridge High School

Web site or by following this link: <https://bit.ly/UHSHOF23>.

The UHS Athletic Hall of Fame honors the tradition, commitment, and excellence of athletics at Uxbridge High School. Nominations are accepted in four categories: individual student-athletes, coaches, contributors, and teams. Criteria are available on the by-laws; individuals must have graduated from UHS at least ten years ago (prior to 2016), while a ten-

year waiting period from the time of the team's distinction must have passed before a team can be considered for induction.

Questions regarding the nomination process can be directed to the Uxbridge High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, via the Committee's recording secretary or to the high school principal or athletic director.

For more information, visit <https://uhs.uxbridge-schools.com/hall-of-fame>.

Northbridge Elementary announces Kindergarten registration

NORTHBRIDGE — Kindergarten registration for the 2026-2027 school year is currently open online through Feb. 20.

Children currently enrolled in the NES Pre-School program are already registered and do not need to do anything. Any Northbridge child who will turn five on or before Aug. 31 is eligible to attend Kindergarten in fall of 2026.

The first step for all new Kindergarteners is completion of the online registration.

Love, Lace & Legacy

ENJOY A VALENTINE'S EVENING

AT ASA WATERS MANSION

MILLBURY — The Asa Waters Mansion invites the community to step into an evening of romance, history, and timeless elegance with Love, Lace & Legacy: A Valentine's Evening at the Mansion, taking place on Friday, Feb. 13. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the historic Asa Waters Mansion, located at 123 Elm St., Millbury.

This unique Valentine's event blends local history, social charm, and classic romance, highlighting the fascinating story of Esther Howland, a pioneering Worcester, Massachusetts entrepreneur who revolutionized Valentine's Day with her beautifully adorned cards.

Guests will enjoy a cocktail reception, seasonal Valentine inspired sweet and savory bites, raffles, and a cash bar provided by Spicy Water Distillery and Broken Creek Winery. The evening also features an engaging historical presentation by Robert Stacy, Historian from the Museum of Worcester, offering insight into Esther Howland's lasting impact on American culture, and Valentine's Day. Attendees will be treated to exclusive tours of the Mansion, and the Millbury Historical Society will also be open for guests to explore, adding depth and discovery to the evening's experience.

Designed for couples, friends, and history enthusiasts alike, Love, Lace & Legacy offers a fresh and meaningful alternative to traditional Valentine's celebrations, in a unique atmosphere.

"Esther Howland's legacy reminds us that love, creativity, and entrepreneurship have

always gone hand in hand.

Events like Love, Lace & Legacy allow us

to connect the past with the present,

creating meaningful moments

guests will

carry with them long

after the evening

ends," said Traci Parath, Executive Director, Asa Waters Mansion.

Register online at <https://unipay-gold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx?TID=36943> or scan the QR code on our flyer. The cost to attend is \$30 per person, with limited seating available, and advanced ticket purchase is required. For more information, please contact Traci Parath at 508-865-0855 or email Traci at tparath@millburyma.gov.

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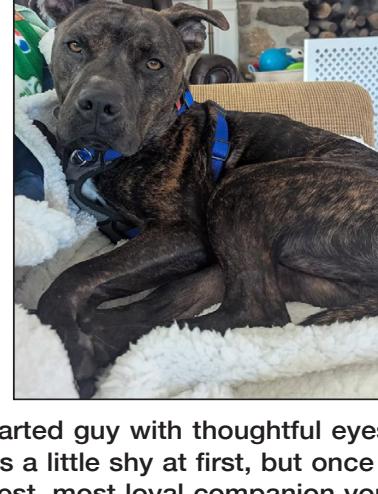
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PAW of the WEEK

BRONC

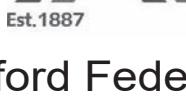
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I'm a true "velcro dog" at heart. I love quiet moments, head scratches, and being close to my people. I'm not flashy or chaotic — I'm steady, affectionate, and deeply loving. The kind of dog who makes a house feel like home.



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Friday's Child



Tristan
Age 15
Registration #8627

Tristan is a healthy, energetic young boy who is eager to find his forever family. He has a love for staying active and enjoys participating in a variety of sports, including basketball, baseball, and karate. Tristan is always excited to try new things and will soon be starting swimming lessons, which he's looking forward to as another fun challenge. In addition to his athletic interests, Tristan enjoys playing video games and can happily spend time relaxing indoors when it's time to unwind. That said, he truly thrives in outdoor environments and loves being outside whenever he can. Some of his favorite activities include camping, fishing, and hiking, where he can explore nature and stay

active at the same time. Tristan would do well with a family who enjoys an active lifestyle and values spending time together, whether that's cheering him on at a game, heading out on outdoor adventures, or simply enjoying quality time at home. With the right family, Tristan will continue to grow, explore his interests, and share his enthusiasm, energy, and love for fun experiences.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21188696732>

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

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





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EDITORIAL

Living at a different pace still has value

One of the quiet distinctions of life in the Blackstone Valley is pace. Things move differently here. Not slower in a careless or resistant way, but measured. Decisions take time. Conversations are rarely rushed. Change tends to arrive gradually rather than all at once. For longtime residents, this rhythm feels natural. For newcomers, it can take some getting used to.

In a world that increasingly prizes speed, that difference can feel like a liability. Everywhere else, faster is often treated as better. Responses are expected immediately. Results are demanded quickly. Efficiency is celebrated even when it leaves little room for reflection. Patience, once considered a virtue, is now often mistaken for indecision.

Yet the pace of the Blackstone Valley reflects something intentional. When towns take time to weigh options, residents have space to understand what is being proposed and why. When institutions evolve carefully, they are more likely to endure. When people are not constantly rushed from one obligation to the next, relationships have room to develop and deepen.

This slower rhythm is rooted in the region's history. These are towns shaped by generations of people who worked with their hands, planned carefully, and understood the consequences of short-term thinking. Mills were not built overnight. Neighborhoods developed over decades. Families stayed, returned, and stayed again. That long view continues to influence how decisions are made today.

Living at a different pace also changes how success is measured. It is not always about how quickly something is completed, but whether it was done thoughtfully. Not about how loudly an achievement is announced, but whether it improves daily life in a tangible way. A well-run library program, a carefully maintained public building, or a policy refined over time rarely attracts attention, but their impact is lasting.

There is also a human element to this pace that is easy to overlook. In towns where people are not constantly rushing, there is more opportunity for recognition. Familiar faces become truly familiar. Conversations pick up where they left off rather than starting from scratch. This continuity builds trust, even among people who may not always agree.

Of course, moving deliberately does not mean resisting change altogether. The Valley has adapted many times before, and it will again. New residents arrive. Technology reshapes how services are delivered. Economic pressures require towns to reconsider old assumptions. The difference is not whether change happens, but how it is handled.

Communities that move too fast often find themselves undoing mistakes just as quickly. Plans rushed through without enough discussion can lead to unintended consequences that take years to correct. By contrast, communities that take time to listen, adjust, and revisit decisions tend to build solutions that last longer and require fewer fixes.

In recent years, many people have expressed feeling overwhelmed by constant urgency. Life elsewhere can feel like a series of deadlines and notifications, with little space to pause or reflect. In that context, the Valley offers something increasingly rare: permission to slow down without falling behind.

This does not mean settling for less or avoiding ambition. It means understanding that progress does not always require speed. Sometimes it requires steadiness. Sometimes it requires saying not yet instead of right now. That balance between momentum and reflection is not accidental. It is learned, practiced, and passed down.

As the region continues to evolve, that sense of pace remains one of its quiet strengths. It allows communities to absorb change without losing their footing. It gives residents time to adjust, respond, and participate in ways that feel meaningful rather than rushed.

In a culture that often confuses motion with progress, our community reminds us that moving forward thoughtfully still counts.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This is obvious to anyone with a brain

To the Editor:

It's kind of embarrassing that this has to be explained, but the difference between Obama/Biden's handling of illegal immigrants and Trump/Miller's handling, is that, under Obama/Biden, not one of the immigrants was murdered by a masked ICE agent, on the streets of any American state. None were pulled from cars, houses, schools or off the streets. And 12 times as many illegals were deported by Obama/Biden than by Trump.

During the 12 years of Obama and Biden, 82 illegal immigrants died while being detained. The deaths were presumed to be due to either inadequate medical attention, facility conditions, medical neglect, or lack of oversight, none of which is a valid excuse for the loss of human life. Shame on them.

On another note, I checked the additional cost of wiring for an electric car, in new home construction – the figure I got was \$1,200 - \$4,000. That's a far cry from Bev's hysterical \$10,000! I'd love to hear Bev's solution to the cost of homes in Massachusetts? Maybe she could recommend some old Communist/Socialist ideas like government control of home prices? Maybe she would like the government to force builders to cut their profits? (Then see how many homes get built.) Maybe the

government should build people warehouses, like you see in Russia, or New York, for that matter. C'mon Bev, instead of kvetching about everything under the sun, provide something positive. Or just ask Howie Carr!

There was a Boston Globe Magazine article last year that detailed the way that Austria has met the challenge of low cost housing. Absolutely brilliant. And people don't want to leave, or 'move up'. I'll find the article and send it to Commie Gov. Healey.

Just as America is the only 1st world country without universal health care, we are intent on being the only one remaining tethered to fossil fuels. Spain, on the other hand, just experienced a 24-hour day when the entire country was run on wind, solar and nuclear power. So it can be done. Unfortunately, the fossil fuel industry spent \$450 million on getting Trump elected in 2024, and according to the NY Times, "New tallies of the administration's tax breaks and other incentives add up to tens of billions of dollars of benefits to the fossil fuel industry." Cuando las ranas crén pelo!

RICK BEVILACQUA
WHITINSVILLE

Where were the protests against violence by illegals?

To the Editor:

Did you know that Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] is taking criminal illegals off the streets of Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, and other states? Peacefully. No violence from paid Communist agitators and rioters.

Authorities in those states hand over criminal illegals with ICE detainers directly to ICE. Even though Boston refused to honor all, I repeat, all ICE detainers in 2025, ICE arrested hundreds of criminal illegals and lowered the crime rate in Boston.

ICE makes 25 percent of its arrests in Texas. No problem. No riots. No agitators.

ICE makes 2 percent of their arrests in Minnesota. Two percent. Violent riots.

Why is Minneapolis such a magnet for protests? When the Biden regime arrested 6,000 criminal illegal aliens in Minnesota, there were no protests.

Has everyone forgotten that paid agitators burned Minneapolis to the ground during the George Floyd "peaceful" riots in 2020? Did you know that the police force in Minneapolis has not yet recovered from the George Floyd riots and BLM's Defund the Police demands in 2020?

The Minneapolis police force plummeted by 40 percent after the George Floyd riots. Forty percent. Who would become a cop in that city when city and state politicians do not support the police? The force is only at 600 when they are required by state law to be at 731! This math is easy. Even a Communist can do it.

Before you criticize ICE, do you wonder why no one worried about the businesses unable to do business, or the schoolchildren unable to go to school during the George Floyd riots in Minneapolis in 2020? Walz and Frey did not care one bit.

Let's just admit it. The most, insane Communists live in Minneapolis or fly into Minneapolis to riot, throw things, scream, set off fireworks, blow whistles for hours, and bang pans to torment ICE. Normal people do not do this.

Only insane people in insane asylums do

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.

There is a particular kind of comfort in doing the same small things the same way, week after week, year after year. It is not the sort of comfort that announces itself. It does not come with fireworks or applause. It slips in quietly, usually while you are not paying much attention, and settles somewhere between habit and gratitude.

The quiet comfort of familiar errands

For me, it shows up most often during errands.

Not the big ones. Not the kind that require lists, calendars, or steeling yourself for frustration. I mean the ordinary errands. The ones you could almost do with your eyes closed. The trip to the grocery store where you already know which cart has the wobbly wheel. The stop at the post office where the clerk nods before you even reach the counter. The gas station where you don't have to think about which pump to use because you always pull into the same one.

In small-town Massachusetts, these errands are less about the task and more about the reassurance. They remind you that, despite everything else changing at a dizzying pace, some parts of life remain dependable.

I sometimes think about this when I am standing in line, waiting my turn, listening to the quiet hum of everyday life. Someone ahead of me is chatting with the cashier about a grandson's basketball game. Someone behind me is patiently holding a cup of coffee and pretending not to be in a hurry. No one is performing. No one is in a rush to be impressive. We are all just there, together, taking care of small necessities.

Years ago, I did not appreciate this. I wanted efficiency. I wanted things done quickly and without interruption. Conversations felt like obstacles. Familiarity felt dull. I mistook speed for progress and novelty for meaning.

Age has corrected that misunderstanding.

Now I notice the rhythm. I notice how often I see the same faces and how comforting that repetition can be. I notice how a brief exchange, no longer than a sentence or two, can brighten an otherwise ordinary morning. A simple "Good to see you" carries more weight than it used to.

These errands also remind me how much of community life is held together by people who rarely get any attention. The clerks, tellers, attendants, and cashiers who show up every day, learn names without trying, and quietly make things run. They are part of the architecture of our towns, as essential as sidewalks and stop signs.

When one of them is missing, you feel it immediately. The day is still functional, but something is off. A familiar note is missing from the chord.

I think my parents understood this better than I did when I was younger. They treated errands as opportunities rather than obligations. They lingered. They listened. They understood that life is not only what happens at milestones, but also what happens between them.

Now I find myself doing the same. I take the long way through the aisles. I exchange a few words even when silence would be faster. I leave with what I came for, yes, but also with a quiet sense that I am part of something ongoing and shared.

There is comfort in knowing where things are. There is comfort in knowing who will be behind the counter. There is comfort in knowing that tomorrow or next week, you will likely do it all again, and that repetition is not a failure of imagination but a sign of belonging.

In a world that constantly urges us to upgrade, optimize, and move on, these familiar errands gently suggest another approach. Stay. Notice. Appreciate. Let the ordinary be enough.

Some nights, when I drive home as the last light fades and the streetlamps come on along Main Street, I think of them as lanterns. Small points of steady light, not meant to dazzle, just meant to guide you home.

That is what these routines are, too. Lanterns along the way.

DOUGLAS ADULT SOCIAL CENTER

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

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.

Monday: Painting class 9:45am to 11:45am, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat yoga 2pm

Tuesday: Walking club 9am, Cribbage 9:00am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line dancing 2pm

Wednesday: Balance & strength 10am, Darts 11:30am, Mahjong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm

Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:00am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm

Friday: Balance & strength 10am, Zumba 11:30am

The Adult Social Center Food Pantry is open to any resident/ family in town. We have a large variety of food, personal care items, household cleaners, and fresh bread from Panera. We are open Monday – Thursday from 9 to 3, and Friday from 9 to 11:30. If you are homebound we are more than happy to deliver to your home.

We will accept non-perishable items during our regular business hours. Monday- Thursday 9-3 & Fridays 9-12. Please DO NOT leave anything on our ramp after hours.

Inclement weather: The center is closed to patrons if school is cancelled. If school is delayed we will open at our regular time.

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend we offer free rides to and from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee is necessary.

February Lunch Menu:

Tuesday 2/3: Broccoli & cheese quiche, fruit & banana bread

Tuesday 2/10: Stuffed peppers, carrots, & fruit

Tuesday 2/17: Kielbasa jambalaya, fiesta corn, & baby cakes

Thursday 2/19: Tomato soup, grilled cheese, & brownies

Tuesday 2/24: Stuffed chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, & pudding

Friday Shopping Schedule: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.

Hannaford: 2/6

Walmart: 2/13, 2/27

Price Chopper: 2/20

FEBRUARY EVENTS:

WELLNESS CLINIC DATES: Monday February 9th & Tuesday February 24th. Clinic is open from 10 am to 12 pm.

Wednesday February 19th @ 12 pm: Carbon Monoxide Screening. Lunch is tomato soup, grilled cheese & brownies. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. Come in and learn about the dangers of carbon monoxide and how to keep your levels low. Sign up by 2/13.

PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES

Check our website for events that may not be listed here <https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taking the “nurse” out of nursing

To the Editor:

Obviously, most of us quickly grasped that President Trump was well-justified in his recent demotion of what was still passing itself off as the “nursing” profession for far too long to go unnoticed. Thus reclassifying such erroneously labelled degrees from professional to graduate had to be done eventually, since there really was no other viable option.

And was it not curious how thoroughly unprofessional those very catty and vitriolic responses were to the proper change were? Almost as if it was all coming from the Democratic Party and their pro-choice minions as they currently exist throughout the tattered remains of that former profession.

The reality is that for a very long time, former nursing school graduates from some of America’s most highly esteemed nurse training facilities have been saying essentially the same thing. As was confirmed by this AI exchange I engaged in where I first read that AI entity a three-word riot act to get it to focus on the facts.

“Stop politicizing things. Those former Graduates of Mass general have been denouncing the degradation of their former highly esteemed profession for years. Yes or No?”

AI response: “Yes. Many former graduates of the Mass General Hospital system have been vocal about perceived degradation in the nursing profession over the years. Their discussions often focus on the changes in standards, ethical concerns, and the overall treatment of healthcare professionals since their time in school.

Along with the lack of required residences. True?

AI response: “True. Many former nurses and healthcare professionals have expressed concerns about the lack of required residencies for nursing graduates. They argue that this change impacts the quality of training and preparedness for new nurses entering the field, contributing to a perceived decline in professional standards.”

PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland St. in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events.

Regular Programs:

Book Club

Wednesday, February 18th at 10:30am
Please call Kelly to find out what we are reading!

Dull Men’s Club

Tuesday, February 24th at 9:30am
Northbridge Fire Chief David White

Mindful Meditation with Kelly

Every Thursday at 9:30am

Scrabble

Monday, February 23rd at 9:30am
Writing Your Way with Lori

Thursday February 26th at 2:00pm

Special Events and Programs:

Medicare Open Enrollment Program with Joe Best

Tuesday, February 24th

1:30pm-2:30pm

Medicare OEP, or the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment, runs from January 1 to March 31 each year, and it allows anyone already in a Medicare Advantage plan to switch to a different Advantage plan or return to Original Medicare. Come and hear how this process works. This is a great opportunity to reassess your plan and to discuss whether or not it would make sense to change to something new in 2026. Sign up in the main office.

Active Agers Health Fair

Get moving, get informed, and get inspired! Please join us at Plummer Place’s first-ever Active Agers Health fair for older adults! This event is packed with fun and engaging activities, screenings, and wellness tips to keep you thriving! Your health, your way, your day!

Wednesday, February 25th (snow date February 26th)

12:30pm-2:30pm

The first 20 people in the door will receive a free reflective drawstring backpack. Free door prizes will be drawn throughout the afternoon and grab and go snacks will also be available, as well as bone density and blood pressure screenings. There is a \$5 attendance fee, payable in cash at the door the day of this event. Please call the main office to sign up so we can gauge attendance.

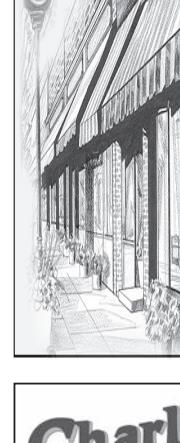
Shamrock and Roll Party

Tickets are now on sale in the Plummer Place main office for our St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon and Concert. Come and enjoy a Celtic mix of songs along with some oldies and goodies, and some fun cover tunes by the Everly Brothers, Johnny Cash and Chuck Berry featuring local musician and singer, Russ Pimentel. Themed menu: corned beef sandwiches, french fries, coleslaw, pickles and mint chocolate mousse cups for dessert. Free gifts and raffles!

Wednesday, March 11th (snow date is Thursday, March 12th)

\$10 per ticket/2 ticket limit per person and Northbridge Residents have priority.

You must have a ticket to attend.



Community Connection

WCMS Drama Club presents “The Snow White Variety Show”

WHITINSVILLE — The Middle School Drama Club at Whitinsville Christian School is looking forward to two upcoming performances of their spring show.

“The Snow White Variety Show” combines the fun of just about every TV-show genre into this wild and fast-paced comedy! You won’t want to miss being a part of the live studio audience as the story of Snow White is brought to life. Performances are March 6, at 7 p.m. and March 7, at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at whitinsvillechristianschool.org.

Wine tasting event to benefit Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter

UXBRIDGE — The community is invited to support the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter at a wine tasting fundraiser event Saturday, March 7 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Blissful Meadow Golf Club in Uxbridge.

Tickets are available at bvemergencyshelter.org.

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Tex's Troubadours to perform at Grass Roots Coffeehouse



NOTHBRIDGE — The Grass Roots Coffeehouse will be hosting Tex's Troubadours on Saturday, March 7, at 7 p.m. The band is making its first appearance at Grass Roots, as well as here in central Massachusetts. This particular group has played together for three years and also features John Stey on mandolin, guitar and vocals from western Connecticut, Ellen Carlson on fiddle and vocals from the seacoast area of New Hampshire, and Bob Dick from Northbridge on bass and vocals. We'll be playing a mix of standard and original bluegrass music with some traditional country and fiddle tunes mixed in.

The group often is mix of various New England based Bluegrass musicians and is led by Dave (Tex) Orlomoski on guitar, banjo and vocals from western Connecticut. This particular group has played together for three years and also features John Stey on mandolin, guitar and vocals from western Connecticut, Ellen Carlson on fiddle and vocals from the seacoast area of New Hampshire, and Bob Dick from Northbridge on bass and vocals. We'll be playing a mix of standard and original bluegrass music with some traditional country and fiddle tunes mixed in.

The concert will take

place in function room of the Rockdale Cong. Church, 42 Fowler Rd., Northbridge. Prior to the show, come have a bowl of soup or chili, or hot slider sandwich, and at intermission have dessert and coffee. Proceeds go to the Church.

Admission to the show is \$20 at the door only. Doors will be open at 6 p.m. Seating is at a first come/first served basis. For more information, call or text Bob Dick at 617-429-0347.

Join Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center for a tour through local history

WORCESTER — Join the Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester for the exhibit "From Small Town to Heart of the Commonwealth" Saturdays through February from 1 – 1:30 p.m.

Join us on a tour through the exhibits of the Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center, highlighting the history of the Blackstone Canal, the Industrial Revolution, and the City of Worcester.

Meet at the Visitor Center. Appropriate for ages eight and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. For ADA/Reasonable Accommodations, please call 617-645-0358 or e-mail Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

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UXBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER HONORS JENNIE OLEKSYK

Congratulations, Jennie Oleksyk, on your 104th birthday! The Uxbridge Senior Center recently celebrated Jennie Oleksyk's 104th birthday. She was honored by State Rep. Mike Soter, Sen. Fattman's Assistant, Amanda Hellyar, and Uxbridge Select Board Member, Peter Demers. Citations were presented to honor her special day.

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4pm Dinner
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For Advertising Information

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

SHORTSLEEVE

continued from page A1

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization. In accordance with federal and state law, the Chamber does not participate in

political campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Candidate forums are hosted for educational purposes to provide members with access to diverse policy perspectives.

This event is FREE for Members and

Future Members. Pre-registration is required online at, www.blackstonevalley.org/events. For more information, please contact Liz O'Neil at, 508-234-9090, or loneil@blackstonevalley.org.

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

How to Submit an Obituary

Guidance in Your Time of Need.

Posting an obituary is a meaningful way to honor the life of someone who has passed, share the loss with the community, and support the grieving process.

It celebrates their life, family, memories, and accomplishments while bringing people together in remembrance.

An obituary also helps loved ones find comfort and closure during a difficult time preserves the individual's story as an important part of the family's history and legacy.

We offer easy placement and publications throughout the area

Just drop us an email, be sure to include a photo if you would like. Include your publication choice and provide a contact number for prepayment.

Deadline is Monday at noon for this week's edition.

Our Rates: \$ 250 per newspaper for 400 words or less.

Photos and symbols included at no extra charge.

For obituaries over 400 words, the charge is \$ 250 for each additional 400 words or less.

Please note this price is per newspaper.

Send all Obituaries to obits@stonebridgepress.news

If you have any question please call Julie at 508-909-4105

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WINTERRÄDEN

continued from page A1

Custom features: The track includes professionally built structures, technical obstacles, and steep drops.

The competitive edge: Every major feature includes a «time-consequential go-around.» Riders who lack the raw speed of a sprinter can gain an edge by «sending» the more difficult obstacles to shave seconds off their lap times.

The timeline: Doors open for registration at 9 a.m., followed by an Open Loop session until 11:30 a.m. for riders to scout lines and study the ever-changing New England soil. The official race whistle blows at noon.

The venue: A legacy of “Zig-Zag”

The race unfolds on a privately owned 65-acre farmstead featuring the renowned “Zig-Zag” trail system. The trails carry a storied local legacy; the system was named by the property owner, inspired by his lifelong preference for a classic brand of rolling papers. That spirit of independence and «counter-culture» heritage continues to define the property

today, making it a unique hub for outdoor enthusiasts who appreciate a laid-back, community-first atmosphere.

An adult-only “Après-Race” experience

Beyond the finish line, Winterräden offers an 18+ festival environment. The “Get Ready Area” (parking lot) serves as the event's social hub, featuring:

• Beer Garden: Local adult beverages and refreshments.

• Industry Village: Food vendors, gear demos, and specialized industry booths.

• Community & Culture: A dedicated space for lifestyle education, paraphernalia, and brand activations.

Sponsorship opportunities: Align your brand with the bold

The Urban Assault Build Crew is currently seeking partners for the 2026 season. With a focus on adult lifestyle and outdoor advocacy, Winterräden offers a rare opportunity for local businesses—particularly within the cannabis and craft beverage industries—to engage with a dedicated, niche audience.

Sponsorship tiers include:

• Gold (\$3,000): Primary brand placement on the official event T-shirt and a 10x10 activation space.

• Silver (\$1,500): Secondary T-shirt placement and dedicated social media amplification.

• Bronze (\$750): Small logo placement and on-site signage.

• Local Supporter (\$300): Business name featured on the «Sponsor Grid.»

Every registered rider receives a commemorative T-shirt featuring custom artwork, ensuring that sponsor brands remain visible in the New England biking community long after the snow melts.



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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

Worcester Probate

and Family Court

225 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608

(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO26P0362EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Timothy J. Clancy

Also known as:

Timothy James Clancy

Date of Death: 11/29/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Karen C. Clancy of Northbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Karen C. Clancy of Northbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/03/2026**.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 05, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 13, 2026

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. WO26P0294EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Deborah E Anderson

Also known as: Deborah Anderson,

Deborah W Anderson

Date of Death: 12/15/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by Adriana Anderson of Tyngsborough MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Adriana Anderson of Tyngsborough MA

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/03/2026**.

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

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UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 30, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 13, 2026

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. WO26P0192EA

INFORMAL PROBATE

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate Of:

DONNA M.A. HEYWOOD

Date of Death: 12/12/2025

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of **SCOTT ODETTE of NORTHBIDGE MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

SCOTT ODETTE of NORTHBIDGE MA

has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court

in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

February 13, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

Worcester Probate

and Family Court

Western New England University announces Fall Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University is proud to announce the outstanding academic achievements of nearly 800 students named to the Fall 2025 semester Dean's List including:

Lex Lovell of Uxbridge

Katelyn Taylor of Douglas

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Fall Dean's List

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced its Dean's List for academic excellence for the Fall 2025 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities," said Provost Andrew Sears. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List:

David Berchem, Jr. of Douglas, class of 2029, majoring in Computer Science and Interactive Media and Game Development - Technology

James Bernard of Uxbridge, class of 2028, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Tyler Bliss of Whitinsville, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science and Data Science

Parin Boyalla of Uxbridge, class of 2028, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Caleb Deters of Uxbridge, class of 2028, majoring in Civil Engineering

Noah Gaskill of Douglas, class of 2028, majoring in Computer Science

Brady McMaster of Douglas, R.I., class of 2027, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Zachary Oliveira of Uxbridge, class of 2027, majoring in Management Engineering

Michael O'Toole of Douglas, class of 2027, majoring in Aerospace Engineering

Julia Philbrook of Uxbridge, class of 2027, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

Dylan Reilly of Northbridge, class of 2029, majoring in Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering

Colin Squier of Douglas, Massachusetts, class of 2028, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Jack Tasick of Uxbridge, class of 2027, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Bryan Wheeler of Douglas, class of 2026, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Willow Windoloski of Douglas, class of 2029, majoring in Robotics Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and over 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at www.wpi.edu.

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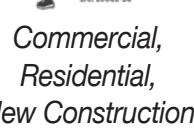
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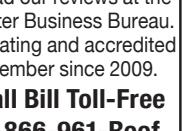
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Northbridge High School announces honor roll

NORTHBRIDGE — Northbridge High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Students are recognized for their academic success with a quarterly Honor Roll. This is determined shortly after the close of each of the four quarters. This recognition is based on their quarter grades and is determined as follows:

HIGHEST HONORS: Term GPA is 4.0+

HIGH HONORS: Term GPA is between 3.3-3.9

HONORS: Term GPA is between 2.7-3.2

Highest Honors

Grade 12: Jason Bolduc, Olivia Choumanivong, Danielle Chrabaszcz, Hailie Cullen, Lorelai Drapeau, Reed Dziekiewicz, Natalie Fasold, Kylie Grazulis, Sonja Hastings, Stacia Hilditch, Aedan Holcomb, Penelope Houpt, Nadia Kotwica, Kathleen Leonard, Ellory Manning, Effielyn Marrero, Sienna Mastroianni, Gisel Morrisette, Vidhi Patel, Brendan Riche, Audriana Roby, Jake Rogers, Elly Schofer, Sofia Smith, Caleb Smith, Kallie Tevepaugh

Grade 11: Emily Billmyer, Carly Brett, Kayla Briggs, Jacqueline Cammarano, Alexandra Corey, Samuel Corman, Lillian Donahue, Meghan Frieswick, Leah Gallerani, Austin Kee, Emily Kelly, Dawson Kramer, Jillian Krula, Nathan Kuras, Abigail Leveille, Bryce Lundquist, Ava Mandelenakis, Ashley Papa, Zahra Rith, Bryce Rogozenski, Bryce Ryan, Isabella Saad, Lillian Sabourin, Danika Schofield, Brooke Shumate, Elizabeth Tubbs

Grade 10: Ereeny Absamis, Taylor Alden, Gohar Arakelyan, Alexander Austin, Chloe Barnatt, Kayla Bolduc, Paisley Comeau, Brady Durenzo, Gage Doble, Kallie Dunn, Emily Flauto, Landon Gerardi, Ashlyn Gonyea, Cailey Graceffa, Jessica Haberski, Kara Helinski, Savannah Hendricks, Katherine Hernandez Mendoza, Cassandra Higgins, Arabella Kosciak, Anna Lavallee, Chi Le, Molly Leonard, Vincent Lomonaco, Ashley Ann Lucena, Lila MacDonald, Maya MacLeod, Karibella Matuszak, Madelynn Nowak, Shane Paulhus, Abrielle Richards, Avery Riche, Marissa Roadman, Madison Scungio, Audrey Siemaszko, Isabelle Stanley, Ava Strazzulla, Kaitlyn Szerlag, Brooklyn Thibeault, Jade Thomas, Keelyn Touhey, Boluwatife Vera-Cruz, Stephany Villanueva Juarez, Amanda Waterson, Lexi Wilson

Grade 9: Anna Andresen, Maci Coe, Zoe Corey, Leah Fasold, James Flaherty, Reese Hendricks, Florissa Lundquist, Cooper Mandelenakis, Lexie Paulhus, Mason Richard

Grade 8: Cameron Brouillard, Levi Buehler, Giovanna Bufaino Rocha, Kelsey Desousa, Kenneth Gauthier, Aliana Jimenez, Klara L'Hommedieu, Vrinda Patel, Brayden Ryan

High Honors

Grade 12: Lily Bilodeau, Polina Conio Potselueva, Addyson Crothers, Antonio D'Alfonso, Luke Davis, Kevin DiMuzio, Jeffrey Doyle, Jacoby Gallerani, Grace Haden, Joel LaChapelle, Charlotte LaTour, Mong Le, Marcus MacLeod, Isle Malik, John Mazzarelli, Maxwell Mazzarelli, Nina McElreath, Aiden Mulcahy, Hayden Naylor, Sophia Nicholatos, Emma Oosterman, Owen Pollock, Zixuan Qiao, Dayli Reyes Fuentes, Lara Rivers, Trevor Roadman, Logan Sansone, Jordan Shaw, Leticia Silva, Nicollas Silva, Taden Stanovich, Tyler Strazzulla, Jarissa Sylvestre, Kayleigh Szerlag, Nicholas Thomas, Jacob Tomaino, Jenna Tomasetti, Dayanara Torres, Braedan Tracy, Angel Wesson

Grade 11: Kalintria Bailey, Skyla Boucher, Brooke Cammarano, Christina Chiras, Vahan DerKosrofian, John Donahue, Julia Fisher, Samuel Gorman, Tanner Haden,

Bailey Kee, Cecilia Laviotte, Anthony Mooradian, Michael Potter, Jordan Priore, Lily Proto, Zoey Rith, Olivia Stanick, Tyler Tran, Michael Tubbs, Kaylee Vakoc, Kayla Whitney

Grade 10: Grace Alicandro-Kinney, Ethan Alvarado, Ella Arias, Quin Austin, Hannah Bacon, Olivia Caira, Anita Comforti, Victoria Concepcion-Cruz, Taryn Conway, Aleina Cortes-Crespo, Trevione Evans, Elizabeth Garcia, Taylla Victoria Goncalves, Gaby Juarez, Dylan Kelly, Thomas Krause, Joshua Kuras, Kathleen L'Hommedieu, Rory LaMonda, Colton Lotfy, Sophia Maracle, Julia McKenna,

Ryan Parker, Olivia Pollock, Samuel Samuel, Shiloh Stewart, Isaac Vitoria

Grade 9: Mya Bassett, Calli-Ann Bolduc, Nathaniel Borges, Andrew DeCiero, Arayelis Esquilin Cruz, Willow Hogan, Callie Kaska, Payton Kaska, Angelina Keddy, Evan LaChapelle, Hailee Martin, Zoe Matuszak, Marshall Munhall, Abbygale Novinger, Logan Overfield, Alexander Picard, Jolene Poulin, Kalina Rolen, Ethan Searles, Natasha Souvanna, Aubrianna Theroux, Landon Tucker, Christian Vacca Rivera, Sasha Vidinha, Jacob Ware, Blake Wenc

Grade 8: Sophia Baldwin, Kaylee Desousa, Emily Desousa, Abigail Gorman, Morgan Jenkins, Landon Joubert, Ariana Juarez, Reese LaMonda, Avianna Mejia, Casey Montville, Brayden Neyland, Addison Onorato, Jordan Paradis, Wyatt Piegorsch, Charlotte Pitts, Camren Poulin, Zuliani Rodriguez, Owen Sanford, Savannah Shumate, Charlotte Supernor, Sawyer Woods

Honors

Grade 12: Maija Beaupre, Anthony Becerril, Davin Bolduc, Kelsey Costello, Askibus Dubois, Nathan Falconer, Seth Geary, Alexander Goodrow, Ginson Jeres Guaman, Callum Lax, Keith MacEachern, Landon Naughton-Bolduc, Noah Nephew, Smit Patel, Aubrey Pollinger, Kayleigh-Ann Pomeroy, Ryan Ruzzo, Emily Scholl, Gabriel Smart, Sean Sprott, Colby Trudeau, Kelsey Tucker, Logan Wozniak, Maxwell Zanchi, Saxon Zona

Grade 11: Abigail Akeley Nobles, ,Brendan Aldrich, Lucas Babiy, Jaiden Becerril, Barbara Brooks, Paul Cammarano, Mo Rodney Daigle, Quinn Driscoll, Cayleigh Foley, Alfredo Garcia, Christopher Gavin, David Gonzalez Perez, Isabella Liberty, Fam Mekhael, Hayden Murphy, Jadiel Ortiz, Aidan Payen, Mia Prosser, Georgia Robinson, Dylan Saster, Iszac Smith, Mia Smith-Hale, Parker Stanick, Alexander Zanchi

Grade 10: Destinie Almeida, Kirra Arsenault, Brady Connolly, Evan Flanagan, Jaxon Gabrila, Adrianna Goncalves, Mark Henin, Aiden Jenkins, Layana Lee, Nicholas Lippolis, Madelyn Loos, Connor McLaughlin, Cody Miller, Rafael Montalvo, Sadie Nephew, Adrianna Racz, Trevor Talieri

Grade 9: Nevaeh Ayala, Renji Bailey, Nathan Boisvert, Myra Briggs, Gabriel Correia, Jonathan Costa, Nathan Dunn, Parker Falvey, Giovanna Ferreira, Yhoalibeth Jeres Guaman, Emmanuel Jimenez Suarez, Logan Kaiser Ballard, Jameson Kaska, Teagan Koopman, Tianna Lavallee, Logan Lemarr, Kole Melanson, Devyn Nicholson, Madelyn Pellegrino, Chase Pichel-Daigneault, Zakiyya Rawson, Addison Trottier, Maxwell Zyra

Grade 8: Deric Alicea, Austin Almeida, Robert Baker, Thomas Baltramaitis, Brayden Barnatt, Rylie Bartusek, Aria Beaupre, Ariannah Berrios, Delanie Briere, Eva Carvalho Seoud, Isaiah Clemente, Benjamin Comforti,

Aaliyah Daluise Sims, Bella Drury, Isabella Farrand-Antobenedetto, Lucas Freniere, Erin Geary, Kayla Haggett, Rodney Hill, Lucas King, Josiah Klar, Briella Lavallee, Anthony Alessandro Lucena, Benjamin Maracle, Alex McKellick, Aditree Nayak, Logan Porzio, Mia Reed, Tyler Reyes, Shannon Rich, Joseph Seaver, Caleb Silva, Myka Taylor, Logan Theberge, Declan Trites, Finnian Trites

Local residents named to Clark University's Fall Dean's List

WORCESTER — The following local residents were named to Clark University's Fall 2025 Dean's List:

JJ E. Gifford, of Whitinsville was named to second honors.

Coulton S. Manning, of Northbridge was named to first honors.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

Students named to President's List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Students have been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Fall 2025 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Fall 2025 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized.

The following local students have been named to the President's List:

Cecelia White of Douglas, majoring in Allied Health Sciences.

Justine Brueggemann of Whitinsville, majoring in Allied Health Sciences.

About Plymouth State University

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates, and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. The Plymouth State Cluster Learning Model emphasizes open, integrative, and project-based experiences. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire. To learn more about Plymouth State University, visit www.plymouth.edu.

Salve Regina University announces Dean's List for Fall semester

NEWPORT, R.I. — The following students were named to the Dean's List during the fall 2025 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Larissa Briggs of Northbridge

Emilee Hamelin of Douglas

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. For more than 75 years, Salve has offered rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world are enrolled at Salve in 48 undergraduate majors, 13 master's degree programs, combined bachelor's/master's programs, and doctoral programs.

Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a transformational four-year program through which they develop the experience, skills, and wisdom required for a fulfilling career and to make a positive difference in the world. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy, and ideas. For more information visit salve.edu.

Dean's, President's List students named for UA Fall Term

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A total of 15,388 students enrolled during Fall Semester 2025 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs and 12 colleges and schools.

Local students include:

Kole Wyndham of Northbridge was named to the Dean's List.

Matthew DiLibero of Uxbridge was named to the Dean's List.

Parker Roadman of Whitinsville was named to the Dean's List.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a forward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

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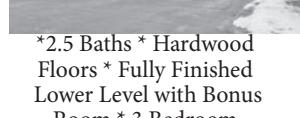
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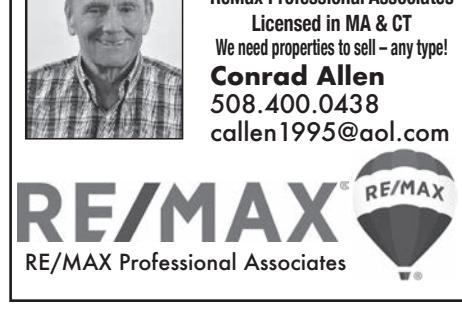
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Saint Joseph School Student Council puts faith into action with winter drive



Courtesy

Student Council Officers from Saint Joseph School present donated coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw. The items will be distributed through the Webster-Dudley Food Share.

WEBSTER — At Saint Joseph School, Student Council is designed to help students become thoughtful leaders who serve their community. Elected annually by their peers, Student Council members represent the voice of the student body and support school

life through outreach projects, student-led initiatives, spirit activities, buddy programs, and school dances. The goal is not only to build leadership skills, but also to form students who understand that leadership includes responsibility and service.

Student Council members are guided by Beth Boudreau, Principal, Mary Ann Weaver, Teacher Moderator, and Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster.

That mission was especially visible when the Student Council partnered

with the Webster Police Department for its annual coat, hat, and glove drive. With support from school families, the Council collected 40 coats, 48 hats, 36 scarves, and 90 pairs of gloves, making it the most successful drive the school has held to date. Students

presented the donations to Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw. The items will be distributed through the Webster-Dudley Food Share to help local families stay warm during the winter months.

School leaders noted that the drive's success reflects

both the generosity of families and the commitment of students who organize and lead service projects that benefit others.



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Our network of hospitals, providers and services was created to ensure that everyone in our region has access to exceptional health care and a chance to live the healthiest life possible. So, regardless of where you live, a UMass Memorial Health hospital or service is nearby. And that means no matter what you need for your health, the best choice is also the convenient one.

ummhealth.org/choose | 855-UMASS-MD

 **UMass Memorial Health**
THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF HEALING

The hospitals and services of UMass Memorial Health

UMass Memorial Medical Center | UMass Memorial Medical Group | Harrington
HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital | Milford Regional | Community Healthlink