

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

©2024, Issue #43

Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

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Thursday-Friday, October 24-25, 2024



Members of the Shepherd Hill Class of 1974, the first graduating class of the regional high school, celebrated their 50th class reunion on Oct. 12.

Courtesy

Shepherd Hill Class of 1974 celebrates 50th reunion

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

AUBURN — For the last five decades, Shepherd Hill Regional High School has carved out a place in local history hosting students from both Dudley and Charlton, creating a lasting relationship between the communities that stands strong today. While those 50 years have brought plenty to be proud of, it all started with the origi-

nal graduating class who kicked off that legacy all the way back in 1974.

The original graduating class of Shepherd Hill celebrated their 50th

anniversary milestone with a class reunion gathering at the Auburn

Webster Elks Club on Oct. 12, sharing memories and their pride in

being a part of something few graduates get
Turn To REUNION page 8

Sturbridge officials frustrated with National Grid

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Although it wasn't formally on the agenda, concerns about the ongoing National Grid project on Po-dunk Road rose at the Oct. 7 select board meeting again.

The issue came up during Town Administrator Robin Grimm's report,

when Selectwoman Mary Dowling said she has "a lot of concerns about how this entire project's been handled."

She specifically requested legal guidance on what authority the utility has and doesn't have regarding going on private property after getting complaints from some residents that National Grid has been marking their trees without

permission. As she understands it, the utility has to get written permission, and she said she'd like to see that in writing from the attorney.

Chair Jamie Goodwin said he'd like to see an "actual articulation of what they're doing and where they're doing it, from soup to nuts. This piecemeal

Turn To STURBRIDGE page 9

Charlton Middle School targeted by Swatting campaign

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — For the second time in as many months, school security was at the forefront of Dudley-Charlton Regional School District Superintendent Steven

Lamarche's update to the School Committee, this time concerning an incident much closer to home.

In September, Lamarche was compelled to address a school

shooting in Georgia to reassure local parents of the security practices in the district schools. At the School Committee's Oct. 9 meeting, the Superintendent addressed a recent social

media threat targeting Charlton Middle School that, while a false alarm, served as a reminder of the sobering reality of the times.

The threat was determined to be part of

a non-credible swatting campaign where prank callers report threats to law enforcement with the intent of bringing them to a specific location where there is no actual threat. Lamarche

explained that regardless of the context or purpose behind these threats the school always takes them seriously and in light of the incident the district is

Turn To SWATTING page 8

Trunk or Treat is back at Quinebuag Masonic Lodge!

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — It's that time of year again when the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge Community Outreach Program holds one of its annual events. Children and adults alike dress up in their Halloween costumes to retrieve candy and treats from rows of cars all decorated for Halloween in the parking lot of the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge in Southbridge. Join us for fun games and treats. We will be collecting Pet food and or Food Pantry items for local Food Share Pantry in Southbridge also and local animal shelters.

This event will be on Saturday, Oct. 26 from noon to 4 p.m. at 339 Ashland Ave. in Southbridge. Come experience the excitement of the kids running to each vehicle and the passing cars beeping their horns as they drive by. Many lodge members families and friends even volunteer students from Nichols College offer their time and resources to put on this event for the kids in the surrounding com-



Children and adults dressed up for Halloween at the Quinebuag Lodge parking lot Trunk or Treat past event last year. Come and join the fun this weekend at the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge 339 Ashland Ave. in Southbridge.

Courtesy

munities. So come one come all to this event sponsored by the Free-

masons of Southbridge. If it rains October 26th the rescheduled rain

date will be the following day Sunday, Oct. 27 from noon to 4 p.m. If

you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a

lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org.

Rotary Club of Sturbridge presents Fourth Annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk

STURBRIDGE bridge is delighted to announce that its popular

TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K, and Fun Walk will return on Sunday, Oct. 27, according to race director Klaus Hachfeld. The family-friendly event offers two timed races, including a 5K Trail Run & Fun Walk, and a 1K Road Race.

It will be a road race along Old Sturbridge Village Road, making it accessible to persons with mobility challenges.

The timed 5K Trail Run (\$35 registration) & Fun Walk (\$30 registration) will start at 10 a.m. using Old Sturbridge Village Road and the Arbutus Park Trail in the Leadmine Mountain Wildlife Conservation

Lands. An awards ceremony will follow at 11:15 a.m. starting with a competition for best Halloween costume for all registered runners and walkers. Judging will be by popular choice.

The event also includes free children's game starting at 9 a.m. at the Education Center, organized by a volunteer team from Burgess El-

ementary School. No pre-registration is required for the children's activities.

All activities begin at the OSV Education Center on Old Sturbridge Village Road (not to be confused with Old Sturbridge Village Academy at the main entrance to the village). Parking will be available in the Education Center lot.

Pre-registration is now available on the RaceWire website at <https://www.racewire.com/register.php?id=14151>. All participants who pre-register by Oct. 21 will get a 2024 TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk tee-shirt. On-site registration will also be available starting at 8:30 a.m.

bridge Halloween 5K and Fun Walk is a Sturbridge Rotary Club fundraiser, with all profits going to the organization's community needs projects. For additional information, or to sign on as an event sponsor, email the race director at laserklaus@gmail.com. Or visit the Sturbridge Rotary Club website at <https://sturbridgerotary.com>.

The Trek Stur-

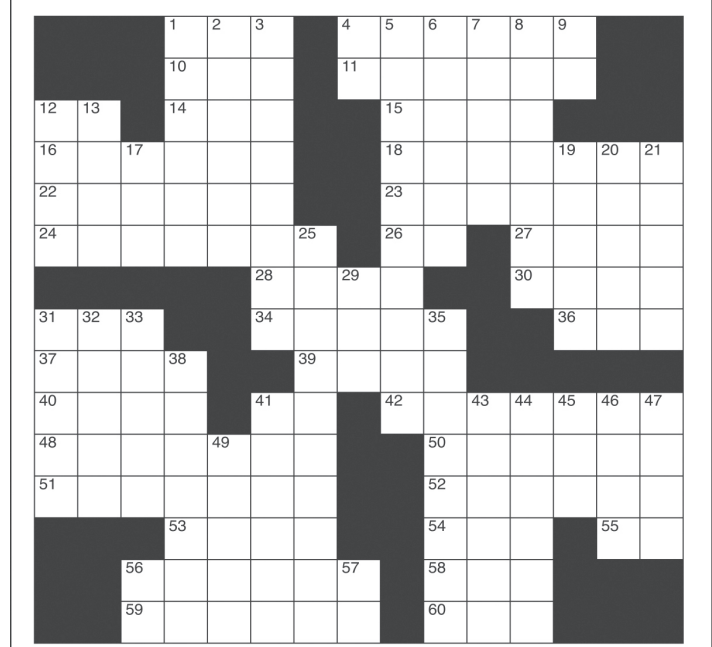


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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "60 Minutes" network
- 4. Train line
- 10. Go quickly
- 11. Straightforward
- 12. Canadian province
- 14. At any rate (abbr.)
- 15. Genealogy
- 16. Make changes
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. In a way, turned up
- 23. Type of ship
- 24. Agents of one's downfall
- 26. Not out
- 27. Something to scratch
- 28. Round water pot
- 30. Refreshing green fruit (slang)
- 31. Promotions
- 34. Primordial matters
- 36. One-time world power (abbr.)
- 37. Source of illumination
- 39. The content of cognition
- 40. An Arab ruler
- 41. South Dakota
- 42. Gnawed at with teeth
- 48. Hawaiian island
- 50. Smaller
- 51. Of a single person
- 52. Rigid bracelet
- 53. Barbary sheep (Fr.)
- 54. Not even
- 55. Specific gravity
- 56. Engage in petty bargaining
- 58. Boxing's "GOAT"
- 59. Split between parties
- 60. Notable offensive

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A place to lounge
- 2. Skewed views
- 3. Peacefully
- 4. Commercial
- 5. Auxiliary forces
- 6. Large mollusk
- 7. Take out again
- 8. Sharp and forthright
- 9. Knight (chess)
- 12. Source of fiber
- 13. Flesh covering some birds' beaks
- 17. Energy
- 19. Night monkeys genus
- 20. Small, sharp nails
- 21. Pleasant-smelling liquid
- 25. Affirms one's hold
- 29. CNN's founder
- 31. Texans can't forget it
- 32. "Oppenheimer" actor Matt
- 33. Expression
- 35. Vessel
- 38. Lacking poetic beauty
- 41. Tall, swift and slender dog
- 43. Sports personality Michelle
- 44. Robber
- 45. Liquefied natural gas
- 46. Snake-like fishes
- 47. The most worthless part of something
- 49. City in Crimea
- 56. Bad grades
- 57. Reichsmark

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Winter Coat Closet returns for 17th year of keeping people warm

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Winter Coat Closet, an ecumenical project located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, will be open Saturdays from Oct. 26 to Dec. 14. The hours are 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

We offer gently used and some new, warm winter coats for men, women and children. There is no charge and nothing to sign. All are welcome to come browse our racks. We also have a limited number of scarves, hats and mittens. Donations may be made on

Saturdays when we are open or at participating area churches. The Winter Coat Closet is happy to be in its 17th year of helping people stay warm! For more information, call the Holy Trinity Church at 508-765-9559.

SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Oct. 7-14.

Jose A. Perez, age 33, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 7 in connection with multiple warrants.

A 65-year-old male from Sturbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 8 for a Marked Lanes Violation, a Passing Violation, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Armani Santiago, age 20, of Webster and Nathaniel Anthony Santiago, Jr., age 23, of Worcester were arrested on Oct. 9 for Disorderly Conduct and Disturbing the Peace.

Maria P. Gutierrez, age 27, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 9 in connection with a warrant.

Michael Aviles, age 37, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 10 for Malicious Damage to a Motor Vehicle and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official.

Corey R. Bombard, age 35, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 10 in connection with a warrant.

Xavier Luis Marcano, age 21, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 10 for Improper Operation

of a Motor Vehicle resulting in Harsh Exhaust Noise, Not being in Possession of a License, Disturbing the Peace, and Disorderly Conduct.

Wilson Swasey, age 37, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 10 for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon (to wit, a chair) and Possession of a Class E Drug.

Roger Augusto, Jr., age 74, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 11 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order.

Michael Francis White, age 28, of Dudley was arrested on Oct. 12 for Speeding, Failure to Stop for Police, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Jonathan T. Romano, age 29, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 12 for Assault & Battery on a Person over the age of 60, Resisting Arrest, Disorderly Conduct, and in connection with a warrant.

Domenic Martinez, age 21, of Worcester was arrested on Oct. 13 for operating a motor vehicle with an Obstructed or Nontransparent Window and operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

David Rivera, age 63, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 13 in connection with a warrant.

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Celebrating harvest time



Ryan Lally's final magic trick involved young William waving a giant inflatable wand.



Mary Ellen Fahey of Auburn and Joan Strange of Wilbraham were selling "junk journals."



Two friends make the rounds of festival tents.



The Four Seasons Welcome Signs tent invites people in.



Erin Harpe and Jim Countryman play older-style country, bluegrass and blues.



Alfie Riling of Franklin tries to keep the Jenga tower intact.



A couple young women sit for caricatures.



Eli Galasso of Sturbridge displays his facepainted dog.



A dog watches the crowd while listening to Erin Harpe sing Mississippi John Hurt's "Candyman."

STURBRIDGE — Sun and warmth put people in a good mood Saturday and Sunday as Sturbridge held its annual Harvest Festival on the Common. With magic and music on the gazebo stage and everything including axe-throwing, facepainting, games, politics, crafts and food among the dozens of tents, there was a little of something for everyone.

All Photos by Gus Stevens

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Town Hall, 37 Main St
Charlton, MA

Sat. Oct. 19	9 AM- 3 PM
Mon. Oct. 21	8 AM-5 PM
Tues. Oct. 22	8 AM-7 PM
Wed. Oct. 23	8 AM-5 PM
Thurs. Oct. 24	8 AM-5 PM
Sat. Oct. 26	9 AM-5 PM
Mon. Oct. 28	8 AM-5 PM
Tues. Oct. 29	8 AM-7 PM
Wed. Oct. 30	8 AM-5 PM
Thurs. Oct. 31	8 AM-4 PM

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St Joseph's Church Hall
10 H Putnam Rd Ext., Charlton, Mass

We are actively seeking crafters and vendors for this event.
Call Joyce at 774-262-0820 for a registration form or information.

Opacum concludes urban planting project

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — With several of their own trees in the audience, Opacum Land Trust held a ceremony formally concluding their five-year urban tree planting project last week in World War I Memorial Park.

According to project leader Steve Brady, the combined paid and volunteer effort planted 727 trees each in Southbridge and Ware under a US Forest Service grant, with the state Department of Conservation and Recreations providing the trees.

“I’m really excited we branched out [to do this] – pun intended,” said Opacum Director Laney Wilder, who later noted the goal was to “bring the environment to some of these [urban] spaces in Southbridge.”

The first tree went in the ground in fall of 2019, and the original goal was to plant 1000 trees in each town. But Covid got in the way, slowing things down for a couple years. Brady noted the planting really “began to take off” in spring of 2023.

“If we’d had a few more years, we could have had 1,000 trees in each

town,” he said.

The goal was “to help alleviate chronic health issues,” particularly in the parts of town that “have very little tree cover,” he said. One of those is youth asthma, which is “higher than the national average” in Southbridge.

Biologically, trees are “very helpful cleaning the air” of various particulate pollutants, as well as converting carbon dioxide into oxygen, and providing summer cooling, he said.

“The shade of a tree can reduce temperature by 20 degrees on a hot summer day,” Brady said, noting there’s a “tree app” that calculates the impact of each species.

The effort planted 100 different tree types around town, with specific species selected to suit each location, some municipal, some private. While not all of them were native, none were invasive. The recipients agreed to maintain them based on DCR standards, which included 15 gallons a week of watering, mulching and other duties.

“They are doing it, for the most part,” Brady said.

He thanked those owners for their work and the parish for storing the trees before planting in a place that “made it easy to distribute trees all over town.” He also thanked the DPW, Peg Dean, Jeff Heyman, and several project workers.

“When you have a good crew and everyone gets along, it makes the day go by,” he added later.

Brady was himself commended by Amanda Hillyer, who said “it’s incredible to see your passion. ... your heart is spread all through the town of Southbridge” with these trees. (She spoke briefly before reading a formal citation from the state Senate; Tammy Ruda also presented one from then House.)

Going forward, that work made Southbridge eligible for a \$1 million Urban Forestry Grant, which enabled the town to hire a temporary forester. Her job is to identify all municipally-owned trees (especially hazards) and create a pruning/maintenance plan for them as part of a “community arboretum,” work toward getting Tree City certification, and a few other things.

Regarding the arboretum, Brady said, “We’re going more the college campus approach. Our arboretum will be along Main Street.”

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

VILLAGER ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

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Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

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Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

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Tuesdays..... 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday..... Closed

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For library hours please check www.charltonlibrary.org

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FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)
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Heritage School (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School..... (508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
..... (508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

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

STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463
Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00-12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451
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., 508-248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m.
www.charltonfedchurch.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
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **St. Joseph’s Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, 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 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church** “Where the Bible is preached.”
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**
446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Phone: 508-765-9559
Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

CCUMC to hold third Dynamic Cards, Collectibles and Craft Show Nov. 9

CHARLTON — On Saturday, Nov. 9, Charlton City United Methodist Church will once again host Dynamic Cards, Collectibles and Craft Show at 74 Stafford St. Two full floors of trading cards, collectibles and crafts of all kinds! The show will be jam-packed with more than 60 tables of offering crafts and items to add to your collection or begin a new one.

Sports cards: These are among the most popular, featuring athletes from baseball, basketball, football, and more

Trading card games (TCGs): Games like Pokémon, Magic: The Gathering, and Yu-Gi-Oh!

Entertainment

cards: These include cards from movies, TV shows, and other pop culture phenomena such as collectible cards for “Star Wars” and Marvel.

Historical and vintage cards: These cards often feature historical figures, events, or vintage designs. They can be quite

valuable and are cherished by collectors for their historical significance.

Unique and homemade items: quilts, bags, art, glassware, jewelry

In addition to a very large variety of vendors and crafters, we’ll also have lunch and baked goods for

sale. Partial proceeds help support many local community causes. You win with all the sellers, and the world wins when you come to support the show. Admission is free. There is plenty of parking and the building is handicapped accessible.

St. John Paul II Parish Bazaar set for Nov. 3

SOUTHBRIDGE — St. John Paul II Parish will hold the 2024 Parish Bazaar on Sunday, Nov. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the La Salle Reception Center, 244 Main St., Southbridge. Among the entertainment to be featured is “The Magic of Your Imagination” with George Sateriale from the Ballroom stage at 11:30 a.m. to be enjoyed by children, families and ev-

eryone.

The Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, is pleased to provide a grant for this entertaining performance for the Bazaar.

REAL ESTATE

CHARLTON

\$678,000, 1 Stoneybrook Rd, Ma-clean, Karen, to Lopez, Carlos, and Lopez, Carmen.

\$649,900, 39 Davidson Rd, Kirk Jr; William D, and Kirk, Christine M, to Griffin, Adam J, and Griffin, Heather A.

\$585,000, 13 Highfield Rd, Forget, Janell, and Forget, Anthony, to Burgos Jr, Wilfredo, and Burgos, Abigail.

HOLLAND

\$616,000, 29 Butterworth Rd, D Lusier Builders LLC, to Landstrom, Geofrey A, and Landstrom, Amanda R.

\$291,000, 7 Davidson Rd, Allen, George D, to Hibbard, Sherida, and Guerin, Robert.

\$120,000, 18 Halfway Ln, Murray, Cheryl B, to Ingham, Kathryn.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$418,000, 35 Brookside Rd, Fournier, Kristin M, and Butler, Daniel A, to Parham-Hill, Malika.

\$390,000, 51 Pinedale St, Pollone, Anthony L, and Pollone, Heidi A, to Farias, Andrew, and Bazzano, Jessica.

\$230,000, 1 West St, Zachara, Mary A, to Marsebcor LLC.

STURBRIDGE

\$549,000, 102 S Shore Dr; Jennette, Dennis, and Jennette, Natalie, to Moore T, and Moore, Allen R.

\$365,000, 1 Cormack Rd, Misiaszek Jr Joseph J Est, and Misiaszek, Nancy J, to Laduke, James, and Laduke, Karen.

\$365,000, 3 Cormack Rd, Misiaszek Jr Joseph J Est, and Misiaszek, Nancy J, to Laduke, James, and Laduke, Karen.

\$365,000, 4 CORMACK RD, MISIASZEK JR JOSEPH J EST, AND MISIASZEK, NANCY J, TO LADUKE, JAMES, AND LADUKE, KAREN.

 **Friday's Child** 



Hi! My name is Izabella and I love nature and the outdoors!
Izabella, who also goes by Izzy, is an inquisitive, outgoing, and outspoken girl in search of her forever family. She loves to explore the outdoors and nature, which include various community activities, gardening, and collecting small insects for her “bug sanctuary” that she advocated to have. She always willing to try new things and new foods. Izzy also enjoys arts and crafts and going to the library to pick out books to read. Her biggest strength is her ability to advocate and speak up for herself.

Registration # 6966

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6966>

Can I Adopt?

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.



Selectmen provide update on proposed change for Town Clerk

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Roughly a year ago, the Charlton Government Study Commission finalized some recommendations for changes in town government including the possibility of changing the Town Clerk from an elected position to appointed. Earlier this year, the recommendation was officially presented to the Board of Selectmen, but since then there have been few updates.

Selectman Steven Koronis made sure to bring the matter up in a public forum during the public comment section of the board's Oct. 15 meeting expressing his disappointment in the lack of action or updates on the matter despite requesting it be placed on several meeting agendas.

"My concern with that is if you're serving on (the Government Study Commission) and you're meeting monthly and then the Board of Selectmen take a year to say 'well, it's really not important to us and we don't want to talk about it.' Why would we not want to talk about it? We're closing in on a year, we're coming up on the next one, and when you're trying to get people to join in for town boards and other things they want to make sure their voices are heard and I just feel we've ignored that entire topic," he said.

Selectmen didn't engage the topic too heavily since it was brought up in the public comment section rather than as an official agenda item, but several Board members were quick to defend the lack of action as one of patience and preparation rather than disinterest. Board of Selectmen Chair Peter Lancette said part of the delay was the town's change of legal representation and that the matter will be discussed again soon. Selectman Bill Borowski also indicated that the topic is not being ignored, it is simply being saved for the appropriate time.

"It's not a position of we don't care, I think it's

a matter of timing. We had the change (of Town Counsel). I didn't think when we discussed it last year it would be appropriate to bring it forth for the fall town meeting. I think for the May town meeting it made a lot more sense," said Borowski, who also suggested the Board wait to have a deeper discussion until after the November election.

Part of Koronis's concern is timing as the Board would need to propose a change to the town bylaws, bring the proposal to a town meeting and

ballot vote, receive authorization from the state, and engage in a hiring process prior to next Town Clerk election cycle. Town Clerk Karen La-Croix's current term expires in 2026. The Board of Selectmen indicated in February, a reaffirmed during the Oct. 15 meeting, potentially bringing the change to the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2025 for consideration which they feel would still provide enough time to make any bylaw changes official before the next election cycle.

QCC generates \$349.8 million in annual economic impact

WORCESTER — A recent economic impact study revealed that Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) contributed \$349.8 million to the regional economy in fiscal year 2022-'23. The study, conducted by Lightcast, demonstrates QCC's role in supporting local jobs, boosting student earnings and providing a strong return on investment for students, taxpayers and society.

According to the study, through its operations and construction spending, student spending and alumni impact, QCC added \$349.8 million in income to the economy of its service

area, equivalent to supporting 3,930 jobs.

Key findings of the study included:

Alumni Impact: Former QCC students generated \$276.9 million in added income for the regional economy, supporting 2,738 jobs.

Student Return on Investment: The average associate degree graduate from QCC will see an increase in earnings of \$11,200 each year compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Massachusetts.

Taxpayer Benefits: State and local taxpayers see a return of \$1.30 for every dollar invested in QCC.

Societal Impact: Society receives \$7 in added state revenue and social savings for every dollar invested in QCC.

"This report clearly demonstrates the influence QCC has on our local economy, area industries and the workforce," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "As one of the largest colleges in Worcester, QCC continues to make an indelible impression on our communities. This study shows what we do here each and every day - facilitate student success, which translates into our region's success."

QCC's day-to-day operations and construction

spending added \$69.3 million to the regional economy, while student spending contributed an additional \$3.6 million.

The college serves as a key source of employees for regional industries, particularly in healthcare. The study found that QCC's impact supported 1,043 jobs in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector alone.

Lightcast based its report on several sources including QCC's academic and financial reports, data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and data from the U.S. Census Bureau.



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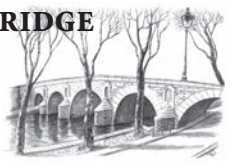
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Collaboration is key

As election season approaches, voters are faced with critical decisions that go beyond party labels. It's essential to understand the core values of both Republicans and Democrats, and more importantly, to consider how those values align with your own interests and the needs of your community. This election, one of the most important things voters must ask themselves is whether a candidate is willing to work across the aisle—because that's the only way real solutions happen in a democracy.

In times like these, collaboration is key. One of the candidates in this election has shown a willingness to work with people from both parties to solve real problems. That kind of bipartisanship is exactly what we need right now. Our country, and especially local communities, can't afford to be gridlocked by partisan infighting. When elected officials are willing to compromise and work with others, that's when meaningful change can happen.

The other candidate has made it clear that they are more interested in self-serving politics. They've proven time and again that they aren't interested in listening to or working with those across the aisle. This is not what democracy is about. Democracy thrives when ideas are debated and when leaders can come together to create solutions that work for everyone, not just their own base.

It's important to remember that your vote is your voice, and it's crucial to vote in line with your values and interests. Voting against your own interests because of party loyalty or negative campaign tactics can have lasting impacts on your community and country. What truly matters is having representatives who will work for the common good—people who prioritize problem-solving over political grandstanding.

This election, take the time to think critically about the candidates on your ballot. Who is willing to put in the effort to work with those on the other side? Who is willing to compromise for the greater good? The future of our democracy depends on leaders who will work across party lines to create a better future for everyone, not just a select few. Don't let divisive rhetoric or blind partisanship determine your vote—vote for the candidate who will work for you, for your neighbors, and for a stronger, more unified community.

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

All Hallow's Eve

A lot of religious folk, Christians included, dislike Halloween. Some see the celebration of Halloween as an invitation to evil and satanic spirits. Indeed, there is often an unfortunate uptick in crime around Halloween as some take advantage of a misguided notion of what Halloween is.

Any thought that celebration of Halloween is inherently evil, though, is misguided. Its roots are as a holy day. The name comes from the Christian holy day of All Hallow's Eve, the night before All Hallow's Day—more popularly known as All Saints' Day. It is a time to honor the faith and life of deceased loved ones and seek to live guided by their faithful spirit.

Amazingly, cultures around the world have a similar holy day, all around the same time, often created and established without communication with one another; all in some way honoring the dead. Some traditions claim that the reason why Samhain, Dia de los Muertos, All Saints' Day, etc., are celebrated on or around Halloween is that the veil between earthly and spiritual life is blurred around Oct. 31, making it possible for us to again commune with our beloveds who have passed on to the next life, and that spiritually attune humanity will always choose this time of year to acknowledge the dead.

If that's at all true, then the problem of course is that evil spirits

BEYOND THE PEWS

**REV. JOHN
H.D. LUCY
CHARLTON
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can also enter into our world around that time. The tradition of dressing up in costume or carving jack-o-lanterns started to scare away or trick ghoulish spirits. In the case of Dia de los Muertos tradition, dressing up as colorful skeletons enables celebrants to honor and rejoice in the colorful life of the deceased.

In neither tradition is Halloween about participating in evil. One could even say that the refusal to celebrate Halloween makes us susceptible to evil machinations. Either way, the holy day is about playful celebration remembering those who have lived well.

Now, I don't intend to change anyone's mind. You either will or will not participate in or celebrate Halloween. Nothing I say will change that. However, I share the history and purpose of cultural traditions for two reasons: first, to say that it's sad when we pass judgment claims upon the rituals and traditions of other cultures without understanding the true nature of those rituals and traditions; and second, to say that if we're going to participate in the holy day of Halloween, I hope and pray that you do so with a full understanding of what it means. Yes, dressing up and asking for candy is fun. But Halloween can and should be much more meaningful than that. So I say blessings upon a comprehensive, holy celebration, where each piece of candy is an inspiration to follow in the faithful footsteps of our ancestors.

Take advantage of open enrollment



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If you work for a midsize or large company, you may soon be able to review your employee benefits package, as we are entering the open enrollment season. So, consider your options carefully, with an eye toward making changes appropriate for your needs.

Here are some of the key areas to look at:

Retirement plan – Depending on your employer, you could change your 401(k) or similar retirement plan at any time of the year, but you might want to use the open enrollment season to review your contribution amounts. If your salary has gone up over the past year, you might want to boost your pre-tax contributions (including catch-up contributions beginning at age 50). At a minimum, try to put in at least enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered. At the same time, look over how your contributions are allocated among the various investment options in your plan. You'll want your investment mix to reflect your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

Life insurance – If your employer offers group life insurance at no cost as an employee benefit, you may want to take it – but be aware that it might not be enough to fully protect your family should anything happen to you. You may have heard that you need about seven to 10 times your annual income as a life insurance death benefit, but there's really no one right answer for everyone. Instead, you should evaluate various factors — including your mortgage, your income, your spouse's income (if applicable), your liabilities, the number of years until your retirement, number of children and their future educational needs — to determine how much insurance you need. If your employer's group policy seems insufficient, you may want to consider adding some outside coverage.

Disability insurance – Your employer may offer no-cost group disability insurance, but as is the case with life insurance, it might not be sufficient to adequately protect your income in case you become temporarily or permanently disabled. In fact, many employer-sponsored disability plans only cover a short period, such as five years, so to gain longer coverage up to age 65, you may want to look for a separate personal policy. Disability policies vary widely in premium costs and benefits, so you'll want to do some comparison shopping with several insurance companies.

Flexible spending account – A flexible spending account (FSA) lets you contribute up to \$3,200 pre-tax dollars to pay for some out-of-pocket medical costs, such as prescriptions and insurance copayments and deductibles. You decide how much you want to put into your FSA, up to the 2025 limit. You generally must use up the funds in your FSA by the end of the calendar year, but your employer may grant you an extension of 2½ months or allow you to carry over up to \$640.

Health savings account – Like an FSA, a health savings account (HSA) lets you use pre-tax dollars to pay out-of-pocket medical costs. Unlike an FSA, though, your unused HSA contributions will carry over to the next year. Also, an HSA allows you take withdrawals, though they may be assessed a 10 percent penalty. To contribute to an HSA, you need to participate in a high-deductible health insurance plan.

Make the most of your benefits package — it can be a big part of your overall financial picture.

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 trevor.nielson@edwardjones.com.

Disposing of problem plant debris



**GARDEN
MOMENTS**
.....
**MELINDA
MYERS**



Melinda Myers

A peony plant infected with blight.

You've probably read you should remove and dispose of insect pest-infected and diseased plant material to reduce these problems in next season's garden. This is not as easy as it seems. Most compost piles do not heat up and maintain hot enough temperatures to kill weeds, weed seeds, disease organisms, and insect pests. In many locations burning is not allowed and it negatively impacts air quality. So, what's a gardener to do?

Start by calling your local municipality and asking about disposal options. Many communities allow you to dispose of invasive plants in the garbage after placing them in a clear plastic bag labeled invasive.

Solarization is an option for managing weeds. Place small amounts of plant debris in clear plastic bags. Then place the bags in a warm sunny location before composting. For larger quantities, set the problem plant debris on a sheet of plastic and securely cover it with a 2- to six-mil clear plastic tarp. The plastic helps create a greenhouse effect, trapping heat while blocking access to water. The seeds will sprout and then seedlings and other plants are killed by the high temperatures and lack of water. It is most effective when the days are long and hot.

This may be effective if the temperatures are hot enough to kill plant insect pests and diseases. Most plant pathogens are killed when moist soil remains at 145 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes, 160 degrees for bacteria, and 180 degrees for weed seeds.

If battling jumping worms, the University of Maryland has found creating a solarization package is effective for managing them in soil, compost, and mulch. Spread a sheet of clear plastic on the ground. Place a six to eight inch layer of mulch, compost, or soil on the plastic tarp,

leaving enough excess to wrap and completely and securely cover the enclosed material. On a sunny day, the material inside can reach 150 degrees. Research varies on the number of days needed to kill the jumping worms. Several University sources recommend three or more days of at least 104 degrees or 105 degrees to kill the eggs, cocoons, and adult jumping worms.

You may want to enlist this strategy when harvesting your compost before applying it to the soil. This extra step may help reduce the risk of introducing problems back into the garden.

Burying diseased material can help reduce the source of future infection of some diseases. Dig a hole, fill it with plant debris, mix it with soil, and then cover it with an inch or two of disease-free soil. Speed up the decomposition of buried material by shredding it before burying it. Avoid growing plants susceptible to the disease in that location the following season.

Remember to disinfect your pots, stakes, and tools that may have housed or touched diseased plants. Disease-causing organisms can survive on these items, increasing disease risk in next year's garden. Soak pots for 30 minutes in a 10 percent bleach solution, rinse with clean water and air dry. Store in a clean location. This is much more effective with clay and ceramic pots than plastic. Consider rotating plantings as you would in the garden and changing display areas when using plastic containers if you do not want to dispose of them.

Disinfect garden tools by dipping

Water Power: Bathe Away What Ails You



TAKE
THE
HINT
**KAREN
TRAINOR**

What could be better than a relaxing soak in a hot tub? How about the knowledge the simple act of bathing can provide drug free relief from a myriad of ailments.

When we sit in a tub to relieve back pain, run cold water over a skin burn, or even seek solace in a long, hot bath, these familiar actions employ the ancient practice of hydrotherapy - using water to heal. From calming anxiety and relieving pain to combating insomnia and detoxing the body, baths are beneficial for health. While water has been used as therapy for centuries, thankfully the modern world is rediscovering the simple art of bathing and its many virtues. Read on for some surprising ways a good soak can do a body good!

Note: If you are pregnant, have high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, or any other medical condition, get your doctor's OK before bathing in hot water. Hot water therapy is not for infants, children or elderly.

Some Like it Hot: Hot baths can ease muscle and joint pain, constipation and respiratory ailments. To loosen tense muscles and reduce the pain of backaches, experts suggest a bath temperature of 102°F to 106°F.

For minor sprains, the combination of a hot bath and Epsom salts can bring welcome relief as the Epsom salt draws fluid out of the body and helps shrink swollen tissues, easing pain. The salts also draw out built up lactic acid, which can contribute to muscle aches. For maximum benefit, add two cups of Epsom salts to a warm bath, and relax.

A nice, long soak is also hailed for cutting short cold and flu symptoms. Submerge as much of your body as you can in a tub of comfortably hot water. Immediately after the bath, dress warmly and go to bed under warm covers for a nap. To combat the chills, add about eight drops of lavender and four drops of cinnamon essential oils to the warm bath.

Do you have trouble sleeping? Combat insomnia by bathing in hot (up to 103 degrees) water approximately two hours prior to bedtime. If congestion is the cul-

prit to your insomnia, soak in a hot tub and place a warm washcloth over your face. Breathe through the cloth several times. The combination of the bath and the warm steam should relieve congestion and promote sleep.

Neutral Soak: If you are anxious, irritable, or suffer from panic attacks, a neutral bath can relieve symptoms and offer soothing comfort. Bath water should be between 94 and 97 degrees for optimum results. Submerge as much of your body as you can, relax, and soak for at least 20 minutes. Warm water has been proven to halt the physiological part of the fight-or-flight response, so familiar to panic sufferers.

Aromatherapy and Hydrotherapy can also work together to alleviate anxiety. Try this formula: Add six drops geranium and four drops basil oils to a tub of warm water. Soak for at least 20 minutes.

To relieve hot flashes, naturopathic experts advise taking a neutral bath each morning to "improve vasodilation, which might help release the heat of a hot flash." Soak for about 20 minutes in water slightly cooler than body temperature. Refill water to keep temperature

steady.

This simple bath blend has been praised for its antidepressant properties: Add three drops of rose essential oil and four drops of ylang ylang essential oil to a tub full of warm water. To induce further relaxation, bathe by candlelight.

Cool It: Cold water prevents itching, making it the perfect treatment for summer skin maladies. To further relieve the itch of sunburn, bug bites or psoriasis, add about two cups of vinegar to the bath water. A cool water bath is also effective way to fight fatigue. Cold water increases the consumption of oxygen to the skin, helping your body "wake up" quicker.

A cold footbath had long been used to treat varicose veins, circulatory problems, or sleeplessness. Fill a basin or tub with cold water and submerge feet at least calf depth. Soak feet until water is no longer cold.

Proper Bathing: The deeper you can submerge your body, the more effective the hydrotherapy will be. If you can, strive for neck deep water. (Those with heart or respiratory problems should not bathe in

water higher than the heart.) If you are using a regular tub, fill it as high as possible, and lie down, submerging your hands and feet for optimum coverage.

Experts advise soaking in a bath for 15 to 20 minutes. However, if you show any signs of dizziness or overheating, get out of the tub immediately.

Detox Baths: Hot baths are natural detoxifiers. Here's why: Hot water draws toxins out of the body to the surface of the skin. While the water cools, it pulls those toxins from the skin. Salts added to a bath accelerates this process by promoting sweating. Common salts used in detox baths include sea salt, dead sea salt, baking soda and Epsom salts.

Detox Salts: Mix together Two cups baking soda; one cup sea salts; one cup Epsom salts. Pour about a quarter cup of the mix into the bath while tub is filling. If desired, add; one tablespoon glycerin to prevent dry skin.

Ginger Bath: Some naturalists tout a ginger bath as a great way to sweat out toxins. Simply add about one eighth cup of ginger under running hot bath water. Lie down and soak for at least 30 minutes.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Skinwalker Ranch

As Halloween approaches, I'm wrapping up my spooky season series with a tale that fits perfectly into the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious. We've explored unsettling phenomena in previous weeks, but for the finale, I'm diving into one of the most bizarre and mysterious places in the United States—Skinwalker Ranch. This 500-acre ranch in Uintah County, northeastern Utah, known for tales of supernatural occurrences, has intrigued investigators, scientists, and paranormal enthusiasts for decades.

In 1994, the Sherman family purchased the ranch, hoping to lead a quiet life as cattle ranchers. When the Shermans arrived, they found the home oddly fortified with metal bars on the windows, heavy-duty door locks, and chains, presumably for guard dogs, on each side of the house. It was as if the previous owners were preparing for an intrusion.

Soon after settling in, the Shermans began experiencing a series of unsettling incidents. One day, Terry Sherman spotted a huge wolf in the distance. The animal, which appeared to

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

**TOBY
MOORE**

be nearly as tall as a human's chest, calmly approached the family and their cattle. With a muscular build and piercing blue eyes, the wolf seemed tame initially, but suddenly, it lunged at a calf and locked its jaws around the animal's neck. Terry grabbed a rifle and shot the wolf several times, yet the bullets seemed to have no effect. Eventually, the wolf casually turned and walked away; as if it wasn't riddled with bullets, it trotted back into the woods.

This bizarre encounter was only the beginning. The Shermans began noticing heavy equipment disappearing or moving to strange places. On one occasion, a 70-pound post digger vanished and was later found high up in a tree.

One of the strangest incidents involved the sudden disappearance of four bulls, which were

later found crammed into a locked trailer in a seemingly trance-like state. The trailer's latches were still locked, and there was no reasonable explanation for how the bulls could have ended up inside alone. It was as though something had teleported them there.

At times, they felt an invisible presence following them. On one occasion, they heard heavy breathing and saw brush moving like an unseen creature prowling nearby. It was as if a cloaked entity was stalking them.

Cattle mutilations became another terrifying issue. The family started losing cattle at an alarming rate. These cattle were found dead with surgically precise incisions, with organs missing but no signs of blood anywhere near the scene.

The Shermans frequently heard strange, disembodied voices above their ranch, speaking in an unknown language.

Even more chilling were the glowing orbs that frequently appeared. The most unsettling encounter involved

a bright blue orb that seemed to pulse with energy, giving off an almost electric crackle. These orbs filled the air with an inexplicable dread as if deliberately manipulating the family's emotions.

As they dug deeper, the Shermans learned that their property had long been considered cursed by local Indigenous tribes. The Ute people, in particular, believed the land was associated with Skinwalkers, creatures known for their shape-shifting abilities. Because of this lore, the ranch eventually became known as Skinwalker Ranch.

Unable to cope with the ongoing disturbances, the Shermans moved

out. Before they left, they shared their experiences with the media, drawing the attention of billionaire Real Estate Tycoon Robert Bigelow, who had a longstanding interest in the paranormal. In 1996, Bigelow purchased the ranch to conduct his investigations, enlisting a team of scientists and researchers to study the strange phenomena.

Terry remained the ranch manager, eager to help Bigelow's team uncover the truth. The paranormal activity continued, with cattle mutilations, glowing orbs, portals, UFOs, and encounters with mysterious creatures.

In another chilling event, one of Bigelow's researchers claimed

that a giant creature had "taken over his mind," leaving him with a message that they were being constantly observed.

Today's Skinwalker Ranch remains shrouded in mystery, heavily guarded, and off-limits to the public.

While I can't confirm the truth behind every tale I've shared this spooky season, the lingering mysteries at Skinwalker Ranch continue to warrant serious attention. As we enjoy the eerie delights of Halloween, remember that some of the strangest stories aren't found in horror movies—they're hidden in remote places like Skinwalker Ranch.

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Swatting

continued from page 1

refining their communication protocols and continuing to tout the efforts made throughout the 2020s to enhance their emergency preparedness. This has included transitioning to a unified digital surveillance system, iPhone door stations creating added security to school entrances, and an integrated two-way radio system along while con-

tinuing to promote ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) training for district staff and Active Shooter Drills for students and educators which, this year, will include barricading for all secondary schools.

One area that the Superintendent knows the district, specifically Charlton Middle School, needs to improve is allowing better access to mobile devices to create more open communi-

cation during emergencies. The district has worked with a vendor to test the equipment at Charlton Middle School revealing two specific concerns: the overdependence on a single vendor and network security concerns that threaten the school's compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

"Our work is not done. We continue to focus on improving communication within our

schools, specifically enhancing our ability to make emergency calls. We recognize the cellular dead zones near or around our large concrete building – we remain committed to finding a viable solution and hope to identify effective options this school year to enhance communication at Charlton Middle School around cell service," said Lamarche.

The Superintendent added that in a continued effort to focus on school safety, he attended a seminar on Oct. 9 presented by the FBI Boston and the Massachusetts State Police that fittingly focused on hoaxes like what oc-

curred with Charlton Middle School.

"The training provided an overview of realities of bomb threats and swatting hoaxes including a detailed review of statistics and current trends nationwide. It was very helpful. It shared a lot of information," said Lamarche. "It also covered the characteristics of hoax calls, law enforcement best practices for assessment and response, and the decision-making process for evacuation or sheltering in place."

After the Superintendent's update, members of the School Committee discussed holding an executive session that

would provide full updates to the Committee about the safety protocols. Others asked about bringing the protocols to subcommittees for further review, however, Superintendent Lamarche warned about advertising protocols in a public forum and encouraged anyone, committee member or the public, to approach his office with any questions about security procedures. The School Committee is allowed to enter executive sessions to discuss matters pertaining to security personnel, devices, or strategies. It was implied an executive session may be placed on a future agenda.



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Reunion

continued from page 1

to accomplish, the first ever graduates of not only a new school but a regional high school at that. Shepherd Hill opened in 1973 after years of Dudley sending students to Bay Path and, for at least two years, Woodstock, Conn. Members of the Class of 1974 recall the opening of the school creating a bond between the students of two communities that, despite being close neighbors, had little interaction until that point. During its lifetime Shepherd Hill has been nationally recognized for numerous achievements especially in its extracurricular programs specifically in music and sports.

That legacy has left graduates like Joe Nierodzinski, the school's first Class President who led the Class of 1974, extremely proud to have seen where it all began.

"Just to see everyone still here is great. We do have a memorial table. Out of 134 people in our class, we've only lost 18 people. There's a lot of people who couldn't make it for whatever reason, but to see all of these people after all these years it's an amazing thing. We have had a reunion every ten years, but 50 is a magic number," Nierodzinski said.

The former Class President recalled one of the school's early athletic achievements as a member of the soccer team as they went 13 and 5 in their first season securing a spot in the state tournament, a rare honor for a new

school.

One of Nierodzinski's classmates, Nancy Cyganiewicz Piscopo, served on the committee that helped organize the 50th reunion and said being a part of such an iconic gathering was a surreal experience.

"After 40 years, we didn't have a good turnout but when it was time for the 50th we started planning and it was fun. It's great to be here and see all these people again," she said. "Things have changed so much. You go with the times. It's nice for us now because there were always cliques, but there's no cliques here. You just walk up to anybody and say 'do you remember me' with no expectations, nothing to prove. It's great for all of us."

State Rep. and former Dudley selectman John Marsi served as a guest speaker at the reunion and said he was proud to be a part of such an amazing recognition of the class that started it all for the district's iconic high school.

"Two towns came together all those years ago to build the school and this is the first graduating class, so why wouldn't we yell that from the mountain tops? It's a big deal. Shepherd Hill remains a great school after all these years and I'm happy to be here to support them," said Marsi.

Shepherd Hill celebrated its 50th anniversary throughout the 2023-2024 school year including embracing a new temporary logo designed by a student featuring the school's longtime Ram mascot.

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Sturbridge

continued from page 1

BS is the same old song and dance. They're a private company making money on a public utility, so we need better transparency from them."

Although the board has seen some partial plans, "as you dig in and dig in, you find that's not what's happening," he said, noting the board needs to constantly push for more information. "... Being an utter pain in their [rear end] is the only way we can deal with them."

At issue is the fact the board has been approving pole locations a few at a time for months now, but doesn't have a clear view of what the whole project is. Part of that has been due to seeing different spokespeople for each hearing who don't have details, despite the fact they've asked for one contact person. Grimm noted Sturbridge's Grid contact had been out on medical leave for a long time, but recently returned to work.

Conservation Agent Lauren Vivier said she told Grid to color code trees based on whether they were privately-owned, on the public scenic road, or hazard trees, and to submit a formal application to her office. She noted their response was "We thought we'd done all we needed to do. I said you haven't done anything with me."

Dowling noted the trees are being color-coded, but the residents aren't being told what the colors mean. In some cases, she said, residents didn't answer when Grid workers visited, but the trees were marked

anyway. "They can't just mark the trees because they want to."

"They are moving quickly, and do not focus on administrative tasks because that interferes with their bottom line," Goodwin said.

He noted the town needs a clear checklist of things Grid needs to do so it's not playing "whack-a-mole" and can also provide specific questions for the attorneys. That will involve getting clarity from all affected departments and putting any available information on the website.

Vivier said she'll do that when she does get an application. But at present, "they've given me nothing."

In other business, Grimm said she's been requesting meetings with the state Department of Transportation to discuss "general goals and plans" of the long-running Route 20 work. She said they're willing to talk to her and other town officials individually, but will not attend a public meeting and will "only discuss very specific projects."

One recent issue is that DOT is

recalling funds for a corridor study for lack of bidders. Grimm said that's "because their requirements for insurance to even set foot on their property is outrageous."

She's also talking to them about increasing reimbursement for EMS services on DOT-owned highways, which she said hasn't changed since 1991, and continues to look at access for Streeter Beach.

Also, Facilities Manager Robin Chrabaszcz summarized various maintenance projects and recent energy grants. She said she'd really like to look at "enhancing our in-house maintenance capabilities, [which] could lead to some long-term savings for the town."

When asked

what that meant, she admitted "increasing our custodial staff to add a maintenance person," with handyman-type skills. She noted she has used some senior tax workoff people for some work, but "the projects we have are physically demanding."

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

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<p>East Brookfield The Salem Cross Inn 260 West Main Street • Oct. 24, at 2 PM</p>	<p>Uxbridge Tri-River Family Health Center 281 East Hartford Avenue • Oct. 28, at 2 PM</p>
<p>Southbridge Harrington Hospital 100 South Street, Conference Rm 1 • Oct. 22, at 2 PM • Nov. 19, at 10 AM</p>	<p>Webster Webster Senior Center 5 Church Street • Oct. 17, at 10 AM</p>

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 via Zoom (online)
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 • Oct. 26, at 10 AM

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Representatives are available October 1 - March 31, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., 7 days a week; and April 1 - September 30, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday - Friday.
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Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library to hold Annual Meeting



STURBRIDGE — Looking for an entertaining and informative evening? The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library will be holding its annual meeting on Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sturbridge Town Hall in the upstairs Veteran's Memorial Hall at 308 Main Street in Sturbridge. The meeting is free and open to all members of the Friends and the general public.

With the Larchmont Remembered, prepare yourself to go back in time and relive the tragic tale of New England's most horrific sea disaster. On a snowy afternoon in February 1907, unsuspecting passengers planned for a relaxing overnight cruise from Providence, R.I. to New York City. What they experience instead was one of the worst maritime disasters in New England's history that few survived.

This tale is vividly brought back to life with eyewitness accounts and never-before-seen photographs. Daniel F. Harrington, a popular monthly columnist for the Providence Journal, originally wrote a piece on this disaster and then became haunted by the chilling tale. He continued to research the story and unearthed a wealth of information on the tragedy. His presentation has left many speechless and enthralled.

The program will be followed by the Friends' annual business meeting. Members will be voting on the slate of officers for the coming year and an increase in annual dues. Any one interested in having their name added to the ballot can contact the Friends at www.SLFriends.org.

Anyone who would like to be eligible to vote at the meeting, but is not yet a member, can join through the Web site as well.



Courtesy
The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge, announces the final weekends of the "Haunted Halls" exhibit in the galleries. Open to the public and free to all, this exhibit features a variety of creepy, spooky and Halloween-themed art and sculpture by local artists and artisans including Jim R. Wilton, Heather Croteau, Katherine Oakes, Demetri Kasperon, Niko Day and Kevin Provost. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. The galleries will also be open on Thursday, Oct. 31 for Halloween Trick or Treating, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Don't miss the final days of this fantastic exhibit. For more information, call 508-764-3341 or go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com.

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 October 26th, 2024 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:

VEHICLE MAKE : 2007 Freightliner M2 106
VIN:1FVACWCS27HY08782
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :
360 Auto Group
79-02 Cypress Avenue
Queens NY 11385

VEHICLE MAKE: 2010 Mitsubishi Fuso FE85D
VIN:JL6CCJ1S6AK000382
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :
Lester Luis Jova-Rodriguez
7505 PARK AVE APT 203
NORTH BERGEN NJ,07047

VEHICLE MAKE: 2017 Nissan Altima
VIN:1N4AL3AP4HN352494
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:
Ryan Martin
108 HARRISON ST
MANCHESTER NH 03104

VEHICLE MAKE :2005 Mazda MPV
VIN:JM3LW28J950550946
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :
Luis A Verges
55 GODDARD ST APT 3
SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550

VEHICLE MAKE: 2008 Kia Amanti
VIN: KNALD125085166675
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:
James P Downs JR
165 PLEASANT ST
SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550

VEHICLE MAKE :2007 Audi Q7 (Black)
VIN:WA1BY74L87D049247
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :
Jyneisha Lahni Perucier
16 BEDFORD AVE, APT 1
WORCESTER MA 01604

VEHICLE MAKE:2007 Honda Ridgeline (Maroon)
VIN:2HJYK16257H535273
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:

Sylvia D Nelson,
338 MAIN ST
CHERRY VALLEY, MA 01611

VEHICLE MAKE:2002 Toyota Camry (Black)
VIN:JTDBF30K320043888
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Amber L Newell,
183 PLEASANT ST,APT 21
WORCESTER MA 01609

VEHICLE MAKE:2010 Lexus IS 250
VIN:JTHBF5C22A5122380
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :
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2561 SOUTHERN OAKS
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VEHICLE MAKE :2012 Nissan Altima
VIN:1N4AL2AP7CN510054
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55 LAKE ST,
WEBSTER MA 01570

VEHICLE MAKE :2010 MAZDA MAZDA 3
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LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
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1350 NARRAGANSETT BLVD
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VEHICLE MAKE :2006 Toyota Highlander Hybrid (Silver)
VIN:JTEEW21A660024685
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VEHICLE MAKE :2005 Toyota Corolla
VIN:2T1BR30E85C555058
Kelcie S Farrell
138 JOSEPH CIR
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VEHICLE MAKE:2012 Ford Fusion (Black)
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3600 MYSTIC VALLEY PKWY APT W809
Medford MA 02155
OCTOBER 11,2024
OCTOBER 18,2024
OCTOBER 25, 2024

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on November 13, 2024, at 7PM on the application of John Bartoletti.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the installation of a 10x16 shed and associated land disturbance work within 50 feet of a BVW. The project location is: 11 Knollwood Drive, Charlton, MA, 01507.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request.

Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
October 24, 2024

Town of Brimfield Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday November 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM to review a Notice of Intent submitted by Graves Engineering, Inc. c/o Jonathan Leonard/Brimfield Housing Authority. The Notice of Intent requests to expand two parking areas. **Project Location:** 20 Colonial Park, Brimfield, MA (Assessor's Map (13-B-3.11)).

Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on November 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.

Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia Co-Chairs
10/07/2024
October 17, 2024
October 24, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P3347EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:

Michelle R Zacek
Date of Death:05/24/2024
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by
Tristan Arduini of Charlton 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:
Tristan Arduini of Charlton MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/19/2024**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 17, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 25, 2024

Brimfield Historical Commission announces return of popular plaque program

BRIMFIELD — The Brimfield Historical Commission is proud to announce the return of its historical plaque program. Any property that is listed in Brimfield's 1994 Inventory of Historic Properties is eligible to purchase an historical marker for their building. The oval plaques are made of long-lasting aluminum and are approximately 18 by 12 inches, with cream graphics on a dark green background. The typeface is electra. The plaque



will display the name of the original owners or builder associated with the structure along with the year it was built and the street address or other identified historic area.

If you believe that your property meets the eligibility requirements, please contact the Historical Commission at historical@brimfieldma.com to request an order form. Markers are custom ordered and cost \$65.

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Seven of New England's top comics take the stage to support Manny 267 Foundation

WORCESTER — Seven hilarious comics will come together Nov. 2 at the DCU Center in Worcester to raise money for the Manny 267 Foundation. The foundation is named in honor of Worcester Police Officer Emmanuel "Manny" Familia, who tragically died in 2021 while attempting to save a 14-year-old boy from drowning. Hosted by comedian Harrison Stebbins, the night of comedy will feature nationally touring comedians who all call New England home including Emily Ruskowski, Orlando Baxter, Corey Rodrigues, Brian Glowacki, Rafi Gonzalez and Paul Nardizzi. Tickets for the 267 All-Star Comedy Night are on sale now at EventBrite.com.

The Manny 267 Foundation aims to raise awareness about the hazards of drowning. The foundation provides funding for floatation devices that are installed in emergency vehicles to be used as life-saving tools when responding to aquatic emergencies, as well as supporting water safety training for police officers and swimming lessons for young people.

"Manny's legacy continues to live on through the incredible work the foundation is doing to insure no other families have to go through the pain and loss that

we have suffered," said Elvin Familia. "One hundred percent of the proceeds from this comedy show will go towards providing Manny Tubes and water rescue training for police departments around Massachusetts."

Manny is described by his friends and family as "always the funniest person in the room," making the All-Star Comedy Night a fitting tribute to his legacy.

The line-up at the DCU Center includes:

Harrison Stebbins, Host

With a sarcastic wit and an improvisational style, Stebbins' unique blend of high-energy physical comedy and clever insights, keeps audiences laughing long after he has left the stage. Not only is Harrison widely regarded as one of New England's funniest headliners, but he has also performed with some of the most popular national comedians working today.

Emily Ruskowski

Ruskowski is a one-woman charm offensive. With a style that's totally approachable and instantly impressive, she is equally comfortable diving into personal insecurities or workplace nonsense. With an irrepressibly cheerful demeanor, she commands attention

and delivers stories loaded with punchline after punchline. Ruskowski's comedy combines a quick mind, an infectious energy, and a totally unique eye for observation. She brings a genuine sense of fun to material that ranges from a career in social work to a passion for boy bands. She has been featured in The Washington Post and Boston Globe and has appeared on the popular 2 Dope Queens Podcast and Laughs TV on Fox.

Orlando Baxter

Baxter exploded onto the Boston comedy scene in 2005, and was quickly established as one of the area's hottest comics. His fresh perspective and unique relatability soon made this former high school teacher a fan favorite and led to a string of finalist positions in a host of contests and festivals all over the world including NBC's 'Stand Up for Diversity,' Boston Comedy Festival, and Montreux Comedy Festival. In 2016, Baxter made his late night TV debut on the Conan show on TBS. He has since appeared on television shows like "Comedy Up Late" in Australia, B.E.T.'s "50 Central," Laff Mobb's Laff Track on Tru TV and TBN's Mike Huckabee show. Orlando currently tours across the country performing at clubs, colleges and festivals at home and overseas.

Corey Rodrigues

Rodrigues is a highly sought-after national touring college, club, and corporate performer. He was the winner of The Catch a New Rising Star, The Funniest Comic in New England, and the 2017 Big Sky Comedy Festivals. Rodrigues has been featured on the hilarious Gotham Live, Laughs on Fox, and True TV's Laff Mobb's Laff Tracks. In 2018 he released his Dry Bar Comedy special, was voted "best of the fest" at the Big Pine Comedy Festival, and was picked as one of TBS's Comics to Watch at the New York Comedy Fest. In 2019, Rodrigues made his late-night TV debut on the Conan O'Brien show. In 2020 he released another 30-minute Comedy Special for the EPIX series "Unprotected Sets." His comedy is honest and fun, constantly peppering in stories from his life and the lives of those around him. Mix that with a hilarious point of view and he's able to talk about just about anything.

Brian Glowacki

Glowacki's comedy feels like home. His playful style and originality have quickly taken him from a small town class clown to a nationwide crowd favorite. His likability on stage paired with sharp observations on life have quickly catapulted him into one

of the nation's premier emerging talents. Brian is the national touring opener for comedian Bob Marley as well as headlining many clubs and festivals on his own. Most notably he became the first independent, local comedian to headline the historic Wilbur Theatre in Boston. "BGlow" has performed at the Funny or Die "Oddball Comedy and Curiosity Festival". He received "Best of Fest" honors at Burbank Comedy Festival, Big Pine Comedy Festival and San Diego Comedy Festival. He connects daily to his growing tribe on social media through short videos about his family and his travels.

Rafi Gonzalez

A stand-up comedian from Puerto Rico, Gonzalez originally found success as the lead singer of a nationally touring rock band. In 2015, Gonzalez switched gears and exploded onto the New England and Boston comedy scenes. In 2021, he appeared on HBO MAX's Ha Comedy Festival. In 2022, Rafi participated in the prestigious San Francisco Comedy Competition. He was a finalist in the Boston Comedy Festival in 2023, and was also voted "Best of the Fest" in The Noho Comedy Festival and The Burbank Comedy Festival in Los Angeles. In 2024, he was voted "Comedian of the Year" in the Boston Comedy

Choice Awards. Rafi has also taken his comedy to the sea after being hired by several cruise lines. Check him out across all social media platforms, where Rafi has accrued millions of views.

Paul Nardizzi

Nardizzi began his comedy career in 1990, quickly becoming a Boston area favorite and a national headliner within four years. Paul Nardizzi has made numerous appearances on Late Night with Conan O'Brien, Comedy Central, NESN Comedy All-Stars. He also won the Boston Comedy Festival Competition, HBO's U.S. Comedy and Arts Festival and is one of the most requested acts on XM Satellite Radio. As a top stand-up comedian in Boston and the New England Area, he is known for his rapid-fire comedy, ability to engage the crowd, and tailor material to audiences. He can be seen performing in clubs nationwide in addition to providing corporate entertainment and working at charity events and parties.

All-Star Comedy

Night to benefit The Manny 267 Foundation takes place on Saturday, Nov. 2, at 8 p.m. at DCU Center, 50 Foster St., Worcester. Tickets and information are available at EventBrite.com.

Nichols celebrates investiture of President Pieczynski

DUDLEY — The Nichols College community convened for the investiture of William C. Pieczynski on Friday, Oct. 18, as the ninth president of Nichols College, a role he has held since May 2024.

President Pieczynski has a long and distinguished career at Nichols, working closely with faculty, staff and students across academic disciplines and campus-wide departments. He joined the College as director of the Nichols Fund in 2006, where he was charged with expanding the President's Society, generating annual funds and overseeing alumni relations. President Pieczynski was named vice president for advancement in 2010 when he oversaw the successful completion of the College's bicentennial campaign, Securing a Legacy of Leadership, which raised \$66 million to support capital projects, endowment and brand-elevating curricular and co-curricular initiatives. The campaign was the largest in the College's history, generating a record number of multimillion-dollar gifts, and far surpassed the campaign's initial goal of \$45 million.

The investiture ceremony, presided over by Chair of the Nichols College Board of Trustees Randy Becker '83 MBA '96, included calls to service and remarks by representatives from various constituencies of the college. Provost Daniel Borgia served as Master of Ceremonies.

Messages of support were delivered throughout the calls to service. "Bill has a proven track record of outstanding leadership and loyalty to Nichols College having been a valuable member and contributor of the Nichols Family for over 17 years," said Nichols College Trustee David Bedard '86, representing the Committee for the Future of Presidential Leadership

Gardening

continued from page 6

them in a 70 percent alcohol solution using rubbing alcohol or something similar for at least 30 seconds. Or you can spray your tools with a disinfectant spray containing about 70 percent alcohol.

Investing time in prevention will result in fewer problems and better results in next year's garden.

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

(CFPL).

The investiture ceremony was conducted by Becker, with special assistance from Pieczynski's sister, Denise, and wife, Lana.

"Today, we gather to celebrate a man of genuine integrity, humility and compassion. We are confident that President Pieczynski will support the culture of Nichols and foster change that is both forward-thinking and deep-rooted in the College's honored traditions," said Becker, who also noted Pieczynski's many accomplishments, from setting new standards of giving to securing contributions to support new building projects to expanding experiential learning opportunities.

Pieczynski in his inaugural address remarked, "Now, this is a somewhat different investiture in that I am not a newly appointed president, still unboxing mementos or contemplating the quickest way to get from Conrad Hall to Vendetti Field. I have had the time to develop deep friendships here, to leverage a tenure that dates to 2006, and to understand the complexity of this institution at this moment in time. Indeed, when I was asked to pursue the presidency, I responded that I was eager to do whatever was best for the College."

He praised the resilience of Nichols, noting its evolution throughout its history, dating back to 1815, commenting "I am fortunate to lead a college that is comfortable in its own skin-always aware that we are a work in progress-but one that has confronted momentous change and has persevered."

Turning to the challenges of educating students for a future and jobs that don't yet exist, Pieczynski remarked that the school possesses a strong foundation for this task, with its "unabashedly" student-centered living and learning environment and unique

experiential opportunities.

He cited what the College's administrators casually refer to as the Nichols "triple threat," where students complete an internship, receive a professional certification, and complete an experiential learning experience, as an area of focus and enhancement. He quoted higher education research that spoke of these kinds of experiences as "career game changers."

Developing such experiential learning opportunities and academic differentiation, said Pieczynski, will be one of four short-term strategic priorities, alongside developing a robust budget model that drives net revenue growth, an institutional branding, and a better understanding of the College's current culture in building toward a more supportive, collaborative and inclusive community.

Concluding the day's spirited events was a community celebration and Presidents' Society Dinner.

About Nichols

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

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Dudley-Charlton Regional School District celebrates AP Capstone diploma recipients

DUDLEY — At Shepherd Hill Regional High School, eleven students have earned the AP

Capstone Diploma™. Additionally, three students have earned the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™ during the 2023-24 school year. The AP Capstone Diploma program helps students develop critical thinking, research, collaboration, and presentation skills that are essential to academic success.

"We proudly recognize the achievements of students who participated in the AP Capstone

Diploma program," said Darren Elwell, Principal at Shepherd Hill. "With the help of dedicated teachers, our AP Capstone students explored their passions through scholarly research as part of an impactful, multi-year program. This meaningful college readiness program will serve our students well after high school."

To receive the AP Capstone Diploma, students must earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research, and on four additional AP® Exams of their choice. To receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate, students must earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research.

Student participation in the AP Capstone program has been steadily increasing, with more than 100,000 students in

more than 2,500 schools worldwide taking part during the 2023-'24 academic year. Approximately 21,000 students earned the AP Capstone Diploma, and 11,100 students earned the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

Unlike traditional AP subject exams with a single end-of-year assessment, AP Seminar and AP Research assessments are project based and evaluate skills mastery through group projects, presentations, and individual essays completed throughout the year. Instead of focusing on one specific academic discipline, AP Seminar and AP Research are interdisciplinary: Students are encouraged to create research projects based on topics of personal interest. Students are assessed on the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills needed to complete their projects.

"We have been witnessing students' renewed passion for learning through the AP Capstone

program," shared Bianca Peart, global lead of the AP Capstone Diploma program. "Together

with the guidance of talented educators, students are building essential college and career

readiness skills while exploring subjects that are meaningful to them."

At Shepherd Hill, students

focused their research on a range of topics, including analyzing the impact of banking crises; ameliorating nursing shortages; pursuing socioeconomic equity in high school athletics; examining rates of Anterior Cruciate Ligaments (ACL) in collegiate athletes; assessing the mental health of first responders; evaluating the efficacy of wind energy installation in low-income communities; examining the role of body image in adolescent competitive dancers; and identifying the needs of library patrons to better meet demographic interests.

"Congratulations to the thousands of students who worked so hard to earn AP Capstone

Diplomas and AP Seminar and Research Certificates," said Trevor Packer, head of the

Advanced Placement® Program. "These students are creating the pathways for their future

academic and professional careers by building highly sought-after skills in project management, presentation, collaboration, and research."

Of the students who participated in the AP Capstone Diploma program at Dudley-Charlton:

Eleven were awarded the AP Capstone Diploma by earning scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research, and on 4 additional AP Exams.

They are Vanessa Baclawski, Nicolas Benoit, Kelsey Brown, Nicholas Damelio, Nicholas Dell'Ovo, Daniel Gronek,

Kierce Jarvis, Juliana Lancette, Adrien Roach, Ava Sousa, Carlie-Rose Tarr.

Three were awarded the AP Seminar and Research Certificate by earning scores of 3 or

higher in AP Seminar and AP Research. They are Quinn Cushing, Cayleigh Mayen, and Kyra Santora.

14 were graduating seniors in the class of 2024 and have enrolled at the following institutions: Vanessa Baclawski, Northeastern University; Nicolas Benoit, Northeastern

University; Kelsey Brown, Assumption University; Quinn Cushing, University of Connecticut; Nicholas Damelio, Boston College; Nicholas Dell'Ovo, Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Daniel Gronek, Assumption University; Kierce Jarvis, University of

Massachusetts-Amherst; Juliana Lancette, University of Connecticut; Cayleigh Mayen,

Wheaton College; Adrien Roach, University of Massachusetts-Amherst; Kyra Santora,

Worcester State University; Ava Sousa, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth;

Carlie-Rose Tarr, Universi-

ty of Vermont.

College Board's Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) gives students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school. Earning a score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam has multiple benefits for students, including earning college credit, advanced placement in college courses, or both, saving them time and money. Research shows AP students are better prepared for and more likely to enroll and remain in college, do well in classes, and earn their degrees on time. Each exam is developed by a committee of college and university faculty and AP teachers, ensuring that AP Exams align with their high standards.

In partnership with the higher education community, College Board developed AP Capstone courses to help students build and master skills essential for success in college and career.

"What so distinguishes the AP Capstone program as a hallmark educational experience is its emphasis on holistic development of inquiry and articulation skills essential for success and persistence in college, the workplace, and everyday life," said Dr. Gregory Taylor, associate provost for academic affairs at Purchase College, SUNY.

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759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
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NORTH BROOKFIELD

St. Joseph's Food Pantry
296 No. Main St, North Brookfield, MA 01535
Distribution: First Thursday 5 PM-6:30 PM; Third Thursday 12 PM-1:15 PM

SOUTHBRIDGE

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Saint Vincent de Paul
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Distribution: Tuesday 3 PM-5 PM, Wednesday 9 AM - 11 AM

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WEST BROOKFIELD

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36 North Main Street,
W.Bookfield, MA 01585
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM
- Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



Hitchcock Free Academy/Friends of Historic Brimfield hosting talk by rare book specialist

BRIMFIELD — Kenneth Gloss, internationally known rare book specialist and appraiser who runs the Brattle Book Shop in Boston, will give an in-person and virtual presentation for the Hitchcock Free Academy in partnership with Friends of Historic Brimfield, 2 Brookfield Rd., Brimfield, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 4 p.m.

Gloss will talk about the "improbable finds" of his decades-long career and discuss the value of old and rare books. The event is free and open to the public.

Gloss, who is frequently seen on national TV, will talk in part about the history of his historic bookshop (www.brattlebookshop.com/about), which goes back to circa 1825. He

is a second-generation owner. He will discuss growing up in the book business, show some of his favorite finds while enjoying "the thrill of the hunt," and explain how he appraises books and manuscripts. He has many fascinating anecdotes to share about private and institutional collecting as well as guidelines for building and maintaining a significant collection. There is also a Q&A session at the conclusion of his talk.

Following the talk and question-and-answer session, Ken will give free verbal appraisals of books participants have on hand or will do so at his shop in Boston at a later scheduled date.

For more information on this event, or to register, please visit <https://www.hitchcockacademy.org/rare-books-talk.html>.

Yankee Magazine Editor's Choice Award for Best of New England, the Brattle Book

Shop is one of America's oldest and largest antiquarian bookstores. 2024 is the 75th

year of Gloss family ownership. Kenneth Gloss succeeded his late father, George

Gloss, a well-known figure both in Boston and national antiquarian circles. He had worked in the store since childhood and chose to go into the book business rather than pursue a doctorate in chemistry. He became the sole proprietor upon his father's death in 1985. "I found that books were in my blood and that I would never be really happy if I abandoned the business."

Among the many organizations of which Kenneth Gloss is a member are the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, the International League of Antiquarian

Booksellers, the New England Antiquarian Booksellers of America, Southern New England Antiquarian Booksellers, the Committee for the Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair, and the Boston Society. He also is a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society as well as serving on the Board of Overseers of the USS Constitution Museum.

The Brattle Book Shop is proud to have been a contributor to the WGBH Annual Auction

each year that the station has held this fund drive. Ken has appeared on national and

local TV numerous times over the years and has been a popular guest on WBZ Radio

as well as other radio, TV, and cable stations numerous times. His bylined articles

continue to appear in various antique journals

and in print and online consumer

publications. The Brattle Book Shop is also the recipient of several "Best of Boston" awards in the categories of Best Book Shop or Best Antiquarian Book Shop. In addition, it has been included in a list as one of North America's best bookstores.

For further information about this talk and more about book-collecting, appraisals, and future free and open talks, call the store toll-free at 800-447-9595, or visit their Web site,

www.brattlebookshop.com. To learn of some of Ken's more fun and unique finds, listen to Brattlecast, his new podcast: <http://www.brattlebookshop.com/brattlecast>

(also available on iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/brattlecast/id1295728623?mt=2>).

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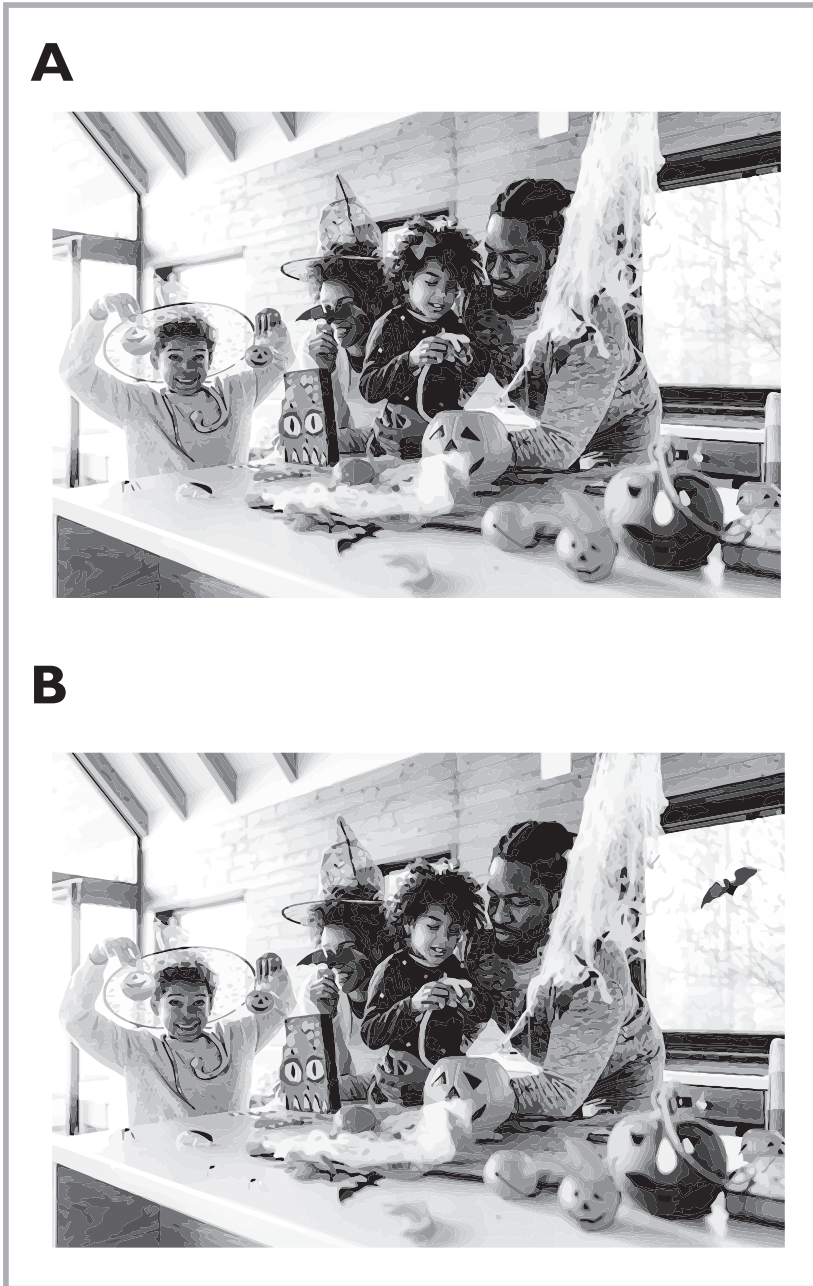
Fun FACT:

This was one of the most popular Halloween costumes in 2023.

Answer: Barbie

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between these pictures.



Answers: 1. Extra spiders on counter 2. Eye is different in Jack-o'-lantern in back 3. Bow in girl's hair is missing 4. Bat on window

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1760: King George III succeeds to the British throne on the death of his grandfather.

1940: Benjamin O. Davis Sr. is named the first African American general in the United States Army.

2001: Microsoft releases its Windows XP operating system.

NEW WORD

DECEIVE

cause to believe something that is not true

How they say that in...

English: Costume
Spanish: Disfraz
Italian: Costume
French: Costume
German: Kostüm

Did You Know?

Edgar Allen Poe's poems are spooky enough to be read around Halloween time. One of his more famous is called "The Raven."

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Skulls

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to business. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 15 = E)

A. 14 8 8 15 1
 Clue: Valuable thing

B. 6 9 2 15 8 1
 Clue: Provide money

C. 24 2 15 16 12 15 14 18
 Clue: Costs or expenses

D. 21 17 18 23 15 1
 Clue: Estimate expenses

Answers: A. asset B. invest C. overhead D. budget

SUDOKU

9	7	3		4		5		8
		5		2				
	2			8			9	
		8	2	4				
7	9			5			8	
			1			6		4
	8		9					1
	5		4	1				
3					7	2		5

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

3	1	9	8	6	7	2	4	5
2	5	7	4	1	3	8	6	9
4	8	6	9	2	5	7	3	1
5	3	2	1	8	9	6	7	4
7	9	4	3	5	6	1	8	2
1	6	8	2	7	4	9	5	3
6	2	1	5	3	8	4	9	7
8	4	5	7	9	2	3	1	6
9	7	3	6	4	1	5	2	8

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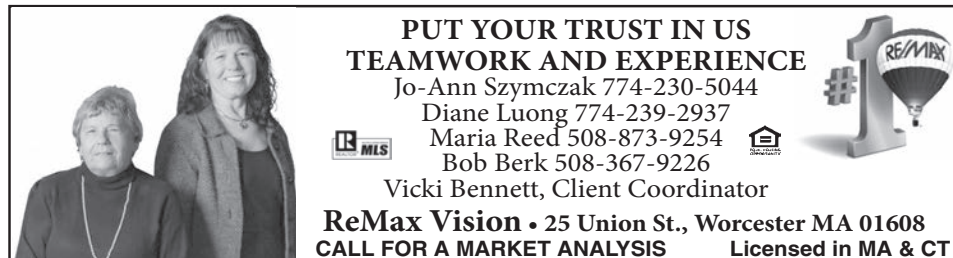
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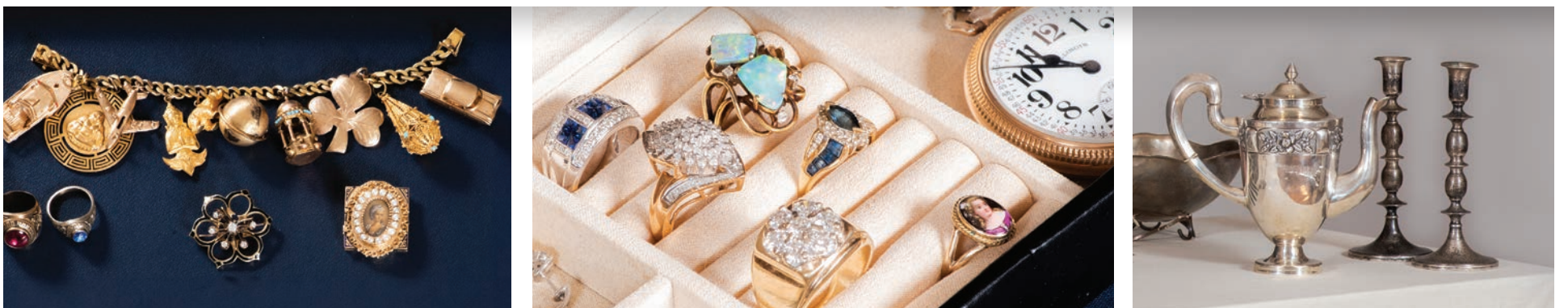
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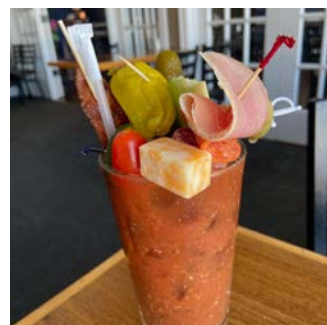
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Easy ways to support small businesses

It's easy to overlook how integral small businesses are to local, national and even global economies. The Small Business Administration and the U.S. Census Bureau indicate small businesses account for 99.7 percent of all American businesses, employing 56.8 million people. Similarly, according to Statistics Canada, local businesses classified as micro or small businesses made up 98.1 percent of all the employers in Canada in 2021.

Since small businesses are the economic engine of many neighborhoods and communities, it's in everyone's best interest to pitch in and ensure such firms' success. Thankfully, it's easy for anyone to support the small businesses that make their communities unique.

- Shop locally and online from small businesses as much as possible. If you cannot shop right away, consider purchasing gift cards to the retailer or service provider and share them as gifts to others.

- Before you immediately go with a well-known chain or e-commerce giant, find out if a local retailer offers the same items you need and shop there.

- Actively discover new brands, check them out, and then spread the word about your findings to others.

- Share posts from small businesses on social media. It's good exposure for them and can help to widen their customer base.

- Attend special events or promotions hosted by local businesses. Well-attended events may spark others' curiosity.

- Share a quick photo of something you bought at a small business or of a service they provided. For example, if a local landscaping company did a wonderful job putting in a new patio or pavers, share the before and after with those you know.

Communities can embrace various strategies to support the small businesses that make Main Street unique.

How communities benefit when consumers shop local

Ideas about shopping are never set in stone, and the pandemic illustrated just how quickly consumer trends and opinions can change. Many individuals are now reevaluating how they spend their hard-earned money, particularly since inflation has affected just how far a dollar can be stretched. When consumers think about which stores to patronize, locally owned businesses may be the smartest option for a number of reasons — not the least of which is the way such enterprises benefit the communities they call home.

More money kept in the community

Shopping locally means that more money will stay in the community. According to recent research from Civic Economics, local eateries return nearly 79 percent of revenue to the community, compared to just over 30 percent for chain restaurants. Overall, for every \$100 spent at a local business, around \$73 remains in the community, versus roughly \$43 when shopping at a non-locally owned business.

Get a personal touch

Local business owners typically are inclined to go the extra mile for their customers and are personally invested in the services and products they are selling. As a result, shopping locally tends to be a personalized experience. Furthermore, a local business owner may be more amenable to ordering products for specific clientele. Such personalized service is typically not accessible when shopping big box stores or other shops where owners are off-site.

Lines are short

Waiting in long lines for check-out or to pick up merchandise ordered online can drain consumers' energy and contribute to stress. Local businesses tend to have short lines and small crowds, which can lead to a more pleasant shopping experience.

Generates tax revenue

Local businesses generate more tax revenue per sales dollar, according to Rubicon, a digital marketplace for waste and recycling businesses. Taxes paid by local small businesses go to support schools, parks, roads, and other programs that benefit the community as well.

Support nonprofits

Local businesses often support good work in the community, such as nonprofit groups. These can include schools and sports teams, among other groups. According to Dr. Sue Lynn Sasser, professor of economics at the University of Central Oklahoma, studies indicate nonprofits "receive 250 percent more support from small businesses than larger ones."

Support other local businesses

Local business support other local businesses by buying and selling among each other. A local, independently owned restaurant may source its ingredients from local farms, which means visitors to such eateries are supporting multiple local businesses each time they dine out.

Small businesses are a boon to the economy, particularly local economies. These enterprises help their communities in a multitude of ways.



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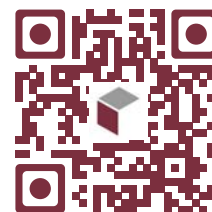


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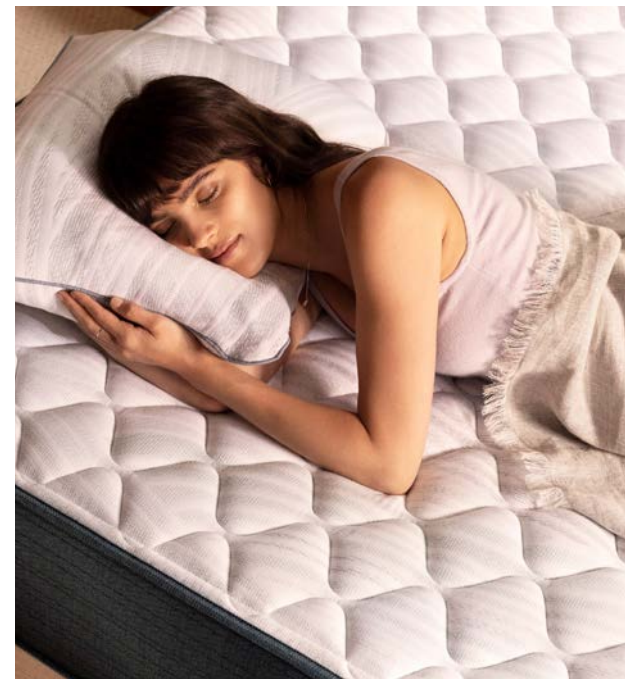
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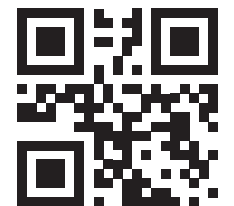
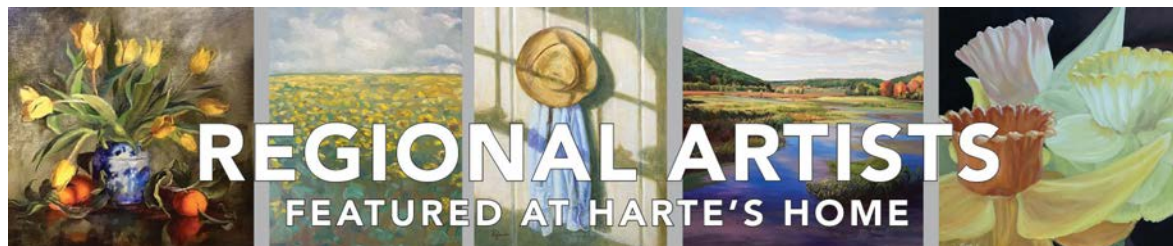
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